



Annual Report 2025



Swiss Platform for
Sustainable Cocoa

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FOREWORD

Dear members and partners,

The year 2025 marked an important moment of consolidation and renewal for the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa. At our General Assembly at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Frick, our members unanimously adopted the fully revised Roadmap 2030.

We now have a more focused, more binding, more ambitious and more practical framework for action. The new Roadmap concentrates on six measurable ambitions that provide clear orientation for our joint work. Responsibilities are clearly defined, clarifying who does what and how each ambition will be fulfilled, and thereby strengthening accountability. At the same time, a three-level implementation model allows companies to engage according to their capacities, ensuring that the Roadmap is not only ambitious but also applicable and effective in practice.

I am also encouraged by the results of the mid-term evaluation conducted by Como Consult and the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE). A large majority of respondents view the Cocoa Platform very positively. The platform has found its role and complements existing initiatives in a meaningful way. At the same time, the evaluation highlighted that further efforts and stronger engagement will be needed to fully realise our potential to drive sustainability transformation in the cocoa sector. We take this as both recognition and motivation.

2025 was also the pilot year of our shared Coordination Office with the Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform. By pooling resources at strategic, operational and administrative levels, we achieved concrete synergies and used our resources more efficiently. As we move forward, we will carefully assess where deeper cooperation creates added value and where independence remains important. The feedback of our members will remain essential for our continued success.



Filippo Veglio, President of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO)



1. SUMMARY

Below, find a summary of our milestones in 2025 categorised by our four core areas of action.

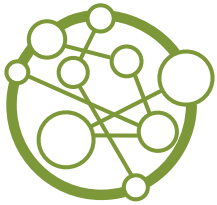


Accountability and Transparency

In June 2025, the members of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa adopted a substantially revised Roadmap 2030. This strategic document raises the sustainability ambitions of the Swiss chocolate industry and introduces new elements.

In 2025, 92 % of cocoa bean equivalents imported into Switzerland were sourced from sustainable production. This represents an 8 percentage point increase compared to the previous year. We will continue our efforts to attain 100 % by 2030.

The National Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa in Europe (ISCOs) reported continued commitment to sustainability in the cocoa sector. While progress is visible in areas such as living income strategies and expanded child labour monitoring, most farmers still remain below Living Income Benchmarks (LIB). At the same time, limited advances in traceability and uneven progress on deforestation underline the need for stronger data systems, clearer definitions, and deeper collaboration to achieve meaningful impact.



Network and Knowledge Exchange

To support collective progress in sustainability, members of the Cocoa Platform regularly come together through dedicated events and exchange formats. Highlights included the Annual General Meeting, where members adopted the fully revised Roadmap 2030; the Regulation Readiness workshop and the Landscape Week, which brought together practitioners from producing countries for a series of events on the landscape approach. And of course, the many well-attended "Tertulia" webinars co-hosted with our members on a range of topics.



Projects

The Cocoa Platform's members remain actively engaged in public-private partnerships. In 2025, a total of 34 projects were implemented, including 6 landscape projects across five countries, 13 innovative value chain projects in nine countries, and 15 peer learning & collaboration projects and small actions. SECO approved CHF 2.73 million in funding for the year, with 27 SWISSCO members involved. Project activities reached 188 053 beneficiaries, 30 457 individuals received training, of whom 18.5 % were women.



International Cooperation

Engagements in Ghana and Peru reinforced Switzerland's commitment to sustainable cocoa and strengthened cooperation with key partners. In Ghana, a delegation met with the new COCOBOD leadership. The Joint Committee helped strengthen collaboration, address key challenges, and advance priorities such as improving farmer incomes and enhancing diagnostics for cocoa swollen shoot disease. In Peru, a Board mission marked a key step forward with three Memoranda of Understanding on living incomes, climate-resilient production, and local value addition.



2. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In June 2025, the members of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa adopted a substantially revised Roadmap 2030. This strategic document raises the sustainability ambitions of the Swiss chocolate industry and introduces new elements.

The comprehensive revision process actively involved all sectors of the Platform – business, NGOs, research institutions, and public authorities. The goal was to develop a Roadmap that presents ambitious opportunities for improvement and strengthens collaboration among members.

The six Ambitions of our new Roadmap 2030



LIVING INCOME



All cocoa farmers with viable farm sizes and sustainable yields earn at least a living income.

This enables a scope of farmers to achieve a decent living that would allow for basic needs like food, housing, healthcare, education, savings, and more to be covered.

HUMAN RIGHTS



Cocoa production safeguards human rights by ensuring fair labour conditions and eliminating child and forced labour.

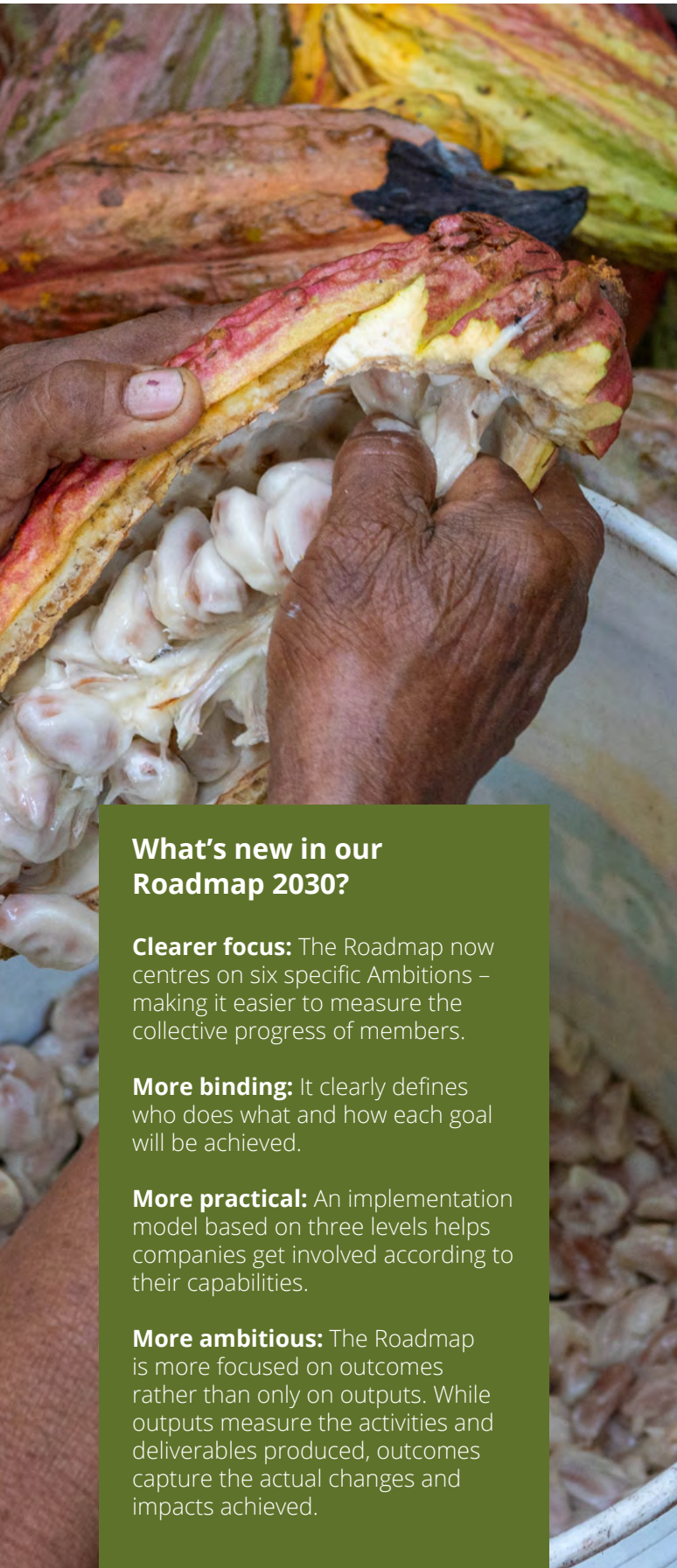
Partnerships with civil society and governments are essential to address the root causes and structural barriers of child and forced labour.

