

## Southern SAWG Corporate Donor Policy

Over the past twenty-three years, the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG) has established itself successfully in the sustainable agriculture community and on the national stage as an effective, non-partisan organization working to protect, inspire, and empower farmers to create an agricultural system that is environmentally sound, economically viable, socially just, and humane.



Recognizing that:

- SSAWG requires funding to achieve its goals;
- Corporate donations and sponsorship are important sources of funding by which SSAWG achieves its mission; and yet with that
- To be truly effective in achieving meaningful and significant gains in our member states agricultural systems, we must maintain our independence and organizational integrity.

In this, we establish to accept corporate donations based on the following set of strict ethical guidelines.

SSAWG will not accept a donation from any corporation that is:

1. Engaged in any significant activity in direct conflict with SSAWG's objectives or activities;
2. Involved in litigation with SSAWG;
3. Attempting to manipulate or influence the activities, policies, mission, and/or goals of SSAWG or any of its specific programs.
4. A donation that is restricted, i.e., SSAWG must be satisfied that a corporation, to secure the donation, is proposing no conditions or requirements. This does not preclude a corporation from making a donation that is earmarked for a specific purpose or program activity.
5. A potential beneficiary of advocacy measures SSAWG is promoting;
6. Engaged in a direct SSAWG program activity or partnership;
7. In a sector that would compromise SSAWG's independence or any SSAWG affiliate's advocacy, campaigning, or program work; or
8. A risk to damage SSAWG's public image, or professional reputation ... SSAWG will not, for example, accept donations from companies in or supporting the following industries:
  - Genetically modified crop and livestock production
  - Factory fishing and farming

### OTHER ISSUES

- SSAWG reserves the right to refuse any contribution.
- SSAWG will establish and implement funding development policies that promote well-balanced sources of funding such that ideally, one or two corporate sponsors do not primarily fund SSAWG.
- When SSAWG sends out a request for program support, requests should be sent to all potentially appropriate sponsors to avoid the appearance of or inadvertently establishing a preferential relationship with any single corporate sponsor.
- In the event that SSAWG is approached by a Corporation to partner on a special project or program, the Executive Committee must evaluate the request. Such projects will only be undertaken with majority Executive Committee approval.
- SSAWG will provide any Corporation that wishes to donate a copy of the SSAWG Corporate Donations Policy prior to acceptance of the donation.
- SSAWG will provide the Corporate Donations Policy to any individual or organization requesting it.
- SSAWG will post its Corporate Donations Policy on its website.

*Corporate Donor Policy Adopted by the SSAWG Board of Directors March 17, 2014*