

Annual Report 2022



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FOREWORD

Dear members and partners,

We look back on an eventful year marked by uncertainty and challenges across the economic, health and security fronts. This has generated ripple effects also along the cocoa value chain, from cocoa farmers to chocolate consumers.

Celebrating our Platform's fifth anniversary, our annual report looks back on our joint ambition to enable a viable and resilient cocoa value chain, for both present and future generations. We also share data on progress toward increasing the share of sustainable imports to Switzerland, our rising membership numbers, and the reach of our joint projects in cocoa-growing regions.

We are happy to report that the share of sustainably imported cocoa products has increased from 71 % in 2021 to 75 % this year. We are thus well on track to reach our target of 80 % sustainable imports by 2025 and 100 % by 2030.

2022 was also the year when the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO assured our Platform its continued support for another four years of collaboration. In the new programme phase from 2023 to 2026, we will work even more closely together in the cocoa-sourcing regions. With a focus on among others so-called landscape approaches, new projects are implemented together with other SWISSCO members, aiming to find holistic and long-term solutions by addressing several sustainability issues at the same time.

Our compass continues to be our Roadmap 2030, aptly named "Tackling Challenges Together". While we are determined to build on our previous achievements, we also know that there is still much more work ahead of us. On that journey, we shall continue to serve our members to the best possible extent.

Warm thanks on behalf of the board for our members' commitment, contributing to building trust and bridges toward sustainable improvements in the cocoa value chain.



Filippo Veglio

SUMMARY



Sustainable imports

75 % of cocoa bean equivalents imported into Switzerland in 2022 were sourced from sustainable production, up from 71 % in the previous year. SWISSCO's goal is to reach 80 % by 2025 and 100 % by 2030.



Projects

At the end of 2022, most projects in cocoa-growing regions from the project cycle 2018-2022 have been completed. A new funding cycle was started, focusing among others on so-called Landscape Approaches. In total, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO is providing CHF 13 million for the new project cycle (2023-2026).



Organisation

13 new members joined SWISSCO in 2022. The association now counts 82 members, divided into five sectors: manufacturers and traders, food retailers, the public sector, non-profit organisations, and research institutions – as well as associated partners.



Network

As of 2022, all previous Swiss-level working groups were merged into joint working groups of SWISSCO and the other four European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOS). The new working groups have successfully started to operate, covering the topics of living income, child labour, forests & agroforestry, traceability & transparency, as well as monitoring & evaluation.



International collaboration

The highlight of SWISSCO's collaboration with the other European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOS) was the first ISConference taking place in Brussels in September 2022. In addition, representatives of the Coordination Office visited several cocoa-growing countries in 2022 and fostered dialogue and cooperation with representatives in producer countries.



VORWORT

Liebe Mitglieder, Partnerinnen und Partner,

wir blicken auf ein ereignisreiches Jahr zurück, das von Unsicherheit und Herausforderungen in Wirtschaft, Gesundheit und Sicherheit geprägt war. Dies hatte auch Auswirkungen auf die gesamte Kakao-Wertschöpfungskette, von Kakaobäuerinnen und -bauern bis hin zu Schokoladenkonsumierenden.

Anlässlich des fünften Jahrestages unserer Plattform blicken wir in unserem Jahresbericht auf unser gemeinsames Bestreben zurück, eine tragfähige und resiliente heutige und künftige Generationen zu ermöglichen. Wir berichten über die Fortschritte bei der Erhöhung des Anteils nachhaltiger Kakaoimporte in die Schweiz, die steigende Mitgliederzahl und die Wirkung unserer gemeinsamen Projekte in den Kakaoanbauregionen.

Wir freuen uns, berichten zu können, dass der Anteil der nachhaltig importierten Kakaoprodukte von 71 % im Jahr 2021, dieses Jahr auf 75 % gestiegen ist. Wir sind damit auf einem guten Weg, um unser Ziel von 80 % nachhaltiger Importe bis 2025 und 100 % bis 2030 zu erreichen.

