



Press Release

On the 3rd General Assembly 2021 of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

Joint action as a recipe for success for the challenges in the cocoa value chain

Following the leitmotif «Tackling Challenges Together», the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa has endorsed its Roadmap 2030 with targets regarding living incomes for farmer families, deforestation-free and climate-friendly cocoa production, prevention of child labour and increasing transparency and traceability. In this way, the alliance of chocolate manufacturers and suppliers, retailers, science, civil society, and the federal government is strengthening its sustainability efforts in the most important raw material supply chain for chocolate production in Switzerland.

Important progress has been made since the launch of Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) in 2017. Imports of sustainably produced cocoa into Switzerland have increased from 51 to 74% since 2017, an important step towards achieving the interim target of 80% by 2025. However, the multi-stakeholder initiative is now going one step further with the Roadmap 2030, which was adopted by the 69 members of the association at the third general assembly at Migros in Zurich. "Certification and verification programs by companies are an important step. But more extensive joint efforts are needed to effectively address the social and environmental challenges in the countries of origin of cocoa," said Filippo Veglio, President of SWISSCO.

In response to the most pressing challenges within the value chain, the strategy document defines 12 targets in line with the UN 2030 Development Goals. The targets highlight joint action in four target areas:

Living income for cocoa farming families

Especially in the most important countries of origin in West Africa, many cocoa farmers are still far from achieving a living income. Solutions are complex and require the interplay of various factors such as increasing crop yields, setting prices that are advantageous for the farmers, reducing production costs, developing alternative incomes, and improving local conditions and governance. All members of the association are committed to working together on these levers and monitoring progress through impact studies.

Deforestation-free and climate-friendly cocoa supply chain

Climate-friendly farming practices such as agroforestry promote the reduction of greenhouse gases, resilience to climate variability and soil quality. SWISSCO has set itself the ambitious goal of supporting 150,000 cocoa farmers to effectively implement climate-friendly farming practices. In various countries of origin such as Ghana, Madagascar or

Peru, SWISSCO is also pursuing the piloting of innovative landscape approaches in cooperation with the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO. Together with the relevant local forces, the aim is to help climate-friendly and deforestation-free cocoa production achieve a breakthrough at the level of entire producer regions.

Prevention of child labour

In the prevention of child labour, the Roadmap 2030 also relies entirely on cooperation with local forces and focuses on the causes of child labour. Measures such as targeted monitoring of child labour and improvement measures to support the prospects of children and young people in the education sector are to be developed in partnership with local authorities and civil organizations.

Transparency and traceability in the cocoa supply chain

The Roadmap sets the goal of basing 100% of imports of cocoa-containing products into Switzerland on sustainable production by 2030. At the same time, traceability and transparency in the supply chain are to be continuously improved. The use of digital solutions, for example, should make it possible to effectively integrate farmers into international supply chains to provide them with more targeted support in the future.

SWISSCO plans on report regularly on the progress made in implementing the Roadmap 2030. A baseline report is already planned for next year. Comprehensive progress reports covering the contribution of all members are also planned for 2025 and 2030. The reports will be complemented by the annual reports of SWISSCO, which provide information on the progress made concerning the import of sustainable cocoa and the public-private projects in the countries of origin.

BOX: About the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa.

Founded in early 2018, the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa Association is a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together Swiss-based organizations relevant to the cocoa value chain, including chocolate manufacturers, cocoa traders and importers, food retailers, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, and research institutes. Currently, the association has 69 members and associated international partner organizations.

Members pool their knowledge and efforts to advocate for greater sustainability in the value chain. They are committed to improving the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and their families, protecting natural resources, and creating a viable and resilient cocoa value chain for current and future generations. In the countries of origin of cocoa, 14 projects are currently being implemented by Swiss companies in collaboration with NGOs, with financial support from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

Contacts for media

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