



Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa, Phase II

Launched in June 2017, the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) is a multi-stakeholder initiative driven by chocolate manufacturers, traders, retailers, NGOs, research institutions and the Federal Government represented by SECO. In light of widespread poverty and environmental challenges in cocoa producing countries, the members of the Platform are committed to sustainable sourcing practices and to an effective and measurable contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Background

Despite the different support programs of governments, companies and donors, average per capita income of cocoa farmers lies globally below the poverty threshold of USD 1.9 per day. Also, cocoa farm expansion is considered a key driver of forest degradation and deforestation. Recognizing that in the past, measures have often been fragmented, isolated and lacking a systemic view, the Platform seeks to align objectives and resources to strengthen the sustainability along the cocoa value chain. It thus strives to link the excellent reputation of Swiss chocolate with concrete sustainability objectives. In September 2021, the SWISSCO General Assembly has therefore adopted its Roadmap 2030 with a focus on the following key issues: farmers' income; child labour; deforestation-free and climate-friendly production; transparency and traceability. Gender and innovation are transversal themes of the Roadmap.

Phase I of the SWISSCO support programme contributed to an institutional consolidation of the Platform, with its member base growing substantially. SWISSCO members also made progress in terms of sustainable sourcing, the share of sustainable imports into Switzerland increasing from 55% to 71%. Members have exchanged experience through topic-specific communities of practice, e.g. on child labour, living income, climate and biodiversity, which have now been merged with the working groups of the other cocoa platforms in Europe. Finally, two calls for proposals co-financed by SECO with CHF 7.6 million have resulted in 14 projects in nine countries, leveraging almost CHF 20 million in additional private funding and reaching over 90,000 farmers that manage an area of over 100,000 ha.

Country/region

Global

Executing agency

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

Duration

2023-2026

Total budget

CHF 59,150,000

SECO contribution

CHF 13,000,000



Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

Objectives and Activities

This new phase of SECO's support to SWISSCO focuses on leveraging the resources of all supply chain partners and other sectors with the aim of effectively implementing SWISSCO's Roadmap 2030.

The programme will have three funding windows:

- 1. Peer learning network:** To increase the collaboration and foster common approaches, knowledge transfer and peer-learning among members, European partners and producing countries.
- 2. Public-private partnerships:** To support smaller, innovative and impact-driven PPPs that allow to test new approaches and tools to address farmers' needs.
- 3. Landscape approach:** To trigger systemic change in key sourcing landscapes of the Swiss chocolate industry, involving various stakeholders and regional institutions and address multiple supply chains.

To ensure credible progress is made in reaching the goals, the Platform established a common Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework, which defines common key performance indicators and metrics harmonized with the ICCO Global Cocoa Agenda, the leading sustainability initiatives from the World Cocoa Foundation, the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO), the Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (DISCO), the Belgian Partnership Beyond Chocolate, and the French Initiative for a Sustainable Cocoa (FRISCO).



Governance

SWISSCO is a non-profit association with office in Berne. The main governing body is the General Assembly with its currently over 80 members. The Association is headed by the Board, its tasks being supported by the Coordination Office. The Coordination Office is responsible for the management of the activities, monitoring, reporting and communication.

The Board consists of six members and the President. The federal government, represented by SECO, exercises an observer role in the Board. The manufacturers, importers, and distributors of cocoa-based products are represented by two members in the Board, the other sectors by one member each. The president of the board is independent of any of the sectors.

The Platform is financed by the membership fees. SECO's funding co-finances concrete projects under the above-mentioned outcomes.


Further information


For further information on SWISSCO and concrete projects: www.kakaoplattform.ch

seco-cooperation.admin.ch

Integration in value chains



Follow us on 
[www.instagram.com/
seco_cooperation/](https://www.instagram.com/seco_cooperation/)

Follow us on 
[www.linkedin.com/company/
seco-cooperation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/seco-cooperation)

WEHU, 2024