2022 war auch das Jahr, in dem das Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO unserer Plattform seine Unterstützung für weitere vier Jahre der Zusammenarbeit zusicherte. In der neuen Programmphase von 2023 bis 2026 werden wir in den Herkunftsregionen des Kakaos noch enger zusammenarbeiten. Mit Fokus auf sogenannte Landschaftsansätze werden gemeinsam mit anderen SWISSCO Mitgliedern neue Projekte umgesetzt, die ganzheitliche und langfristige Lösungen anstreben, indem sie mehrere Nachhaltigkeitsthemen gleichzeitig angehen.

Unser Kompass ist nach wie vor unser Fahrplan 2030 mit dem treffenden Namen „Tackling Challenges Together“. Wir sind fest entschlossen, auf unseren bisherigen Erfolgen aufzubauen, aber wir wissen auch, dass noch viel Arbeit vor uns liegt. Auf diesem Weg werden wir unseren Mitgliedern weiterhin bestmöglich dienen.

Herzlichen Dank im Namen des Vorstands für das Engagement unserer Mitglieder, das dazu beiträgt, Vertrauen zu schaffen und Brücken zu nachhaltigen Verbesserungen in der Kakao-Wertschöpfungskette zu bauen.



Filippo Veglio

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG



Nachhaltige Importe

75 % der 2022 in die Schweiz importierten Kakaobohnenäquivalente stammten aus nachhaltiger Produktion, gegenüber 71 % im Vorjahr. Das Ziel von SWISSCO ist es, bis 2025 80 % und bis 2030 100 % zu erzielen.



Projekte

Ende 2022 wurden die meisten Projekte in Kakaoanbauregionen aus dem Projektzyklus 2018-2022 abgeschlossen. Ein neues Förderprogramm wurde gestartet, das sich unter anderem auf sogenannte Landschaftsansätze konzentriert. Insgesamt stellt das Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO 13 Millionen Franken für den neuen Projektzyklus (2023-2026) zur Verfügung.



Organisation

Im Jahr 2022 sind 13 neue Mitglieder zu SWISSCO gestossen. Der Verein zählt nun 82 Mitglieder, die sich in die fünf Sektoren Hersteller und Händler, Einzelhandel, öffentlicher Sektor, gemeinnützige Organisationen und Forschung sowie assoziierte Partner aufteilen.



Netzwerk

Per 2022 wurden alle bisherigen Arbeitsgruppen auf Schweizer Ebene zu gemeinsamen Arbeitsgruppen von SWISSCO und den anderen vier Europäischen Initiativen für Nachhaltigen Kakao (ISCOs) zusammengelegt. Die neuen Arbeitsgruppen haben erfolgreich ihre Arbeit aufgenommen und decken die Themen Einkommen, Kinderarbeit, Wälder und Agroforstwirtschaft, Rückverfolgbarkeit und Transparenz sowie Monitoring und Berichterstattung ab.



Internationale Zusammenarbeit

Höhepunkt der Zusammenarbeit von SWISSCO mit den anderen Europäischen Initiativen für Nachhaltigen Kakao (ISCOs) war die erste ISCO-Konferenz, die im September 2022 in Brüssel stattfand. Zudem besuchten Vertreterinnen und Vertreter der Geschäftsstelle von SWISSCO im Jahr 2022 mehrere Kakaoanbauländer und förderten den Dialog und die Zusammenarbeit mit Verantwortlichen vor Ort.



PRÉFACE

Chers membres et partenaires,

Nous revenons sur une année riche en événements, marquée par l'incertitude et les défis sur les fronts de l'économie, de la santé et de la sécurité. Cette situation a eu des répercussions tout au long de la chaîne de valeur du cacao, depuis les cultivateurs de cacao jusqu'aux consommatrices de chocolat.

