



# **Aboca S.p.A. Società Agricola**

Disclosure Report  
Date Submitted: March 15th, 2024



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## Disclosure Materials

Certified B Corporations must complete a Disclosure Questionnaire to identify potentially sensitive issues related to the company (e.g. historical fines, sanctions, material litigation, or sensitive industry practices).

This component does not affect the company's score on the B Impact Assessment. If the company answers affirmatively to any items in the Disclosure Questionnaire that B Lab deems relevant for public stakeholders, then, as a condition of their certification, the company must:

- 1) Be transparent about details of the disclosure issues identified on the company's public B Impact Report
- 2) Describe how the company has addressed this issue
- 3) Demonstrate that management practices are in place to avoid similar issues from arising in the future, when necessary.

In all cases, the Standards Advisory council reserves the right to refuse certification if the company is ultimately deemed not to uphold the spirit and integrity of the community.

In addition to the voluntary indication of sensitive issues in the Disclosure Questionnaire, companies pursuing Certification also are subject to a background check by B Lab staff. Background checks include a review of public records, news sources, and search engines for company names, brands, executives/founders, and other relevant topics.

Sensitive issues identified through background checks may or may not be within the scope of questions in the Disclosure Questionnaire, but undergo the same review process and are subject to the same possible review by the Standards Advisory Council, including ineligibility for B Corp Certification, required remediation, or disclosure.

**This document contains a copy of the company's completed Disclosure Questionnaire and related disclosure documentation provided by the company**



# Disclosure Questionnaire

## Industries and Products

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company is involved in production or trade in any of the following. Select Yes for all options that apply.		
<a href="#">Animal Products or Services</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Biodiversity Impacts</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chemicals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Firearms Weapons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Pornography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Tobacco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Energy and Emissions Intensive Industries</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fossil fuels Gambling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Genetically Modified Organisms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illegal Products or Subject to Phase Out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Industries at Risk of Human Rights Violations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monoculture Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nuclear Power or Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Payday, Short Term, or High Interest Lending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Water Intensive Industries</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax Advisory Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Outcomes & Penalties

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company has had any formal complaint to a regulatory agency or been assessed any fine or sanction in the past five years for any of the following practices or policies. Check all that apply.		
Anti-Competitive Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Breaches of Confidential Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bribery, Fraud, or Corruption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Company has filed for bankruptcy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consumer Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial Reporting, Taxes, Investments, or Loans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Discharges Into Air/Land/Water (Past 5 Yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Labor Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Large Scale Land Conversion, Acquisition, or Relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Litigation or Arbitration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On-Site Fatality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Penalties Assessed For Environmental Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Political Contributions or International Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recalls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Significant Layoffs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Violation of Indigenous Peoples Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## Practices

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the following statements are true regarding whether or not the company engages in the following practices. Check all that apply. If the statement is true, select "Yes." If false, select "No."		
<a href="#">Animal Testing</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Company/Suppliers Employ Under Age 15 (Or Other ILO Minimum Age)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Company prohibits freedom of association/collective bargaining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Company workers are prisoners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct Business in Conflict Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Confirmation of Right to Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does not transparently report corporate financials to government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employs Individuals on Zero-Hour Contracts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Facilities located in sensitive ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ID Cards Withheld or Penalties for Resignation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No formal Registration Under Domestic Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No signed employment contracts for all workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Overtime For Hourly Workers Is Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Payslips not provided to show wage calculation and deductions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Sale of Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tax Reduction Through Corporate Shells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workers cannot leave site during non-working hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workers not Provided Clean Drinking Water or Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workers paid below minimum wage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workers Under Bond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Supply Chain Disclosures

	Yes	No
Please indicate if any of the following statements are true regarding your company's significant suppliers.		
Business in Conflict Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child or Forced Labor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negative Environmental Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negative Social Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

## Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Animal Products and Services

