

OUR 12 GOALS

The members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) commit to support the work of the initiative at all levels. We are jointly committed to

- 01 constantly improving the income situation of cocoa farming households in the producing countries, so that all households can earn a living income. We are jointly committed to enable at least 90 % of households, whose main occupation is cocoa cultivation and who supply members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa with cocoa that is sold or processed in Germany¹, to earn a living income by 2030. Together we develop strategies to achieve this goal.
- 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 hazardous² and/or unauthorized pesticides.
- 05 ending deforestation³ and contributing to conservation of forests and biodiversity, and to reforestation.
- 06 abolishing prohibited child labour⁴, forced labour, slavery and human trafficking in cocoa production.
- 07 the enhancement of gender equality and improvement of opportunities for women and young people in the cocoa sector.
- 08 ensuring that corporate members⁵ of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa implement human rights⁶ and environmental⁷ due diligence in their cocoa supply chains by the end of 2025.
- 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 ensuring that, by 2025, at least 95 % of cocoa in the cocoa-containing end products sold by our producing members in Germany is certified in line with sustainability standards⁸ or comes from sustainability programmes that are independently verified⁹.
- 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.

1 Including for export

2 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 and/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.

3 According to FAO, deforestation is the conversion of forest to another land use or the long-term reduction of tree canopy cover below the 10 % threshold.

4 Prohibited child labour is child labour as defined in ILO Conventions 138 and 182. According to the ILO, child labour includes formal or informal work undertaken by people under the age of 18 in the private or public sector with or without pay. If this violates statutory standards (e.g. age restrictions or maximum working hours), it counts as child labour.

5 Members who trade or process > 100 t of cocoa per year

6 Human rights due diligence in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

7 Environmental due diligence in accordance with the OECD/FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains

8 Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, UTZ Certified, Bio, e.g. Naturland Fair

9 The term „independently verified“ will be defined and substantiated with criteria.



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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, GISCO 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.





- 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 low household incomes and a low degree of farmers' 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 GISCO 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 GISCO 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



We define 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.



GISCO 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**