DEFORESTATION



Cocoa production does not contribute to deforestation and actively supports the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems.

Members implement deforestation-free cocoa value chains and engage in landscape or similar initiatives to protect forests and restore degraded ecosystems.



What's new in our Roadmap 2030?

Clearer focus: The Roadmap now centres on six specific Ambitions – making it easier to measure the collective progress of members.

More binding: It clearly defines who does what and how each goal will be achieved.

More practical: An implementation model based on three levels helps companies get involved according to their capabilities.

More ambitious: The Roadmap is more focused on outcomes rather than only on outputs. While outputs measure the activities and deliverables produced, outcomes capture the actual changes and impacts achieved.



AGROFORESTRY

Agroforestry practices are widely adopted in cocoa production.

Agroforestry plays a central role in carbon sequestration by increasing above-ground biomass and enriching soil organic carbon.

CLIMATE PROTECTION

Cocoa production aligns with achieving global climate goals through reducing emissions for both near-term (2030) and long-term (2050).



Members report on emissions reductions (with a focus on Scope 3 emissions), assess their carbon footprint, and commit to SBTi targets for 2030 and 2050.



TRANSPARENCY

The physical flow of products containing cocoa to Switzerland relies on fully traceable and transparent supply chains.

Sourcing tools such as internationally recognised labels or equivalent sustainability systems are key to strengthening the sustainability performance of supply chain actors.



Our definition of Sustainable Cocoa Production

Sustainable cocoa is cocoa produced and sourced from a system that i) strives for decent living conditions for cocoa farmers and their families, ii) promotes climate mitigation and adaptation, and protects biodiversity, and iii) strives for an economically viable and transparent cocoa value chain, both for present and future generations.

In order to meet this definition, cocoa imports must either be certified by common labels such as Fairtrade Max Havelaar, Rainforest Alliance or organic. Another option are company-specific sustainability programs that are verified by an external body. However, company-specific programmes that are not verified by a third party are not considered sustainable and are referred to as self-declared.

Monitoring the Share of Sustainable Cocoa

As one of its core tasks, the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa continued to collect data on sustainable cocoa imports and conducted member surveys in 2025. This section presents the results and outlines successes and challenges in achieving the goals of the Roadmap 2030.

The Cocoa Platform has set the goal that by 2030, 100 % of all cocoa products physically imported into Switzerland come from sustainable agricultural production. To monitor the achievements of these goals, the Cocoa Platform relies on official import statistics and member surveys.

How the Data is Collected

First, the total amount of cocoa imported into and exported from Switzerland is identified based on Swiss foreign trade statistics. However, these statistics do not provide specific information on production methods and certifications.

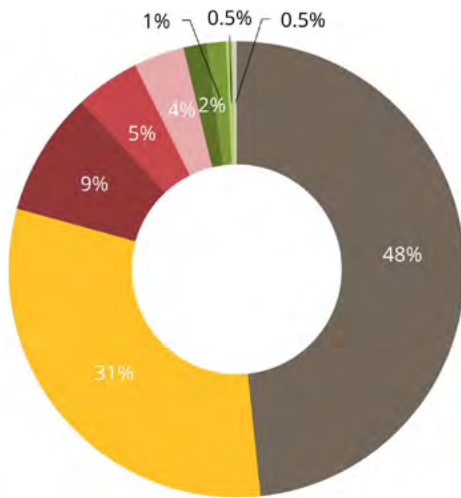
In a second step, the Coordination Office has conducted SWISSCO's annual Sourcing Statistics since 2018, asking the members to provide qualitative details about their imports. As all members with imports fulfil this task. The missing data on production methods and certifications in the results come from imports covered by trade statistics but made by non-members.

In a third step, the share of all types of imported cocoa products is converted into so-called "cocoa bean equivalents" by the conversion factors set by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO). This allows a comparison between cocoa products based on the amount of raw cocoa beans required for each product.



Swiss Imports and Exports of Cocoa and Cocoa products

Swiss foreign trade statistics track the volume of cocoa beans and cocoa products imported into Switzerland. In 2025, imports reached 139 817 tons, while exports of cocoa products totalled 151 593 tons.



Imports 2025

Based on the Swiss foreign trade statistics, 139 817 tons of cocoa beans and cocoa products were imported into Switzerland in 2025. This corresponds to 122 750 tons of cocoa bean equivalents (a standardised measure that converts all cocoa products into their raw bean equivalent for comparability). Cocoa beans (48 %) and cocoa butter (31 %) account for the largest share of imports, followed by cocoa paste (9 %) and cocoa powder (5 %). Only a small part is imported in the form of semi-finished or finished products (see figure 1).

Fig. 1: Share of segregated cocoa bean equivalents on total imports (%).

Exports 2025

In 2025, Switzerland exported 151 593 tons of cocoa products, which corresponds to 72 053 tons of cocoa bean equivalents. This means that more than half of the imported equivalents are re-exported. These exports mainly consist of chocolate products such as unfilled chocolate, cocoa paste and chocolate bars (see figure 2), which contain additional ingredients such as sugar and milk powder. This explains why the volume of exported cocoa bean equivalents is much lower than the absolute volume without conversion.

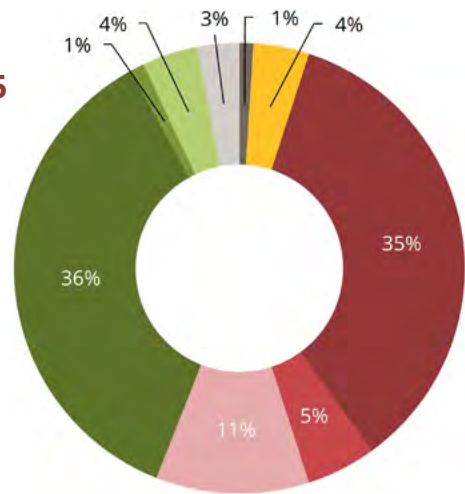


Fig. 2: Share of segregated cocoa bean equivalents on total exports (%).

- Cocoa beans
- Cocoa powder
- Chocolate, filled
- Cocoa butter
- Other
- Chocolate, blocks
- Cocoa paste
- Chocolate, not filled
- Remaining categories

Source: Swiss foreign trade statistics (data extracted on 15 April, 2025).



Sustainably produced Cocoa and Cocoa products

Sustainable cocoa is certified under recognised sustainability standards (e.g. Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or Organic) or sourced through company sustainability programmes verified by an independent third party. As shown in Figure 3 below, 94 % of Switzerland's imports of cocoa bean equivalents are covered by members of the Cocoa Platform. The remaining 6 % are imported by non-members. There is no information available on how these imports were sourced or produced, so they are marked as missing data. If the Cocoa Platform had data on how this 6 % was produced, the total share of sustainably sourced imports could actually be higher.

Total Share of sustainably produced Cocoa

In 2025, 92 % of all cocoa bean equivalents imported into Switzerland were sourced from sustainable production, representing an 8 percentage point increase compared to 2024. Additionally, the share of imported certified cocoa rose by 15 percentage points, from 46 % in 2024 to 61 % in 2025. Meanwhile, the share of imported conventional cocoa declined by 7 percentage points, from 9 % in 2024 to 2 % in 2025.