Célébrant le cinquième anniversaire de notre Plateforme, notre rapport annuel revient sur notre ambition commune de permettre une chaîne de valeur du cacao viable et résiliente, tant pour les générations actuelles que futures. Nous partageons également des données sur les progrès réalisés pour augmenter la part des importations durables en Suisse, sur le nombre croissant de nos membres et sur la portée de nos projets communs dans les régions productrices de cacao.

Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer que la part des importations de produits de cacao durables a augmenté de 71 à 75 %. Nous sommes donc sur la bonne voie pour atteindre notre objectif de 80 % d'importations durables d'ici à 2025 et de 100 % d'ici à 2030.

2022 a également été l'année où le SECO a assuré notre plateforme de son soutien continu pour quatre années supplémentaires de collaboration. Dans la nouvelle phase de 2023 à 2026, nous travaillerons encore plus étroitement ensemble dans les régions d'origine du cacao. Nouveaux projets avec une approche de paysages sont mis en oeuvre en collaboration avec d'autres membres, dans le but de trouver des solutions holistiques et à long terme en abordant plusieurs questions de durabilité en même temps.

Notre feuille de route 2030, judicieusement intitulée „Relever les défis ensemble“, reste notre boussole. Si nous sommes déterminés à nous appuyer sur nos réalisations antérieures, nous savons aussi qu'il nous reste encore beaucoup à faire. Au cours de ce voyage, nous continuerons à servir nos membres le mieux possible.

Au nom du conseil d'administration, je remercie chaleureusement nos membres pour leur engagement, qui contribue à instaurer la confiance et à jeter des ponts vers des améliorations durables dans la chaîne de valeur du cacao.



Filippo Veglio

RÉSUMÉ



Importations durables

75 % des équivalents en fèves de cacao importés en Suisse en 2022 provenaient d'une production durable, par rapport à 71 % l'année précédente. L'objectif de SWISSCO est d'atteindre 80 % d'ici 2025 et 100 % d'ici 2030.



Projets

À la fin de l'année 2022, la plupart des projets dans les régions de production de cacao du cycle de projet 2018-2022 ont été terminés. Un nouveau cycle de financement a été lancé, axé sur les approches dites paysagères. Au total, le Secrétariat d'État à l'économie SECO met à disposition 13 millions de francs pour le nouveau cycle de projet (2023-2026).



Organisation

13 nouveaux membres ont rejoint SWISSCO en 2022. L'association compte désormais 82 membres, répartis en cinq secteurs : fabricants et distributeurs, commerce de détail, secteur public, organisations à but non lucratif et instituts de recherche – ainsi que des partenaires associés.



Réseau

Dès 2022, tous les groupes de travail suisses ont été fusionnés en groupes de travail communs entre SWISSCO et les quatre autres initiatives européennes pour un cacao durable (ISCOs). Les nouveaux groupes de travail ont commencé à opérer avec succès, couvrant les thèmes du revenu de subsistance, du travail des enfants, des forêts et de l'agroforesterie, de la traçabilité et de la transparence, ainsi que du suivi et de l'évaluation.



Collaboration internationale

Le point fort de la collaboration de SWISSCO avec les autres initiatives européennes pour un cacao durable (ISCOs) a été la première conférence ISCO qui s'est tenue à Bruxelles en septembre 2022. En outre, des représentant(e)s du bureau de coordination de SWISSCO ont visité plusieurs pays d'origine du cacao en 2022 et ont encouragé le dialogue et la coopération avec les représentant(e)s locaux.

2. OVERVIEW OF SWISSCO'S CORE AREAS & TOPICS

Reporting and information

SWISSCO has set itself the goal of ensuring that all cocoa imported into Switzerland comes from sustainable production by 2030 and of making a measurable contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To monitor its progress, SWISSCO collects data on sustainable cocoa imports, analyses the results of projects co-financed by SECO, conducts member surveys and synthesises expertise on key topics. In addition, SWISSCO strives to harmonise its monitoring with producer countries and other globally active initiatives in the cocoa sector.

