

ROADMAP: Lindt & Sprüngli

Background

At the 2022 General Meeting of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO), members decided to publish individual roadmaps with commitments and milestones as well as progress reports on these commitments.

The individual roadmaps are based on the [GISCO roadmap](#) which lists the goals, targeted indicators and recommendations for action on the focus topics of certified cocoa/cocoa from company programmes, traceability, deforestation/agroforestry, child labor and living income.

These public individual commitments complement the annual monitoring process carried out in cooperation with the ISCOs (European Initiatives for sustainable cocoa), give visibility of the members' contributions to the [GISCO objectives](#) and strengthen individual accountability.

Member's comment on the roadmap:

Cocoa is our most important raw material, and we are committed to sourcing it responsibly. We purchase cocoa beans, cocoa butter, cocoa powder, and uniquely for Russell Stover, finished chocolate mass. Through our responsible cocoa sourcing approach and our Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program, we aim to contribute to three objectives: increasing the resilience of farming households, reducing the risk of child labor, and conserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

For more information on our cocoa sustainability efforts, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2022](#).

Traceability

Commitment: By 2025, we aim to achieve first mile traceability for 100% of our cocoa products - beans, butter, powder & chocolate mass.

For more information on our efforts towards supply chain traceability, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2022](#).

Milestone: 2024: 75%

Milestone: 2025: 100%

GISCO Secretariat / Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao e.V.

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Progress (submitted in December 2024):

Commitment is in progress. Status 2023: on track

In 2023, first mile traceability was achieved for 72.3% of cocoa beans equivalent sourced (cocoa beans, powder, butter, and chocolate mass/bean equivalents according to ICCO conversion rates).

Cocoa beans equivalent sourced with first mile traceability per type of product

- Cocoa beans: 100%
- Cocoa butter: 50.2%
- Cocoa powder: 31.3%
- Chocolate mass: 0.0%

Traceability level

- Identity preserved: 50.8%
- Segregated: 15.9%
- Mass balance: 5.6%
- Conventional: 27.7%

Challenge:

- Lack of unique farmer IDs and national traceability systems
- Farmer fluctuation

Challenge:

The encountered challenges remain.

Certified and independently verified cocoa

Commitment: By 2025, we are committed to sourcing 100% of our cocoa products - beans, butter, powder & chocolate mass through externally verified sustainability programs.

In 2020, we achieved our goal to source 100% of our cocoa beans as traceable and externally verified. Since then, we have been scaling our efforts to cover all other cocoa products.

Milestone: 2024:75%

Milestone: 2025:100%

Progress (submitted in December 2024):

Commitment is in progress. Status 2023: on track

In 2023, 159,914 metric ton cocoa beans equivalent (cocoa beans, powder, butter, and chocolate mass/bean equivalents according to ICCO conversion rates) were sourced.

- Thereof, 72.3% were sourced through responsible sourcing programs (Farming Program or other responsible sourcing program, verified or certified by third party).
- Thereof, 68.2% were sourced through the Farming Program (verified or certified by third party).

Our Farming Program builds on the principle of continuous improvement. Our monitoring and evaluation approach is based on multiple complementary elements including monitoring of outputs, a review of Program quality and verification of Program implementation, and periodic impact assessments. We assess these elements related to both the farm and implementation partner, and carry out checks to verify traceability documents.

Farming Program monitoring and verification approach

- Internal monitoring of farmers participating in the Program
- Child labor focused monitoring (risk-based approach)
- Farming Program implementation: progress and performance reviews
- External verification
- Impact assessments
- Supply chain traceability check

As defined in our [Farming Program Verification Guidance](#), monitoring begins with systematic annual internal monitoring of the cocoa farmers to assess their compliance with Farming Program requirements and evaluate their progress. Results from this monitoring differ between origin and supplier, and challenges are addressed for each supply chain individually.