The total share of sustainably produced cocoa imports into Switzerland is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Cocoa sourced from sustainable production [\%]} = \frac{\text{certified + verified cocoa bean equivalents}}{\text{total imported cocoa bean equivalents}}$$

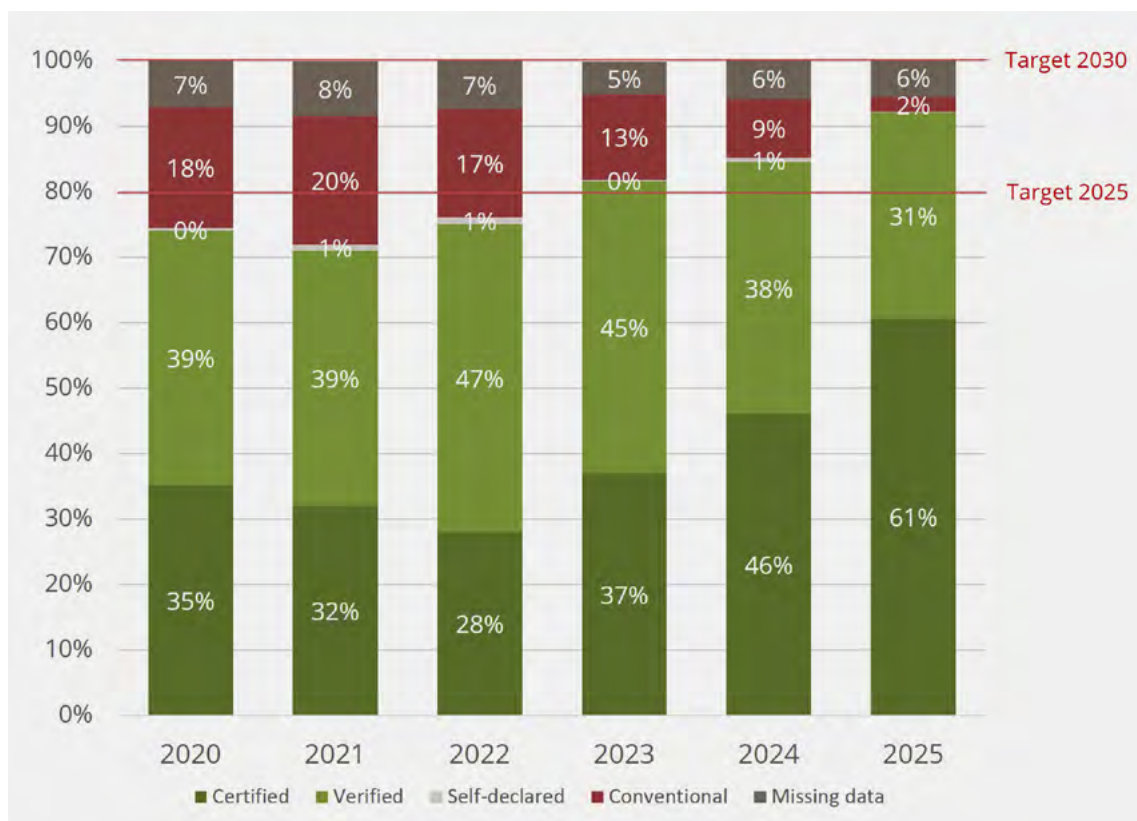


Fig. 3: Share of certified, verified, self-declared (not verified by a third-party) and conventional cocoa bean equivalents on total imports (in %) 2020–2025.

Source: Member survey on sourcing statistics. Missing data results from imports recorded by Swiss trade statistics but not covered by SWISSCO members.



Certification Schemes used by our Members

Looking at the share of different certification schemes, it becomes evident that a large portion of the certified cocoa products imported in 2025 (based on MT data) is certified by Rainforest Alliance (59 %). However, as cocoa products may hold multiple certifications, the combined shares exceed 100%.

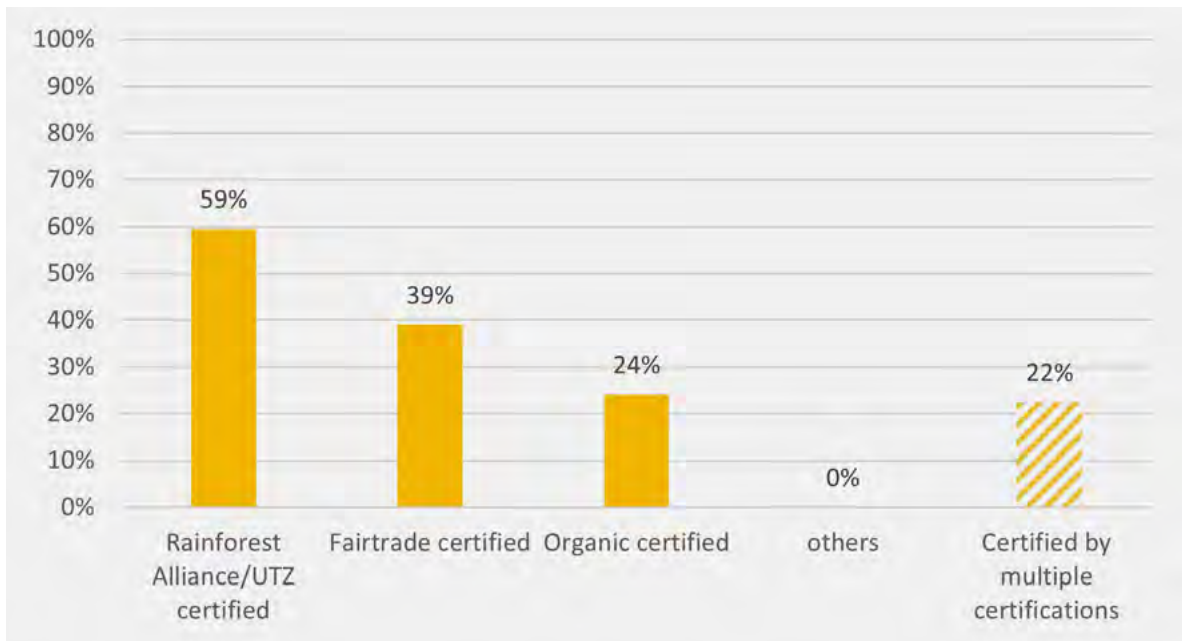


Fig. 4: Share of different certification schemes of total imports of certified cocoa products (in %).

Source: Member survey on sourcing statistics.

Summary of Results 2025

In 2025, 92 % of cocoa bean equivalents imported into Switzerland were sourced from sustainable production. This represents an 8 percentage point increase compared to 2024.

94 % of all cocoa products imported into Switzerland are covered by members of the Cocoa Platform. The remaining 6 % represents missing data and is unchanged compared to 2024.

We already achieved our 2025 goal of 80% sustainable cocoa back in 2023. We will continue our efforts to attain 100 % by 2030.

While company certification and verification programmes are important, tackling the social and environmental challenges in cocoa-producing countries requires joint efforts across the sector.



Mid-term Evaluation confirms the Cocoa Platform's Impact

At the end of 2025, the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa's mid-term evaluation was completed. It was conducted by Como Consult and the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) at the University of Bern. The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) has issued a management response.

The evaluation assessed how SECO's support has enabled the Cocoa Platform to generate added value for stakeholders in Switzerland and in producer countries. It also aimed to provide evidence on the pathways through which the Platform contributes to sustainable change.