Network and knowledge exchange

As the sustainability challenges in the cocoa sector are complex, it is important that various stakeholders exchange their knowledge, learn from each other and develop joint solutions in a pre-competitive environment. To facilitate this, SWISSCO organises internal member events and encourages its members to participate in national and European working groups as well as other events. There are currently five topic-specific European working groups organised jointly with members of SWISSCO's partner initiatives in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and France.

Projects

SWISSCO promotes innovative and cross-sectoral projects by members that aim to improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers and to protect natural resources. Some projects also serve to scale investments and develop flagship initiatives that members later adopt in their day-to-day business. The spectrum of projects is broad, ranging from small approaches within individual supply chains to comprehensive programmes with a wide range of partners. All projects are financed in part by members themselves and by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, which covers a maximum of 50 % percent of the total costs.

International collaboration

In order to achieve long-term improvements, SWISSCO works closely with local authorities and organisations in the countries of origin of cocoa and is in dialogue with numerous national and international organisations and initiatives. Its most important international partners are the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO), partner organisations in key producer countries such as the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), and the other four European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOS) in Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and France.



Living income

SWISSCO members support farmers in increasing and diversifying their income.



Climate, forest and agroforestry

SWISSCO members contribute to a deforestation-free and climate-friendly cocoa supply chain.



Child labour

All SWISSCO members active in producing countries with incidence of child labour actively contribute to the elimination of its root causes.



Traceability and transparency

SWISSCO members gradually improve the traceability of cocoa beans back to their origin and disclose import figures.



Gender

SWISSCO members are committed to gender equality by strengthening women's position and rights in the cocoa sector.



Innovation

SWISSCO members test innovative approaches and share experiences with each other.

3. REPORTING AND INFORMATION

As one of its core tasks, the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) continued to collect data on sustainable cocoa imports and conducted member surveys in 2022. This section presents the results and outlines successes and challenges in achieving the goals of the Roadmap 2030.

3.1 Monitoring the share of sustainable cocoa imports

SWISSCO has set the goal that by 2025, at least 80 % of all cocoa products physically imported into Switzerland come from sustainable agricultural production. By 2030, the share shall be 100 %. To monitor the achievements of these goals, SWISSCO relies on official import statistics and member surveys.

3.1.1 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 therefore been conducting an annual member survey since 2018, asking the members to provide qualitative details about their imports. As all members with imports (sectors A and B, see chapter 7.2) 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 proportions of all types of imported cocoa products are converted into so-called cocoa bean equivalents by the conversion factors set by the International Cocoa Organisation ICCO (see Table 1). This allows a comparison between cocoa products based on the amount of raw cocoa beans required for each product.

3.1.2 SWISSCO's 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.

3.1.3 Swiss imports and exports of cocoa and cocoa products

The Swiss foreign trade statistics record the amount of cocoa and cocoa products imported into Switzerland by classifying them according to the World Customs Organisation Harmonised System codes (HS-Codes). A total of 11 categories are distinguished:

HS-Code	Commodity	Conv.	HS-Code	Commodity	Conv.
1801	Cocoa beans	1	1806.1	Cocoa powder, sweetened	0.4
1803.1	Cocoa paste/liquor	1.25	1806.2	Chocolate in blocks > 2 kg	0.4
1803.2	Cocoa cake	1.18	1806.31	Chocolate, filled	0.2
1804	Cocoa butter	1.33	1806.32	Chocolate, not filled	0.4
1805	Cocoa powder, unsweetened	1.18	1806.9	Other (Other food preparations containing cocoa, chocolate other than blocks, slabs or bars (e.g. balls, Easter bunnies etc.) finished products = < 2 kg)	0.2
1704.901	White chocolate	0.2			

Table 1: HS-Codes for cocoa and cocoa products, including white chocolate, with corresponding ICCO conversion factors (conv.) for the conversion into cocoa bean equivalents.

