



Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

SECO is committed to the Swiss multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at promoting sustainability along the entire cocoa value chain.

Launched in June 2017, the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa 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) in the frame of the Agenda 2030.

Background

Despite the manifold attention received by governments, companies and donors, cocoa farmers' income has been stagnating over the last decades. Average per capita income lies globally below the poverty threshold of USD 2 per day. Besides, cocoa farm expansion is considered a key driver of forest degradation and deforestation. Recognizing that in the past, measures have been often fragmented, isolated and lacking a systemic view, the Platform seeks to align objectives and resources to strengthen the sustainability along the cocoa value chain, thus linking the high quality reputation of Swiss chocolate with sustainability.

Trust-building among key stakeholders and fostering policy dialogue in the main producing countries is considered instrumental to tackle the systemic root causes of the challenges in the cocoa value chain. Open sharing of experiences allows for the mobilization of additional financial resources from private sector through co-financed innovative value chain projects, aligned with the main objectives of the platform and supported by the Swiss Government.

Objectives and Activities

By signing the joint Declaration of Intent in June 2017, the meanwhile 60 members of the Platform committed to contribute to the following main goals:

1. To increase social, ecological and economic sustainability in the cocoa value chain in order to substantially improve the living conditions of the cocoa farmers and their families, and to create a viable cocoa sector for the current and future generations. Specifically, the platform commits to measurably contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

SECO country/region

Global; West Africa
and Latin America

Executing agency

Swiss Platform for
Sustainable Cocoa
and its Members

Duration

2018-2022

Total budget

CHF 30,000,000
including co-financed
projects

SECO contribution

CHF 9,000,000



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2. In the long term, to import all cocoa and cocoa products to Switzerland from sustainable production. A first milestone is set an 80% sustainable sourcing goal by 2025

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

To mobilize private investments through innovative value chain projects, SECO launched in 2018 a public-private co-financing mechanism. SECO invites the private sector to submit proposals and encourages cross-sectoral partnerships. As a result of the first two calls in 2018 and 2019, 14 projects have been approved and are currently implemented. SECO provides an amount of CHF 7.6 million for the years 2018 to 2022 for the co-financing facility and contributes to an overall funding envelope of CHF 26 million. The primary geographical focus lies on the West Africa and South American regions as the main cocoa sourcing countries of Switzerland.

Governance

As of January 2018, the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa turned into a non-profit association with its office being based in Berne. The supreme governing body is the General Assembly with its currently 60 members. The Association is headed by the Board, its tasks being supported by the Coordination Office.

The Board consists of five 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.

To foster joint learning and dialogue, the Platform has various thematic working groups focussed on key sustainability challenges around living income, child labour, climate change and biodiversity. The Communities of Practice meet regularly, follow jointly elaborated work plans and provide concrete guidance for joint projects and concerted actions in the prioritized topics.

Besides seed funding from SECO, the Platform is financed by the membership fees. By 2022, 100% of running costs are planned to be covered by the members.

Further information and contact details

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