Key Findings and Lessons learnt

Overall, the evaluation confirmed that the Cocoa Platform is regarded by its members as a positive and valuable platform for advancing sustainability in the cocoa sector.

The Platform has carved out a strong role, complementing existing initiatives, though limitations typical of multi-stakeholder platforms remain. The evaluation highlighted both achievements and areas for improvement across six dimensions:

Accountability & Transparency

Over two-thirds of stakeholders agree that the Cocoa Platform strengthens accountability through joint target-setting and transparency. It fosters peer support and shared commitments, though concerns about "free riding" remain. Reporting requirements are seen as too lenient.

Networking & Knowledge Exchange

The Platform promotes collaboration and trust, with many stakeholders noting increased partnerships. Events, especially in-person, are well received. Members call for deeper case studies, stronger engagement with producing-country stakeholders, and better alignment of reporting standards with the EU and the World Cocoa Foundation.

International Collaboration & Policy Dialogue

The Cocoa Platform enhances Switzerland's reputation, particularly in Ghana, through partnerships with key government actors. Policy dialogue is seen as powerful but underused, with expectations for stronger involvement from Swiss embassies and better coordination with actors such as the World Bank and the European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs). ISCO working groups are viewed as too fragmented and in need of streamlining.



Project Funding

The Platform's co-funding mechanism is highly valued (90 % approval), though greater clarity on funding criteria is needed and additionality is sometimes questioned. Landscape projects are promising but limited by low willingness to invest beyond supply chains. Innovation projects can lean toward business development rather than true innovation. The peer-learning window remains underused but holds strong potential, especially for SMEs needing joint impact studies.

Intervention Mix & Sustainability Transformation

Most stakeholders consider the Cocoa Platform's interventions coherent and impactful. Gaps remain in consumer-country activities, transition finance, and scaling proven approaches. Transformation will require bridging project silos, tailoring to local contexts, deeper engagement, and stronger policy dialogue.

Institutional Governance

The Platform is seen as effective and responsive, though producer-country representation is limited and Board members often reflect organisational rather than sector-wide interests. Funding relies on membership fees and SECO but could be diversified through green or impact investment, especially for landscape projects. Strengthening governance, expectations, and accountability would enhance the Cocoa Platform's credibility as a convener.

Read the [full evaluation](#) and [SECO's Management Response](#) on our website.



Joint ISCO Monitoring Brief

For the third time, the Cocoa Platform collaborated with the European Initiatives for Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs) to publish the Joint ISCO Monitoring Brief. The 2024 brief reflects a year marked by high cocoa price volatility, growing regulatory pressure, and continued efforts to strengthen collaboration and accountability across Europe.

The European National Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs) are comprised of the national sustainability initiatives from Germany (GISCO), Belgium (Beyond Chocolate), the Netherlands (DISCO), France (FRISCO) and Switzerland (SWISSCO), to drive sustainability in the cocoa sector.

Providing a comprehensive overview of cocoa sustainability across European markets, the 2024 Joint ISCO Monitoring Brief highlights key developments and trends in the sector. Released at the end of 2025, it also helps improve transparency and accountability by consolidating comparable monitoring data from across national initiatives.

The brief contributes to on-going learning and stronger coordination among the ISCOs and supports members, partners, policymakers, and stakeholders with evidence-based insights to inform decision-making and future action.

Key findings of the ISCO Monitoring Brief

Living Income

More ISCO members measure living income (LI) gaps in 2024, reflecting continued commitment to assessing farmer income levels. The share of households for which members measured LI gaps remained high, and the implementation of living income strategies grew substantially from 13 % to 41 % of households in the direct supply chain. However, many members continue to struggle with how to operationalise the ISCO definition of a “living income strategy”, and income gaps remain substantial. Across all countries for which data was submitted, around 90 % of households remain below the Living Income Benchmark (LIB), with significant variation across countries and insufficient granularity for a large share of households.

Traceability

Traceability progress has slowed in 2024, and results show little improvement compared to 2023. Although some member groups – especially large manufacturers – report increased traceability, roughly one-third of cocoa remains of unknown origin and another third is only known at the country level. Traders report slightly lower traceability levels, driven partly by lower levels among new reporting members. Certification levels have also decreased across most groups, with the exception of SMEs. These trends highlight the continued need to strengthen traceability systems and ensure more comprehensive visibility across supply chains.



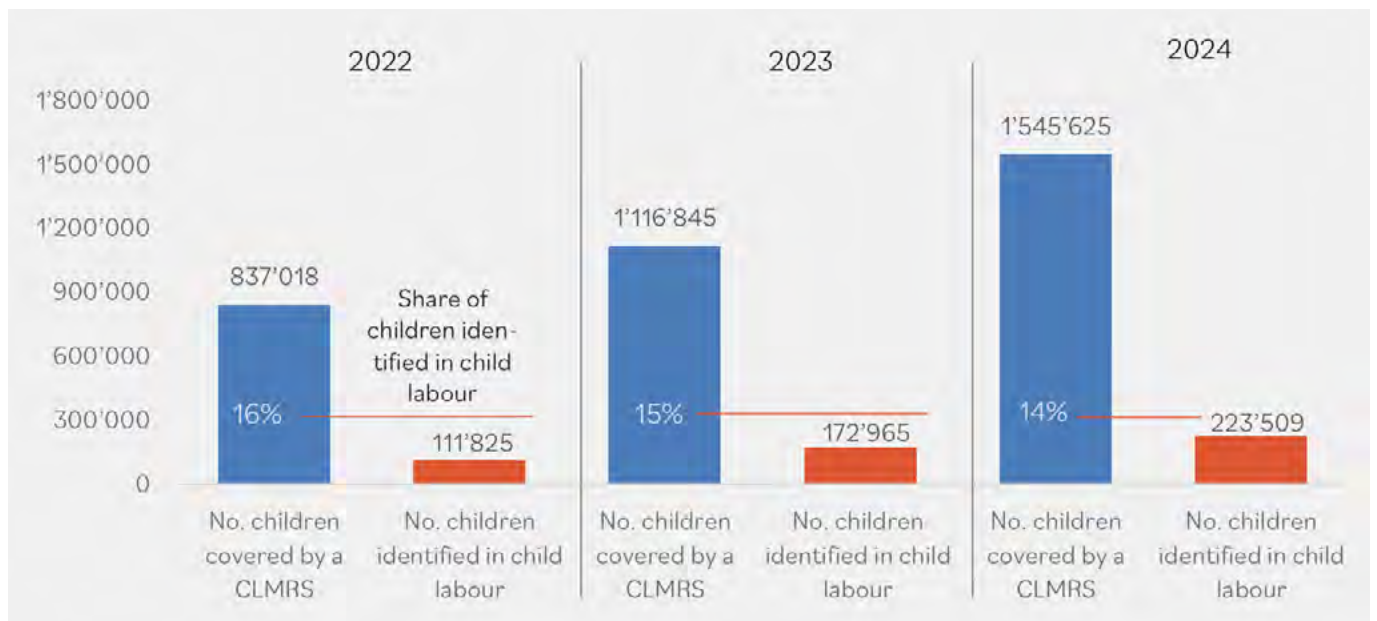
Deforestation

Progress on deforestation-free cocoa is uneven, and significant challenges remain ahead of the EUDR. Across all members, the share of cocoa claimed as deforestation-free increased, but progress is modest among traders and processors. Larger increases among manufacturers and SMEs reflect expanded reporting and a stronger strategic focus on EUDR-readiness, rather than structural improvements alone. Retailers saw a slight decline in deforestation-free shares, reflecting persistent challenges in accessing reliable upstream data. Overall, the results suggest that the forthcoming EUDR does not automatically lead to major increases in deforestation-free sourcing; instead, continued strengthening of traceability, data transfer and verification mechanisms will be needed.