<b>Topic</b>	Aboca operates an animal farm and has direct control over the treatment of animals in its care.
<b>Summary of Issue</b>	Aboca farms both cattle and pigs to produce organic meat products which are sold through L'Agricologica a brand of the Aboca Group.
<b>Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)</b>	Approximately 0.08% of revenue comes from the sale of animal products.
<b>Impact on Stakeholders</b>	The sale or use of animal products and animal-related services by businesses poses a risk to the humane treatment of animals if adequate management practices are not in place.
<b>Implemented Management Practices</b>	<p>Aboca's breeding system is based on the possibility for animals to move freely in wide open spaces and spend their entire lives outdoors, in conditions that suit their native physiology, to avoid unnecessary stress and suffering and express their feelings. This system automatically respects the five animal freedoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freedom from hunger or thirst;</li> <li>Freedom from discomfort;</li> <li>Freedom from pain, injury or disease;</li> <li>Freedom to express normal behavior;</li> <li>Freedom from fear and distress.</li> </ul> <p>The company's breeding farm is certified organic according to Reg. CE 848/2018 by CCPB. Moreover, it operates according to FederBio's High Welfare standard which guarantees a proper implementation of organic regulation and a higher standard of animal welfare. The FederBio's High Welfare standard has been developed in collaboration with Compassion in World Farming. Cattle are grass fed for 29 months on average, with free access to shelter. Pigs live in the woods and pastures and are free to root around. Their diet is supplemented with cereals, acorns, and chestnuts from the fields. The impact on biodiversity of the company's animal farms is evaluated under the Biodiversity Alliance standard and certification. The quality of product as a result of the specific farming model has been investigated by research conducted with the University of Perugia (a scientific paper is under peer review).</p>
<b>Report</b>	<a href="https://agricologica.it/">https://agricologica.it/</a>

<b>Management Comments</b>	The goal of this activity is to demonstrate that a different approach to animal farming is possible. We have to eat less meat and choose those products that have a positive impact on animal welfare, human health and environment. The current meat production and consumption model are unacceptable. Moreover, our model aims to make the agricultural process in line with a more circular approach.

# Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Environmentally Intensive Industries

<b>Topic</b>	Biodiversity Impact / Monoculture
<b>Summary of Issue</b>	As an animal and agricultural farm, Aboca S.p.A. Società Agricola operates in an industry in which biodiversity impact is a material environmental issue.
<b>Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)</b>	Approximately 64% of revenue comes from products grown directly by the company. Aboca controls 1909 hectares of land, of which approximately 85% is cultivated annually. The remaining hectares are covered by woods.
<b>Impact on Stakeholders</b>	Agriculture poses a risk to local ecosystems of flora and fauna as well as the potential degradation of cultivated land.
<b>Implemented Management Practices</b>	<p>Aboca's farming system management has made it possible to maintain and improve the level of biodiversity, as demonstrated by the significant level of microorganisms in the soils analyzed and 100/100 score achieved twice (in 2020 and 2022) in the Biodiversity Alliance certification scheme, highlighting a progressive improvement in biodiversity.</p> <p>Aboca farms their land organically (they are certified organic by CCPB) and converts all newly acquired land to this farming regime. As a certified organic agricultural company Aboca does not use any kind of artificial chemical fertilizer, pesticides or herbicides in their fields, even those allowed by the EU Regulation 848/2018. On the 1700 hectares used for herbs production that are then processed for selling, Aboca does not apply any phytosanitary products.</p> <p>To ensure the respect of the ecosystem in which Aboca operates, it applies extensive crop rotation, with medicinal herbs alternating with other species (around 90 herbs and tree species in total), including cover crops which are also used as green manure to naturally increase soil fertility. Aboca also works the soil to preserve its organic matter, avoiding deep plowing and over-tillage and plant hedges and trees on the plots.</p>
<b>Report</b>	<p>More information is available inside Aboca's public Impact Report</p> <p><a href="https://www.aboca.com/sustainability">https://www.aboca.com/sustainability</a></p>

# Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

## Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Environmentally Intensive Industries

