



UNDP Green Commodities Programme

Rethinking the way our world produces agricultural commodities is central to slowing deforestation, climate change and reducing poverty.

While companies, governments and other stakeholders are making important investments in the area of sustainable agricultural production, they are increasingly aware that no single group can meet this complex challenge alone. Through a partnership between UNDP and the Government of Switzerland, the Green Commodities Programme (GCP) strives to tackle the deep-rooted problems in the Indonesian palm oil sector and the Peruvian coffee and cocoa sectors through the promotion of multi-stakeholder approaches. Currently, the possibility of extending the partnership to Brazil, Ghana and/or Malaysia is being assessed.

Rationale

Food systems and agricultural commodities remain one of the world's most persistent development challenges. On the one hand, global commodity value chains contribute significantly to reducing poverty and spurring economic growth, on the other hand, agricultural production drives deforestation and degrades ecosystems. The challenge is maximizing the development and economic benefits of commodity production, all the while minimizing its negative social and environmental effects. This means making sustainable commodities not a niche but the norm. This needs to be done through increasing both sustainable production and demand for sustainably produced commodities.

The Green Commodities Programme addresses the sustainability challenges of 7 highly-traded agricultural and marine commodities such as palm oil, beef, soya and fisheries. SECO specifically supports the palm oil sector in Indonesia and the coffee and cocoa sectors in Peru. In both countries these sectors are vital sources of income and GDP growth and have the potential to spur positive development.

Recognizing that the problems confronting major agro-commodity sectors are too complex for any single stakeholder group to handle, the SECO partnership (since 2015) helped the Green Commodities Programme develop and pilot an innovative approach. Through so called National Commodity Platform, governments are supported to take the lead in creating national environments where sustainable commodity sectors can grow. This means facilitating neutral spaces where stakeholders can collaborate on a shared vision and agenda for action, often by building public-private partnerships through which innovative solutions can be identified, piloted and implemented.

Objectives and activities

The program, now in its second phase, facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogues to foster sustainable production and trade in the palm oil sector in Indonesia and the coffee and cocoa sectors in Peru. The objectives are to improve the lives of workers, farming families and their communities while protecting high conservation value forests and vulnerable ecosystems. In both countries the work of the National Commodity Platforms will help to reduce deforestation. The direct beneficiaries of the

SECO country/region
Indonesia, Peru,
Global

Executing agency
UNDP

Duration
2018-2023

Total budget
CHF 62,500,000

SECO contribution
CHF 5,000,000



GCP include national and local governments and their ministries that will improve their capacity and ability to develop and govern large and economically important sectors. Specifically, the program will build on prior achievements and focus on these four outcomes:

1. Support Indonesian stakeholders at national and sub-national levels with the implementation of the National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil. (The Indonesian National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil was signed by Presidential Instruction in November 2019 by Indonesia's president, Mr. Joko Widodo.)
2. Support Peruvian stakeholders in the implementation of the National Coffee Action Plan and in building strong partnerships for more sustainable coffee and cocoa production and trade. (Peru's National Coffee Action Plan was signed by Decreto Supremo by Peru's President, in December 2019 and Peru's National Cocoa Chocolate Chain Development Plan was approved by Decreto Supremo by Peru's President in November 2022.)
3. Scope and develop opportunities for other sustainable commodity production interventions, particularly with a focus on Ghana, Malaysia and Brazil.
4. Strengthen global support systems and community learning for sustainable commodity sectors.

Governance Structure of the UNDP Green Commodities Program

The cooperation between Switzerland and UNDP in the frame of the GCP has a two tier governance structure. At the global level, a Global Head of the GCP and a Senior Commodities Adviser manage the overall implementation of the program. At country level, UNDP GCP has devoted project teams who are in charge of implementation, oversee country activities and maintain relations with national governments. The project team in Indonesia is located in the Ministry of Agriculture, and in Peru within the 'Sustainable Productive Landscapes' team under the Ministry of Environment. The annual steering committee meeting between UNDP and SECO and the quarterly update calls are the main mechanisms for project oversight.



Further information and contact details

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