Child Labour

Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) coverage is expanding, but identification remains difficult, and data quality issues require urgent attention. Households and children covered by CLMRS increased substantially, and the number of children identified in child labour rose by 29 %, reflecting expanding system reach. However, identification rates remain low at 14 %, and increases in case numbers largely mirror broader coverage rather than improved detection effectiveness. Strengthening the quality, consistency and maturity of CLMRS remains essential to ensure that expanded system coverage translates into meaningful impact.

Number of children covered by CLMRS and number of children identified in child labour (2022–2024).





3. NETWORK AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The sustainability challenges in the cocoa sector are numerous and require collaborative efforts and innovative solutions. To achieve measurable impacts, members of the Cocoa Platform participate in member events and working groups. On the following pages, you will find an overview of our events in 2025.





Events

3 February

Workshop at ISM with GISCO

Living Income – Practical solutions for SMEs in the cocoa sector



30 April

"Tertulia" Webinar with SwissDecode

Unseen, unchecked, unstoppable?
The growing threat of Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus

19 May

Regulation Readiness Workshop

6 June

Tertulia with CDE

Cocoa pricing for a Living Income



26 June

Annual General Assembly at FiBL

30 June

Tertulia with WCF and Quantis:

Cracking the cocoa code: A new standard for climate reporting with the GHG accounting manual



2 September

Tertulia with FAO

Geospatial tech to strengthen child labour due diligence:
FAO's Digichild in action

22–26 September

Landscape Week

1 October

Building Bridges Geneva

21 October

Tertulia with BFH

Beyond the bean –
Creating circular Value along
the cocoa value chain

11 November

Tertulia with gebana

From Togo to Switzer-
land and back

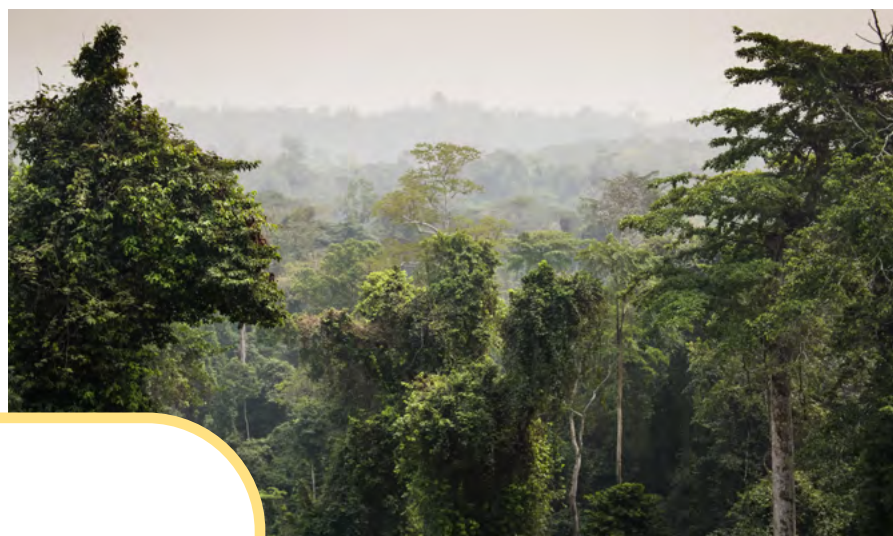
13 November

**ISCO Working Group
on Monitoring**

3 December

Tertulia with 4C

Carbon counting. How 4C effectively implements
carbon footprint calculation and certification





Annual General Meeting

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa was held at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Frick. Members approved the fully revised Roadmap 2030.

During the statutory session, members unanimously adopted the revised Roadmap 2030. The updated roadmap defines strengthened ambitions, clearer levels of engagement and an enhanced monitoring, evaluation and learning framework to track progress more effectively.

In interactive group sessions, members discussed how to translate the Roadmap into concrete action, including joint living income studies, gender mainstreaming, financing agroforestry and fostering accountability. The Annual General Meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of SWISSCO members to drive measurable impact and to shape a more sustainable and resilient cocoa value chain.



Panel on experiences with agroforestry

A central theme of the day was agroforestry. Participants explored lessons learned from 15 years of agroforestry research in Bolivia and exchanged experiences from Latin America and West Africa in a high-level panel discussion. The discussions highlighted agroforestry as a key lever for climate resilience, biodiversity, and improved farmer livelihoods.



Panellist Ingrid Fromm

Senior Researcher and Lecturer,
School of Agricultural,
Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL), Bern

“From an economic development perspective, farmers adopt agroforestry when it strengthens resilience and reduces risk. Diversified income streams, improved soil fertility, and protection against climate variability are strong motivators – particularly in contexts where farmers operate under high uncertainty.”





6

Landscape Projects in five countries: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Madagascar, Peru, and Colombia

13

Innovative Value Chain Projects in nine countries: Ghana, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Togo, Peru, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Ecuador

15

Peer Learning & Collaboration Projects and small actions

CHF 2.73 million

Financial contribution of SECO approved in 2025

27

Number of SWISSCO members involved in projects in 2025

4. PROJECTS

Investments through projects in cocoa-producing countries are an important part of achieving the goals as outlined in our Roadmap 2030.

The Cocoa Platform manages and monitors funds from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) to co-finance projects of its members. So-called public-private partnerships are an effective means of mobilising alliances and aligning resources. The collaboration with SECO enables meaningful impact and promotes cooperation and shared learning.





188 053

Farming households benefited

9.6 %

Percentage of households reached with female lead

30 457

Individuals trained

18.5 %

of training participants were female

15 173

Farmers trained in Climate-Smart Agriculture / Agroforestry

SECO provides a total amount of CHF 13 million for the years 2023 to 2026. The three project financing programmes below promote sustainability along the cocoa supply chain:

Sustainable Sourcing Landscape Projects

These projects encourage members to work with a variety of local actors and international organisations from different sectors to address challenges such as poverty, deforestation or child labour in one landscape or region.

Innovative Value Chain Projects

These projects support innovative ventures that contribute to a sustainable cocoa sector and measurably improve the livelihoods of cocoa farming households.

Peer Learning & Collaboration

These projects foster peer learning, knowledge transfer, and common approaches through joint efforts among members and international partners.

On our website, you can easily [filter projects by country and programme type](#). Try it out!





Where we see progress

Project activities, particularly those focused on forest protection, have led to a significant decline in deforestation alerts within the Cavally Reserve. These alerts have remained consistently low, and in the third quarter of 2025, no new deforestation alerts were recorded, marking a notable achievement.

Type of Project:
Landscape Project

Location:
Côte d'Ivoire

Duration:
2023-2026 (Phase II)

Number of beneficiaries:
approx. 15 000 farming households

Implemented by:
Earthworm Foundation

Project partners:
Nestlé, Cocosource, Touton, Barry Callebaut, ASAF

Other partners:
Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Transition Ecologique (MINETE), Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR), Airbus, Save the Children, Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS)

Budget:
Total: CHF 4,7 million
SECO's contribution: CHF 560 000

Landscape Projects

The Cavally Landscape Project

This project contributes to forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Côte d'Ivoire by combining targeted forest protection measures with community-based economic support. By addressing both environmental and socio-economic drivers, the project aims to reduce deforestation while strengthening the resilience of cocoa-producing communities.



