

## OUR 12 GOALS

**GISCO members commit to the work of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa at all levels. The members advocate for**

- 01** improved farm-gate prices, minimum price and premium systems as well as other income-generating measures as contributions to a living income of cocoa farming households.
- 02** improving the productivity of cocoa cultivation and the quality of cocoa.
- 03** supporting governments and other stakeholders in the development of holistic regional agricultural programs in order to create alternatives to cocoa cultivation and thus counteract overproduction.
- 04** promoting the development and use of sustainable and diversified production systems, in particular agroforestry systems, which conserve natural resources as well as ending the application of hazardous and/or unauthorized pesticides.
- 05** ending deforestation and contributing to conservation of forests and biodiversity, and to reforestation.
- 06** the abolition of worst forms of child labor in cocoa production.
- 07** the enhancement of gender equality and improvement of opportunities for women and young people in the cocoa sector.
- 08** enforcing compliance with human rights (implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) and environmental aspects by all actors in the cocoa supply chain and contributing to the discussion on possible regulatory measures at EU level.
- 09** the strengthening of governments, farmer organizations and civil society in the cocoa value chain in the producing countries.
- 10** the entire cocoa in cocoa-containing end products sold in Germany to come from sustainable cultivation in the long term.
- 11** a share of at least 85 % of cocoa in cocoa-containing end products sold by the producing members in Germany to be certified by sustainability standards or to be equivalently independently verified by the year 2025.
- 12** promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration for more sustainability, networking, sharing information and experience, learning from each other and reporting on progress in achieving objectives and applying best practices.



German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)  
 Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao e.V.  
 Sekretariat c/o Repräsentanz der Deutschen Gesellschaft  
 für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
 Reichpietschufer 20 | 10785 Berlin, Germany  
 Tel.: +49 6196 79-1462 | info@kakaoforum.de  
 www.kakaoforum.de



**Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao**  
 German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa



## WHAT IS THE GERMAN INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE COCOA?

The German Federal Government, the German confectionery industry, the German grocery retail trade and civil society joined forces in the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) with the aim to improve living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families as well as to increase cultivation and commercialization of sustainably produced cocoa.

In close cooperation with the governments of cocoa producing countries the GISCO members are committed to the following objectives:

### OBJECTIVES



*To improve living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families and to contribute to a secure living,*



*To conserve and protect natural resources and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries*



*To increase cultivation and commercialization of sustainably produced cocoa.*



GISCO consists of more than 70 members representing industry, grocery retail trade, politics and civil society. The initiative welcomes all interested stakeholders.

To measure the achievement of objectives, the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa has developed a monitoring system in cooperation with other national initiatives for sustainable cocoa in Europe. This helps to identify development trends, improvements, and impacts, to facilitate learning processes and to make the commitment of members visible.

<sup>1</sup> „The net annual income required for a household in a particular place to afford a decent standard of living for all members of that household“ (The Living Income Community of Practice, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Hazardous pesticides include as minimum requirement all substances which (1) are listed as “persistent organic pollutants (POPs)” in the Stockholm Convention, within the Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention or the Montreal Protocol, (2) are classified by WHO as A1 or 1B, (3) are listed in the “Dirty Dozen” of PAN, or (4) are identified by UN-GHS as substances with “chronic toxicity”. In addition, specifically for cocoa cultivation, they include pesticides that are not permitted for use in export goods to EU countries.

<sup>3</sup> Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance Certified, UTZ Certified





- In Germany, about 10% of the global cocoa harvest is processed. Thereby Germany is the third most important importer of cocoa beans, after the Netherlands and the United States.
- Each German citizen consumes over 9 kilogram of chocolate each year, whereby Germany is ranked second after Switzerland.
- As one of the main consumer countries of cocoa, Germany has recognized the responsibility to actively counteract social and ecological deficiencies in the cocoa sector.

Products that contain cocoa enjoy great popularity among consumers. However, cocoa is often cultivated in regions where living and working conditions of small-scale farming families are challenging. There are various reasons for that situation. These include too low family incomes, also from cocoa, and a too low degree of organization on the side of the small-scale farmers, but also a lack of infrastructure and inadequate political framework conditions in the producing as well as in the consuming countries. All parties involved in the supply chain have to take over responsibility in this.

**WHY GISCO WAS ESTABLISHED**

The members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa are committed to improve the living conditions in cocoa farming. They support the observance of human and children’s rights in cocoa production, ensure that cocoa cultivation is environmentally friendly and help cocoa farming families to achieve a living income. GISCO and its members are committed to sustainable cocoa cultivation.

The members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa aim to promote sustainable cocoa production by implementing joint activities in the producing countries and exchanging experiences and knowledge. The project PRO-PLANTEURS is carried out jointly by GISCO, the German and the Ivorian government since 2015. Its objective is to professionalize 30,000 cocoa producing families and their cooperatives in the south-eastern, eastern and southern regions of Côte d'Ivoire in order to improve the living conditions of the families through increased income and an a more balanced diet.

**THIS IS HOW GISCO IS INVOLVED**

- We develop quality criteria for effective and sustainable project approaches;
- We support direct implementation of sustainable cultivation methods;
- We network and cooperate with already existing initiatives at the national, European and international level which support sustainable cocoa production;
- We promote the cooperation of the private sector and the German development cooperation;
- We enable exchange, communication and knowledge transfer;
- We offer services and guidelines in the field of sustainability in cocoa, especially for member companies;
- We inform the public about sustainability approaches, successes and progresses in the cocoa producing regions.

**OUR PARTNERS**



**The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa defines sustainable cocoa as follows:** Sustainable cocoa is produced in accordance with economic, ecological and social requirements, which means that its production is economical, environmentally friendly and socially responsible, without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs.



**We are working towards a sustainable cocoa sector by**

- a future-oriented economic action by all actors along the value chain leading to the enablement of a living income for cocoa farmers.
- preserving natural resources, especially forest resources with their biodiversity.
- ensuring that human rights are respected along the value chain and, in particular, eliminating the worst forms of child labor.



The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa was founded in June 2012 and constituted as a registered association since April 2014. GISCO members are companies in the cocoa and confectionery industry and the retail grocery trade, civil society organizations and the German Federal Government represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The association is financed by fixed membership fees. Members and third parties can support GISCO’s activities through further contributions. The GISCO secretariat is responsible for the coordination of GISCO’s activities. It is hosted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

**FOUR ACTOR GROUPS**

- BDSI:** Association of the German Confectionery Industry
- German Cocoa Trade Association**
- Individual Companies**
- BMZ:** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- BMEL:** Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture



- BVLH:** Federal Association of the German Retail Grocery Trade
- Individual Companies**
- Non-Governmental Organizations**
- Standard-setting Organizations**
- Trade Unions**
- Research, Education, Culture Institutions**