<b>Topic</b>	Energy and Emissions Intensive Industries
<b>Summary of Issue</b>	Aboca S.p.A. Società Agricola organically cultivates around 1,700 hectares of land, of which around 90 hectares (5%) are also used for the organic animal breeding system. They have a main production facility for the production of medical devices and food supplements, and a second one used by the branch of the company specialized in processing animal products. The company operates in an industry in which energy and carbon emissions is a material environmental issue.
<b>Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)</b>	Approximately 0.08% of revenue comes from the sale of animal products and the majority of other revenue is derived from the sale of health/medicinal products.
<b>Impact on Stakeholders</b>	Aboca S.p.A. Società Agricola is involved in the production/sale of products, and is part of an industry that can potentially be classified as energy and emission-intensive, meaning that they are more likely to have significant impacts on the environment based on their carbon emissions associated with their operations and their contribution to climate change.
<b>Implemented Management Practices</b>	Aboca's HQ and main production facility that produces supplements and other health/medicinal products is certified to ISO 14001 and measures its energy use for all its production sites. The company's clean energy objective is to buy 100% of electricity from low-impact renewable sources. In 2022, the total share of renewables is approx. 92%, In 2023 Aboca is committed to bringing electricity purchases to 100% from renewable sources. According to Italian law, Aboca S.p.A. Società Agricola is a Benefit Society, and, according to that, it has modified its Statue with 6 Objectives of Common Goods. The fourth objective focuses on the adoption of environmentally friendly practices, and it also commits the company to a gradual shift towards a carbon neutral economy.
<b>Report</b>	Further details available in the Aboca annual Impact Report published here: <a href="https://www.aboca.com/company/for-the-common-good/">https://www.aboca.com/company/for-the-common-good/</a>



# Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

## Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Environmentally Intensive Industries

<b>Topic</b>	Water Intensive Industries
<b>Summary of Issue</b>	As an agricultural farm that uses water to cultivate herbs and a manufacturer that uses water to extract natural molecular complexes from herbs, Aboca S.p.A. Società Agricola operates in an industry that is water intensive.
<b>Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)</b>	Approximately 64% of revenue comes from products grown directly by the company. Aboca controls 1909 hectares of land, of which approximately 85% is cultivated annually. The remaining hectares are covered by woods. 40-50% of the company's land is irrigated using traditional irrigation.
<b>Impact on Stakeholders</b>	As a water intensive industry, agriculture poses risks such as water stress or depletion of local water sources if water use is not appropriately managed. Aboca directly cultivates land in the water area called 'Appennino Settentrionale' which has been classified as a low water severity level.
<b>Implemented Management Practices</b>	Each stage of production preserves the purity of the water coming from the nearby Montedoglio dam (Sansepolcro) and from the aquifers of the Valtiberina and Val di Chiana basins. Organic farming ensures that no chemical synthesized pollutants are transported by the water the company uses to irrigate the land. The process of extracting the natural molecular complexes from herbs is carried out without the use of chemical solvents. Attention is also paid to this when washing the machines, to minimize the amount of detergent used. It's not currently possible for the company to have specific targets to reduce the amount of water used since it strictly depends on the season and on climate conditions. However in 2022, Aboca reached (and exceeded) it's objective to install meters on 60% of their wells used for farming, aiming at reaching 80% in 2023. Each year the company monitors: the m3 of water used for the agricultural phase and inside the processing plant; the liters of water to generate 1€ in revenue and those to generate 1 unit of

	product. The investments made in the production facility have ensured a 12% reduction in the water used/net revenue ratio from 2019 to 2022 (more information at page 89 of the Aboca Impact Report 2022).
<b>Report</b>	Aboca Impact Report 2022: <a href="https://www.aboca.com/sustainability/">https://www.aboca.com/sustainability/</a>

# Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

## Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Animal Testing

<b>Topic</b>	<p>Aboca is involved in the development and production of healthcare products.</p> <p>The company is required to perform research and development activities through external contractors which involve the use of animal testing.</p>
<b>Summary of Issue</b>	<p>Aboca grows herbs and produces healthcare products made of natural substances. The company's products are required by law (<a href="#">EU Regulation 2017/745 on medical devices</a>) to be tested on animals. Before a health product is finalized, Aboca outsources the preclinical phase which includes many processes, among them, animal testing.</p> <p>The animal testing is conducted as part of the external contractors' policy to deliver the research results to Aboca. The company does not directly conduct animal testing in its laboratories and facilities but is aware that its external contractors are required to conduct animal testing for regulatory approval of the healthcare products.</p>
<b>Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)</b>	<p>In the company's last fiscal year, 63% of Aboca's product portfolio underwent animal testing at some point in their product development process.</p> <p>Aboca has not conducted any animal testing for the development of products directly. However, the company sells healthcare products that rely on ongoing R&amp;D activities involving internal and external actors for more than a single year.</p>
<b>Impact on Stakeholders</b>	<p>Animal testing and experimentation is widely used to develop new products and to test the safety of other products. Many of these experiments can cause pain to the animals involved or reduce their quality of life in other ways.</p>
<b>Implemented Management Practices</b>	<p>The company reported that all of Aboca's contractors responsible for conducting those tests are committed to avoid this practice if not strictly required. They prefer conducting in vitro tests to animal testing. However, to fulfill the Italian and EU regulator's requirement for efficacy purposes, tests on animals are required.</p> <p>Alternative in-vitro methods have been developed and published, but if they are not suitable for the assessment of the specific endpoint (be it efficacy or safety) or cannot be used</p>

	<p>because they are not validated (mandatory requirement for safety tests). There is no alternative but to proceed with in-vivo models following animal welfare regulations from Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and the Council (1), which specifies: 'The care and use of live animals for scientific purposes are governed by internationally established principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement' also bearing in mind the principle of 'Responsibility'.</p> <p>Regarding animal studies, the design of the studies takes into account the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement) proposed by Russell and Burch in 1959, to which a fourth one was added later, namely 'Responsibility', forming the 4Rs. Today, the updated framework applied by Aboca's partners includes the fifth R: Rehabilitation/Reuse, which highlights the importance of rehabilitating and potentially reusing animals involved in research, acknowledging their potential for further contributions or rehabilitation into suitable environments. This principle underscores the ethical imperative to consider the long-term welfare of research subjects beyond the immediate scope of experiments, advocating for compassionate care and responsible stewardship.</p> <p>Together, these principles underscore the holistic approach to ethical animal research, balancing scientific inquiry with compassion and respect for animal welfare. Adherence to the 5Rs ensures that research practices are conducted with integrity, transparency, and a commitment to advancing knowledge while upholding the highest ethical standards. These 5Rs emphasize holistic animal welfare and responsible research practices.</p> <p>Furthermore, for each trial, the experimental protocol is written, shared, and authorized by the relevant authorities. Wherever possible, trials are carried out by Good Laboratory Practices (GLP). The facilities entrusted with carrying out the studies guarantee that they are carried out following current animal welfare regulations and, in some cases, also through additional certifications (such as ARRIVE guidelines, AAALAC certification, etc.).</p>
<b>Management Comments</b>	<p>The company specifies that "in the current state of scientific research, it is still necessary to resort to animal testing to guarantee the safety and efficacy of health products in compliance with the regulations governing marketing, to which Aboca, like any other company, is obviously subject. On the other hand, however, we at the Aboca are trying to keep it to a minimum, investing heavily in in vitro tests and also in human</p>

	<p>clinical trials. We are in fact convinced that the advances in scientific research in the field of systems biology (cellular, molecular, etc.), alongside all the omics sciences and bioinformatics, have now reached such a level that in a few years we can aim for the definitive overcoming of animal experimentation in case of products with a high index of safety, even managing to obtain more significant results from a scientific point of view. For this reason, we have been investing our human and economic resources for years to develop and validate these innovative technologies, and we talk to European regulatory bodies so that they can be included in the protocols required for marketing authorisation. And in this field we represent one of the most advanced realities in the pharmaceutical sector, with our cellular and molecular biology laboratories."</p>