Gngoran Esther Gnamba
Project field officer,
Earthworm Foundation

“The beauty of this project is that it involves the local communities and everyone tries to protect the forest in their own way. Also, we did a holistic analysis to understand why people go to the forest, which is critical to finding sustainable solutions. That's what I like about our work.”

What have the project managers learnt during implementation?

- › Developing case studies can help illustrate concrete impacts of project interventions and make results more tangible.
- › Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) can support women by providing access to low- or near interest-free loans.
- › Access to such financial services enables women to meet household needs and invest in small income-generating activities.





Where we see progress

A success of the project can be seen in children's learning outcomes. Pupils' literacy and numeracy skills improved significantly, reflecting the positive impact of strengthened caregiving practices at home. One parent shared: "My child was not serious with homework before, but now he starts it immediately after school. His performance has improved, and I believe it is because of what we learned."

Location:
Ghana

Duration:
2024–2025

Number of beneficiaries:
1200 farming households in 5 communities

Implemented by:
International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) Foundation

Project partners:
Ghana Education Service (GES), Nestlé, ETG Beyond Beans

Other partners:
Right to Play Ghana

Budget:
CHF 118 946 (SECO's contribution: CHF 60 000)

Type of Project:
Peer Learning and Collaboration Project

Peer Learning and Collaboration Projects

Alliance for Change: Supporting Caregivers and Helping Children Thrive

According to the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), child labour affects 55 % of households in cocoa-growing communities in Ghana. This project aims to explore how effective it is to strengthen adults' protective and nurturing skills while building local support networks of teachers, parents, and others. The goal is to reduce child labour and improve children's development, learning, and well-being.

What have the project managers learnt during implementation?

- › The project shows that meaningful progress in reducing child labour does not always depend on financial support alone. Strengthening caregivers' skills and knowledge proved to be a powerful lever for change.
- › One key insight is the strong demand for parenting support within cocoa-growing communities. Caregivers are eager to learn and improve, especially when guidance is practical and directly applicable to daily life.



Laurent Foubert

Research and Analysis Manager at ICI

The project's distinctive approach consists of driving for change by focusing on positive messages and outcomes, not only the negative, 'prohibitive' messaging about child labour. It aims to make change possible by supporting adults in replacing harmful behaviour with new skills to support children's healthy development.

- › The project also highlighted the importance of collective action. When teachers, parents, and community members share consistent messages, they are more likely to be heard and acted upon. Bringing together different actors around the child creates a supportive environment and strengthens their confidence to address complex issues like child labour.
- › At the same time, effective coordination with other initiatives proved essential. Aligning efforts avoids overwhelming beneficiaries, increases efficiency, and supports the long-term handover of activities to local actors.
- › Finally, involving all partners from the outset, especially through joint training, helped ensure a smooth rollout and laid a strong foundation for scaling up the approach.



Where we see progress

Average productivity exceeded 400 kg/ha, well above the annual target of 240 kg/ha. At the same time, the number of members implementing Dynamic Agroforestry Systems (DAF) doubled compared to the baseline year, strengthening a more resilient and diversified production model.

A notable shift also occurred in how technical assistance is perceived. It is no longer seen as a cost, but as an investment, with every resource allocated translating into higher yields per hectare. In parallel, 94 % of the cocoa sales price was transferred directly to producers, reinforcing trust and improving liquidity for cocoa farming families.

Location:
Honduras

Duration:
2024–2028

Number of beneficiaries:
1100 farming households

Implemented by:
Chocolats HALBA Foundation

Project partners:
HALBA

Other partners:
Cooperatives APPROSACAO, CACAOSAFER, COPROASERO

Budget:
Total: CHF 1 150 157
contribution SECO: CHF 300 000

Type of Project:
Innovative Value Chain Project

Innovative Value Chain Projects

VALORA-DAF: Added Value in Cocoa through Dynamic Agroforestry

This project will increase the income and profitability of cocoa farmers in Honduras by improving cocoa productivity through a sustainable and diversified production system, dynamic agroforestry (DAF).

What have the project managers learnt during implementation?

- › Improving farmers' incomes requires more than introducing new practices – it depends on how support is delivered, sustained, and connected to markets. Results-oriented technical assistance, backed by digital monitoring and personalised follow-up, has proven effective in accelerating the adoption of improved agro-omic practices.
- › The long-term viability of such services hinges on demonstrating tangible benefits. When farmers see real gains in productivity and income, they are more willing to contribute financially, making the model more sustainable.
- › Diversification within agroforestry systems offers strong potential, but only when linked from the outset to clear business models and market demand. Without secured outlets, additional production risks limiting scalability.



Luis Regalado

CEO,
Chocolats Halba Foundation

“Working towards self-sustainability in the organic and Fairtrade cocoa supply chain, with a long-term vision, brings many benefits for everyone.”

- › At the same time, high cocoa prices alone do not guarantee better incomes. Sustainable improvements require higher productivity per hectare, sound financial management within producer organisations, and transparent commercial mechanisms that ensure value reaches farmers.
- › Finally, strengthening the managerial and financial capacities of producer organisations is critical. Without solid planning and financial clarity, even well-designed technical interventions struggle to achieve lasting impact.



5. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Collaboration with cocoa-producing countries involves engaging government representatives to strengthen collaboration on sustainability, aligning activities with farmers' needs through local civil society, and exchanging knowledge with research institutes to leverage local expertise. In 2025, the Cocoa Platform continued to work closely with partners in cocoa-producing countries, focusing on Ghana and Peru.

Ghana: First Joint Committee under the new Government

End of March 2025, following the governmental transition in Ghana in January, a delegation from the Cocoa Platform travelled to the country. The mission took place together with Roger Wehrli, Director of Chocosuisse. The mission provided an opportunity to engage with newly appointed counterparts at Ghana's cocoa regulator COCOBOD, especially CEO Dr Ransford Anerty Abbey. The third Joint Committee meeting, together with COCOBOD, served as a key platform to establish these relationships and to introduce Roger Wehrli, strengthening the visibility of Swiss private sector engagement.

Discussions highlighted the continued structural and financial challenges of Ghana's cocoa sector. Despite high global cocoa prices in 2025, COCOBOD's constrained financial situation limits its ability to pass on

higher market prices to farmers, which remains critical for sustaining production and enabling the rehabilitation of ageing cocoa farms.

Expanding Insights on Cocoa Household Income

During the Joint Committee Meeting with COCOBOD, the 2024 CHIS study was seen as a very positive experience on both sides. The study, which is based on harvest data from 22/23, also led to lively internal discussions during the meeting. Both sides expressed their interest in collecting more up-to-date data to take account of the new price context and to broaden the scope of the study (i.e. more companies and larger samples). As a to-do, SWISSCO drew up an initial proposal, which was discussed with the research department of COCOBOD and subsequently with Cocoa





Platform's member companies active in Ghana. The optimal time for the study has been identified to cover the 2024/2025 season, with the study starting in quarter 1 of 2026.

Strengthening CSSVD Diagnostics in Ghana

Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus Disease (CSSVD) is a real threat to West African cocoa production. A 2023 study by the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) estimates that more than 30% of cocoa farms in Ghana are affected by the disease. The DNA Foil test method by our member, SwissDeCode, for detecting CSSVD is gaining interest among Ghanaian partners. At the Joint Committee meeting, the Cocoa Platform introduced new CSSVD test kits and materials, which will allow the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG), to carry out additional checks and verify the results in the near future. CRIG's new Director, Dr Owusu Domfeh, explained that the testing method appears to be more accurate than standard PCR tests. However, he also

pointed out that there is still a risk of false positive results, meaning that further testing is needed to confirm the findings. A broader, national validation exercise with several companies is expected to be completed by June 2026.

