



THE DOMESTIC SOURCING INITIATIVE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLICYMAKERS

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Plant Based Foods Institute's (PBFi) Domestic Sourcing Initiative (DSI) is to encourage and support plant-based food companies to domestically source ingredients for human consumption. Many plant-based food companies use imported ingredients, relying on global supply networks vulnerable to disruptions and significant delays. By sourcing key ingredients in the United States, companies can build more resilient networks to support long-term growth and stability for our farmers and supporting industries.

PROGRAM

The Domestic Sourcing Initiative connects plant based-food companies with domestic supply network partners, such as farmers, processors, ingredient suppliers and manufacturers, creating collaborative opportunities for American farmers and rural communities. PBFi is also working to develop and advance policies that support domestic production of plant-based ingredients.

PRINCIPLES

Sustainability is at the heart of the plant-based foods industry. Domestic sourcing is an opportunity for food and farm businesses to reduce their carbon footprints through shorter supply chains, and to encourage farming practices that promote biodiversity, nutrition, and soil health. The DSI is committed to creating business opportunities for diverse and socially disadvantaged communities, including small-to-mid-sized growers and processors, partnering with and learning from these communities.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR POLICYMAKERS

Federal and state programs and investments in American agriculture have long been the drivers of U.S. agricultural markets. As agribusinesses and farmers confront difficult times, policymakers act quickly to support the most fundamental of American industries: farming. With demand for plant-based food products rising, policy solutions in agriculture and food policy can support this growing industry to create economic opportunity.

The plant-based foods industry experienced rapid growth across retail sectors. Though many ingredients are necessarily globally sourced, there is a prime opportunity for domestic supply chains to provide crop ingredients such as grains, pulses, oilseeds, nuts, and fruit and vegetable crops from U.S. farmers. Through innovative business solutions, farmers and companies can transform food systems to reflect the viability of plant-based food industries and sustainable growing practices to mitigate climate change.

The Domestic Sourcing Initiative is positioned to bring awareness of farming practices that promote biodiversity, soil health, and soil conservation through more diverse crop rotations. The potential economic benefit is higher per-acre profits, reduced applications of expensive inputs, and direct connections to plant-based food companies and supply chain participants. The DSI also seeks to direct actionable business opportunities to small-to-mid-sized growers and processors of diverse and socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The DSI facilitates unique connections to industry partnerships and farm support services with opportunities for accelerated market access.



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GOALS

The primary goal of the DSI is to support and bring awareness to successful domestic supply partnerships with American farmers and plant-based food companies by facilitating partnerships and highlighting outcomes to the plant-based foods industry.

Reporting of the business, environmental, and social results of these supply chain partnerships will support the design of a large-scale domestic sourcing campaign for the entire plant-based food industry in the United States. PBFi will collect data from partners to document the benefits of building domestic food supply chains.

During the pilot phase of this initiative, PBFi produced a series of documentary videos showcasing innovative domestic supply partnerships engaged in smart business strategies that center direct relationships with farmers. The videos are promotional materials by the Plant Based Foods Institute and Plant Based Foods Association, displayed on the DSI website, and showcased at related public events. All videos are available for use by DSI participants. Participation in a video is not required to be involved in the Domestic Sourcing Initiative.

For more information and to view our pilot videos, please visit <https://source.pbfainstitute.org>.