Our cocoa sourcing under our Farming Program and other responsible sourcing programs is subject to external verification annually by an independent third party. For cocoa beans, external verification is conducted by the Earthworm Foundation, based on the [Farming Program External Assessment Methodology](#), which enables a mutual learning process. The methodology also includes direct engagement of the Earthworm Foundation with farmers through individual meetings and focus-group discussions to gather feedback on the support provided as part of the Program. Results from the annual assessments are transformed into an annual action plan with measures for improvement identified at supplier level.

For cocoa butter, we are currently in the process of transitioning different responsible sourcing programs to Rainforest Alliance certification. Where long-term agreements are in place and our Program is being implemented, certification is not intended to replace our Program, but serves as a basis and external verification scheme. The first Lindt & Sprüngli subsidiaries became Rainforest Alliance certified in 2023. However, while the majority of the volumes we sourced during the year came through long-term agreements and from certified farmer groups, these volumes were not yet formally sourced as certified under the Rainforest Alliance chain of custody rules.

Challenge:

Scaling up the share of cocoa sourced through responsible sourcing programs means that new farmers and farmer groups need to be registered and admitted to the program. This scaling process takes time. The supply chain must be established, new implementation staff on the ground need to be hired, and farmers and farmer groups need to be assessed and onboarded into the program.

Challenge:

The encountered challenges remain.

Voluntary: Updated Commitment & Milestones 2023:

Commitment: We aim to source 100% of cocoa products – beans, butter, powder, and chocolate mass – through the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program or other responsible sourcing programs by 2025.

For more information on our efforts towards supply chain traceability, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2023, page 44](#).

Deforestation/Agroforestry

Commitment: By 2025, our aim is for 100% of sourced cocoa to be free from deforestation and covered by our Cocoa No-Deforestation & Agroforestry Action Plan.

For more information on our efforts for deforestation-free supply chains and agroforestry, please refer to our [Deforestation Policy](#), [Sustainability Report 2022](#), and our [No-Deforestation & Agroforestry Action Plan Report 2022](#).

Milestone: 2024: 75% and adoption of a satellite monitoring system

Milestone: 2025: 100%

Progress: (submitted in December 2024):

Commitment is in progress. Status 2023: on track

In 2023, 72.3% of cocoa beans equivalent (cocoa beans, powder, butter, and chocolate mass; in volume) were sourced from farmers covered by a “No-Deforestation and Agroforestry Action Plan”.

Challenge:

For more information about challenges, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2022, page 44 ff](#) and our [No-Deforestation & Agroforestry Action Plan Report 2022](#).

Challenge:

For more information about challenges, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2023 p 64 ff](#) and our [No-Deforestation & Agroforestry Action Plan Report 2023](#).

Voluntary: Updated Commitment & Milestones 2023:

Commitment: We aim for no deforestation in cocoa with a target date of December 31, 2025, and to work towards the elimination of deforestation in our other key deforestation linked supply chains (palm oil, soy, and paper and pulp-based packaging).

For more information on our efforts towards supply chain traceability, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2023, page 64](#).

Child Labor

Commitment: By 2025, 100% of cocoa from child labor risk countries sourced from farming households covered by a Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS).

For more information on our efforts towards protecting children's rights, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2022](#).

Milestone: 2024: 75%

Milestone: 2025: 100%

Progress (submitted in December 2024):

Commitment is in progress. Status 2023: on track

In 2023, 66.1% of sourced cocoa volume from child labor risk countries where a Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) rollout started or is implemented. 88 200 farming household in risk countries were covered by a CLMRS.

Challenge:

For more information about challenges, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2022](#).

Challenge:

For more information about challenges, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2023](#).

Voluntary: Updated Commitment & Milestones 2023:

Commitment: By 2025, we aim for 100% of our cocoa volume from child labor risk countries to be covered by a Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) that is being rolled out or is implemented.

For more information on our efforts towards supply chain traceability, please refer to our [Sustainability Report 2023, page 33](#).



Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao
German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa



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Living Income

Updated Commitment 2025

Introduction of a living income project, integrating 5,000 cocoa farming families between 2025 and 2027.