Scaling of Dynamic Agroforestry (DAF)

The dynamic agroforestry (DAF) pilot trials established two years ago at Mile Square were presented by Dr Prince Pobee of the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG). The discussion revealed a need for greater clarity within the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), particularly regarding comparisons with conventional cultivation systems. The exchange during the Joint Committee Meeting was therefore especially valuable. Recent changes in leadership at both the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) and the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) have also introduced new internal dynamics that need to be considered in future discussions on scaling the dynamic agroforestry approach.



Peru: Board Mission and Signing of three Memoranda of Understanding

In 2025, the Cocoa Platform further strengthened its policy collaboration with Peru, a key partner country.

Building on this momentum, the mission of our Board to Peru in November 2025 marked a step forward in bilateral relations. The mission confirmed Peru's strategic importance as the world's second-largest exporter of organic cocoa and a key supplier to Switzerland. It also highlighted the country's unique genetic diversity and long-standing cocoa heritage, which offer strong potential for value creation through targeted investment and research.

A key outcome of the mission was the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with several Peruvian partners: Asociación de Exportadores (ADEX), Asociación Peruana de Productores de Cacao (APPCA-CAO), Asociación para la Promoción del Chocolate (APROCHOC), Cámara Peruana del Café y Cacao, as

well as the Regional Government of San Martín. The agreements focus on three key priorities: enabling living incomes for cocoa-producing families, promoting deforestation-free and climate-resilient landscapes, and strengthening local value addition.

The mission further reinforced the importance of landscape-level approaches, particularly in San Martín, where multi-stakeholder dialogues emphasised the need for coordinated investments to ensure long-term productivity and forest conservation. Encouraging signals also came from regional authorities, which announced significant public investments to support the implementation of sustainable production practices. In addition, exchanges with producer organisations, cooperatives and industry actors highlighted progress in areas such as regenerative agriculture, organic and Fairtrade market incentives, and local processing capacities.



6. ORGANISATION

The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa is a multi-stakeholder initiative organised as a non-profit association. Solutions are developed in a participatory process and decisions are made by our members at the General Assembly.

Structure of the Association

The day-to-day business of the association is managed by the Coordination Office in Bern. It is responsible for the management of the activities, monitoring, reporting, and communication and constitutes the hub between the members, the Board, the national and international partners and the public. The Board, composed of an independent president and representatives of the member sectors, is entrusted with the strategic management of the association. Due to the large constituent size of their sector, the chocolate manufacturers and cocoa traders (sector A) are represented by two Board members.

All members of the Cocoa Platform come together annually for the General Assembly. During the assembly, decisions are made by the full members (associated members have no voting rights); elections are held, and key players share their experiences and provide updates on the latest findings regarding selected topics.

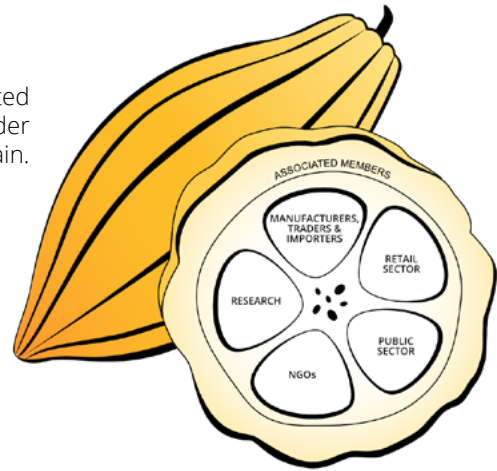




Our Members

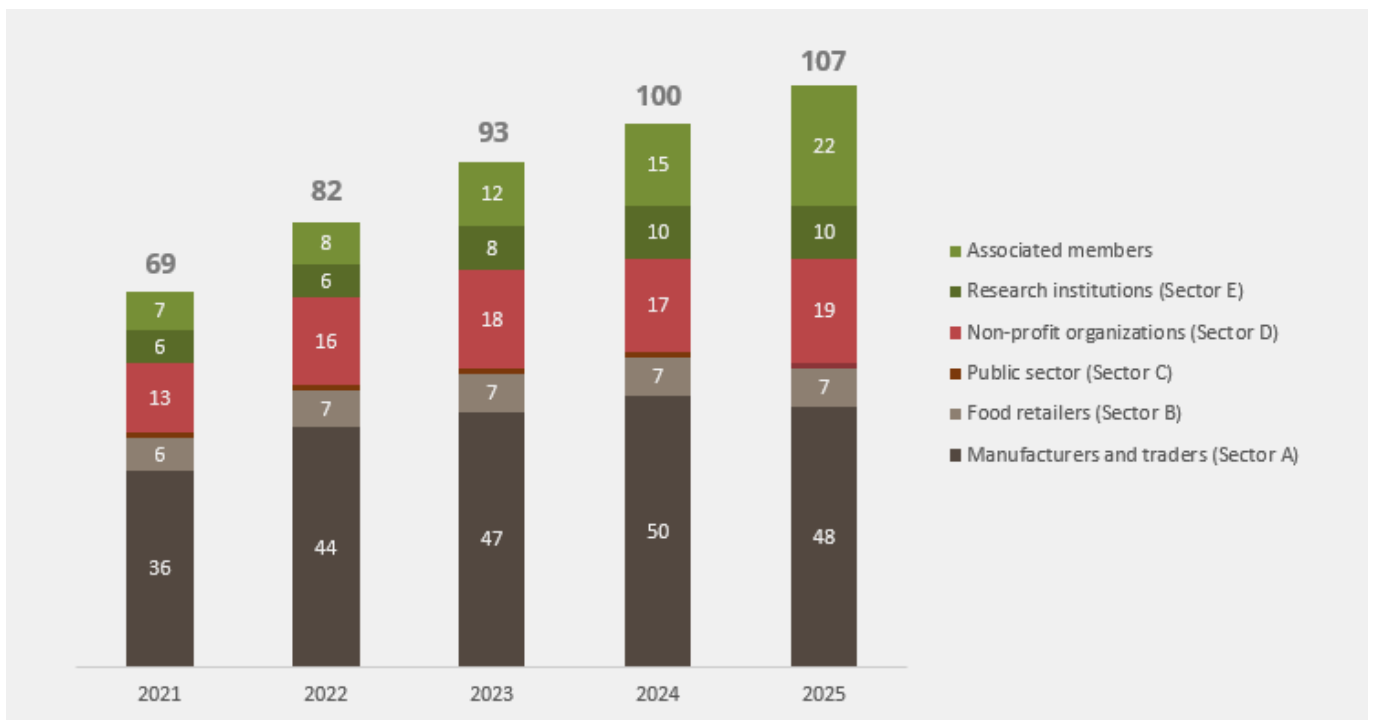
The members of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa are organised in six sectors: cocoa traders and chocolate manufacturers; food retailers; the public sector (represented by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO); non-profit organisations; research institutions; and associated members. Each member sector represents a stakeholder group along the cocoa value chain. The associated members are international organisations that are active in the cocoa sector.

The member sectors of the Cocoa Platform, illustrated here as parts of a cocoa pod, each represent a stakeholder group along the cocoa value chain.



Members in 2025

Membership of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa increased by seven members in 2025. The Cocoa Platform counted 107 members at the end of 2025: 85 full members and 22 associated members.





