German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)

Jointly towards a Sustainable Cocoa Sector

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GISCO
Executive Secretary
Why is a multistakeholder approach necessary?

- **Challenges in the Cocoa Sector**
  - Low income from cocoa production and widespread poverty among cocoa farmers
  - Low sector attractiveness for young farmers
  - Migration of young farmers into the cities
  - Aging cocoa farmers
  - Deforestation of rainforests and conversion into cocoa farms
  - Looming supply problems for industry

- **Child labor**
  - Worst forms of child labor still widespread

**Shared responsibility and joint acting is required to overcome challenges**

Integration in existing initiatives like Global Cocoa Plan and CocoaAction
June 2012  
**Foundation of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa** in Berlin, promoted by the German Federal Government (BMEL, BMZ), Industry, Retail, NGO

2012

2013  
- **Support of the Certification Capacity Enhancement Initiative (CCE)** by GISCO

2014  
- **April 2014**  
  - Foundation of GISCO as an association 50 members  
  - Financed by membership fees since **June 2014**

2015

2016  
- **April 2016**  
  - 68 Members

2015

- **April 1st 2015**  
  - Signing of the **Letter of Intent** with the Ivorian government for the joint project PRO-PLANTEURS

2016

- **April 29th 2014**  
  - Joint **Declaration of Intent** of the Ivorian Ministry of Agriculture and the German Federal Government

- **2016**  
  - **Awarded as Flagship Project** of the German National Sustainability Strategy

- **May 2015**  
  - 66 Members
Membership profile

**BDSI:** Association of the German Confectionery Industry e.V.

**German Cocoa Trade Association e.V.**

**Individual Companies**

**BVLH:** Federal Association of the German Retail Grocery Trade e.V.

**Individual Companies**

**BMZ:** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

**BMEL:** Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

- Implementation structures in cocoa growing countries
- Know-How in terms of sustainability practices, production, trade, markets
- Various members implement own programmes oder projects

5 Sustaining Members

- Non-governmental Organizations
- Standard-setting Organizations
- Trade Unions
- Research Institutions

70-80% of German market is covered
GISCO’s Objectives are:

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.

The objective of the multi-stakeholder initiative GISCO (German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa) is;

- To improve living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families and contribute to a sustainable living standard.
- To conserve and protect natural resources and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries.
- To increase cultivation and commercialization of sustainably produced cocoa.

And we are dedicated:

1. To invest in sustainable and transdisciplinary training of cocoa farmers (train farmers to live productively, protect the environment, and improve their living standards).
2. To promote the development and implementation of sustainable cocoa production and trade and to support smallholder farmers in improving their living standards.
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4. To support and encourage governments in cocoa-producing countries to improve the living standards of cocoa farmers.
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Objective:
 Cocoa farmers and their families improve their living conditions

Beneficiaries:
 20,000 cocoa producing family farms and their organizations, with a special focus on women and young professionals

Working on:
1. Strengthening of farmers’ organizations
2. Productivity, quality of cocoa beans and conserve biodiversity
3. Diversification towards food crops and an improved nutritional status.
4. Learning experiences and innovative approaches are put in value

Project Term: 2015 - 2020
Contributing to: National Cocoa Strategy Côte d’Ivoire
World Cocoa Foundation /CocoaAction

Financing: each 1/3
Federal Government, Ivorian Government, private sector
Certification Capacity Enhancement (CCE) within the Cocoa sector

Countries: Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria

Partner: Voluntary standard systems, cocoa industry, IDH, Solidaridad

Duration: 03.2010 – 02.2013
Strategic Alliance GIZ
Since 2013 German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

Objectives
- Access to sustainability standards and certification
- Increased productivity

Approaches
- Development of joint training materials
- Training of trainers and development of training capacities
- Implementation of CCE trainings
- Monitoring & evaluation

Results
- Over 90,000 farmers trained (2011-2014)
- 98 % of them certified
Main challenges

- Sector transformation towards full sustainability, certification is one step only,
- Eliminate worst forms of child labor

What do we have to do:

Have more consensus on joint strategy, also address difficult issues (e.g. land tenure, access to finance at farm level, role of women, cocoa price and living income)

What are the most important drivers for sustainability

Develop unified sector monitoring in order to measure advances