Our Board



Filippo Veglio

Head of Social & Environmental
Sustainability
UEFA

President



Roger Wehrli

Director CHOCOSUISSE

**Board member
Sector A:
Manufacturers and traders**



Renzo Verne

Sustainability Director
Edelsource

**Board member
Sector A:
Manufacturers and traders**



Petra Heid

Head of Sustainability
HALBA / Coop Group

**Board member
Sector B:
Food retailers**



Monica Rubiolo

Head of Trade Promotion
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SECO

**Board member
Sector C: Public sector
(non-voting observer)**



Yannick Lhommel

Business Development Manager
Fairtrade Max Havelaar

**Board member
Sector D:
Non-profit organisations**



Christoph Oberlack

Professor
Centre for Development and
Environment (CDE), University of Bern

**Board member
Sector E: Research**



Our Coordination Office



Nicoletta Lumaldo

Deputy Managing Director,
Lead Living Income and Peer &
Community Learning

Christian Robin

Managing Director



Fabienne Bauer

Lead Regenerative Agriculture &
Project Monitoring
(until May 2026)



Esther Waldmeier

Lead Human Rights & Accountability

Joël Frei

Communication Officer



Romane Humbel

Programme Manager & Peer
and Community Learning

Joël Frei

Communication Officer



Laura Ulrich

Office Manager
(as of January 2026)



Joseph Bandanaa

Country Lead Ghana & Regional Advisor
Africa

Laura Ulrich

Office Manager
(as of January 2026)

Orlando Mejia

Regional Advisor Central America
and Global MEL Specialist
(as of April 2026)



Nina Rossiana

Regional Advisor Asia
(as of March 2026)



“Having organic and Fair Trade certifications allows us to farm in a regenerative way, care for the soil and biodiversity, and ensure a fair price that supports rural communities and the future of our families.”

**Gladys Echavarría Rueda,
Cocoa farmer,
ASOCPRAUR association**

Gladys is a beneficiary of the Paisajes Más Sostenibles project the Cocoa Platform supports in Colombia

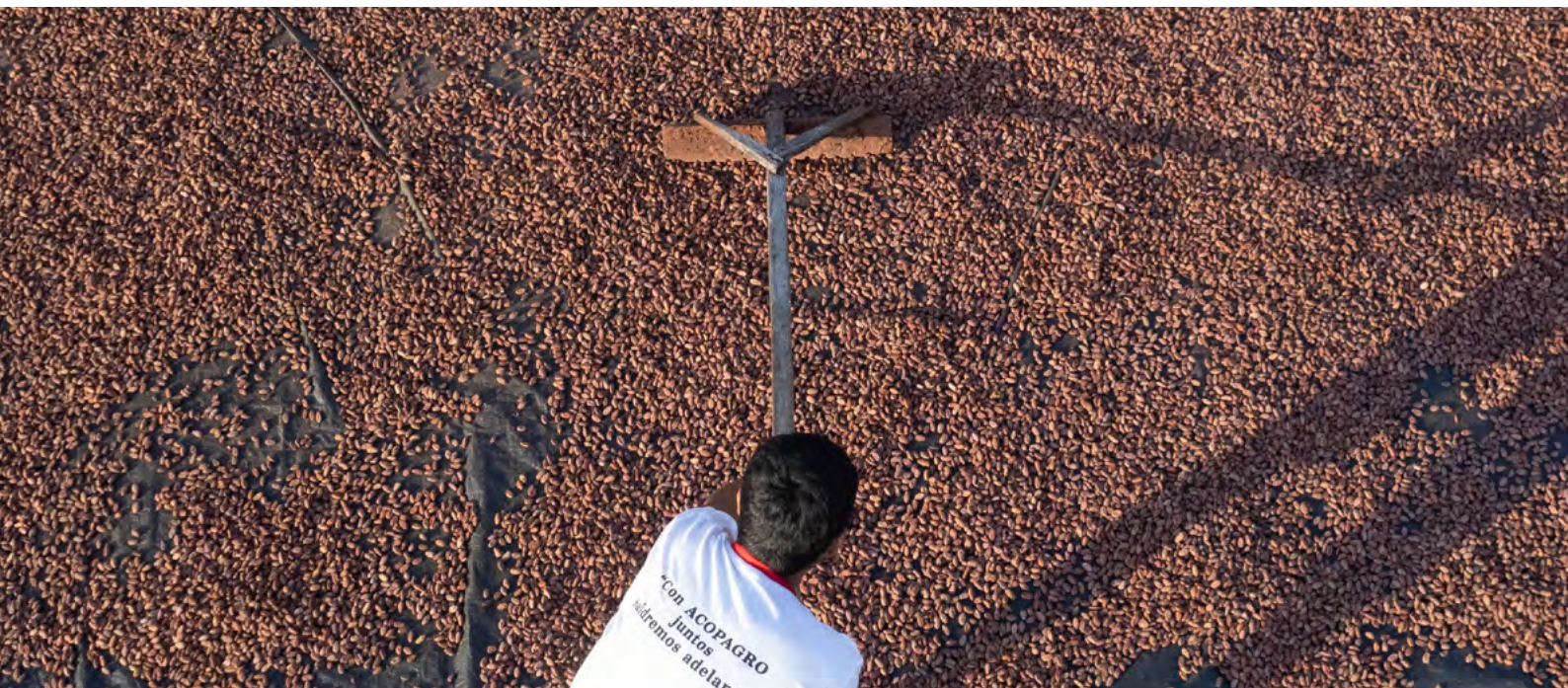


6. FINANCES

Balance Sheet

Assets	CHF
Cash Bank EEK	320 727
Cash Bank Raiffeisen (Projects)	1 017 266
Receivables	26 260
Total assets	1 364 253

Liabilities	CHF
Payables	502
Other short-term liabilities	35 536
Accrued expenses and deferred income	1 021 701
Fonds SECO contribution	-
Current liabilities	1 057 739
Capital	284 372
Surplus of the year	22 142
Organisational capital	306 514
Total liabilities	1 364 253





Statement of Operations

Income	CHF
Membership fees	285 448
Project support services by members	156 949
Project support service fees by SECO	200 000
SECO contribution projects (2023-2026)	1 045 000
Total income	1 687 397

Expenditures	CHF
Staff costs	-481 079
Expenses Board	-24 000
Personnel expenses – office	-505 079
Office costs	-41 156
Communication	-7 903
External consulting services	-5 650
Events	-5 923
Logistics, general and travel expenses	-54 288
Other operating expenses – office	-114 920
Monitoring, impact measurement and information sharing	-
Small Grant Facilities	-
Innovative Value Chain Projects Fund (as of 2023)	-724 500
Peer Learning and Collaboration Fund (as of 2023)	-320 500
Other operating expenses – projects	-1 045 000
Total expenditures	-1 664 999
Operating result	22 398
Financial income	-
Financial expenses	-256
Surplus of the year	22 142



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To quote this report

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO): Annual Report 2025

Access our annual reports by clicking [this link, which will lead you to our website.](#)

Who are we?

The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) is a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together more than 100 members from the cocoa value chain. These members include chocolate manufacturers and traders, retailers, NGOs, research institutions, and the Swiss Government, represented by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

Together, our members account for 94 % of Switzerland's cocoa imports. Our association aims to actively improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers, protect natural resources, and promote biodiversity in cocoa-producing countries.

Launched in 2017, the Cocoa Platform is financed by member fees and contributions from SECO to strengthen public-private partnerships. This funding enables the implementation of projects that drive real innovation in the sector and create tangible impact, thus linking the high-quality reputation of Swiss chocolate with sustainability.



Swiss Platform for
Sustainable Cocoa



Swiss Platform for
Sustainable Cocoa