Imports 2022

Based on the Swiss foreign trade statistics, 142'187 metric tons of cocoa and cocoa products were imported into Switzerland in 2022. This corresponds to 124'145 tons of cocoa bean equivalents. Cocoa beans (44 %) and cocoa butter (33 %) account for the largest share of imports, followed by cocoa paste (10 %) and cocoa powder (4 %). Only a small part is imported in the form of semi-finished or finished products (see Figure 1).

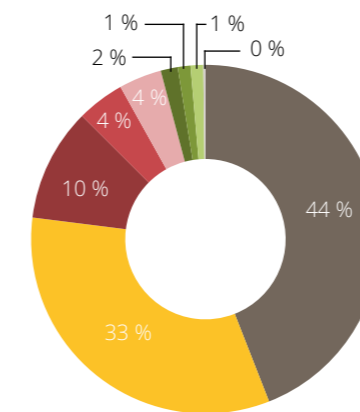


Fig. 1: Share of segregated cocoa bean equivalents on total imports (%).

Exports 2022

Overall, in 2022, Switzerland exported 163'142 tons of cocoa and cocoa products, which corresponds to 71'482 tons of cocoa bean equivalents. This means that around half of the imported equivalents are re-exported. These exports mainly consist of chocolate products such as unfilled chocolate and cocoa paste such as 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.

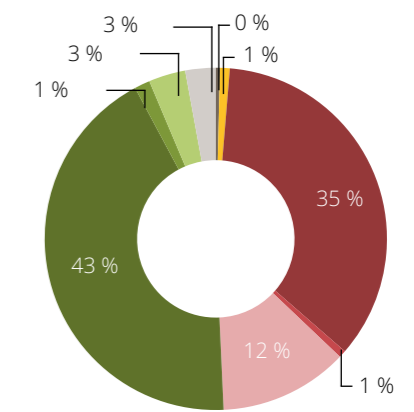
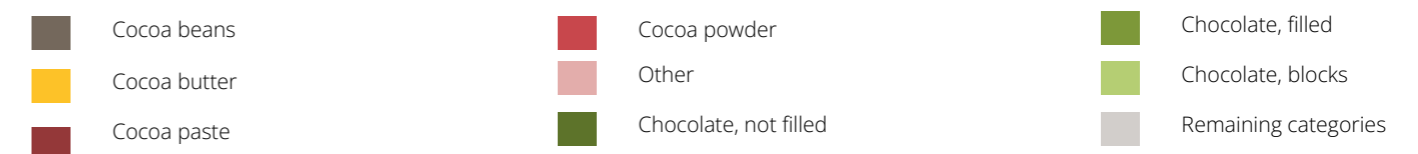


Fig. 2: Share of segregated cocoa bean equivalents on total exports (%).



Source: Swiss foreign trade statistics (data extracted on 25.04.2023. These data are still provisional. Once final data are published, the Coordination Office will check for significant changes.).

3.1.4 Sustainably produced cocoa and cocoa products imports

As shown in Figure 3, 93 % of the Swiss imports of cocoa bean equivalents are covered by SWISSCO members. The remaining 7 % are imported by non-members. No data is available on the sourcing and production method of these imports, hence they are shown as missing data. If SWISSCO had information about the production methods of these 7 %, the total amount of sustainably produced imports could in fact be higher.

Total share of sustainably produced cocoa imports

In 2022, 75 % of all cocoa bean equivalents imported into Switzerland were sourced from sustainable production (Figure 3). After a slight decline by three percentage points to 71 % in 2021, this development is pleasing. While we have seen a 4 % drop in certified cocoa, the share of verified cocoa has increased by 8 %. The amount of imported conventional cocoa has dropped by 3 %. The gap of missing data has been reduced by 1 % due to a wider membership of importers in 2022 compared to the previous year.

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

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

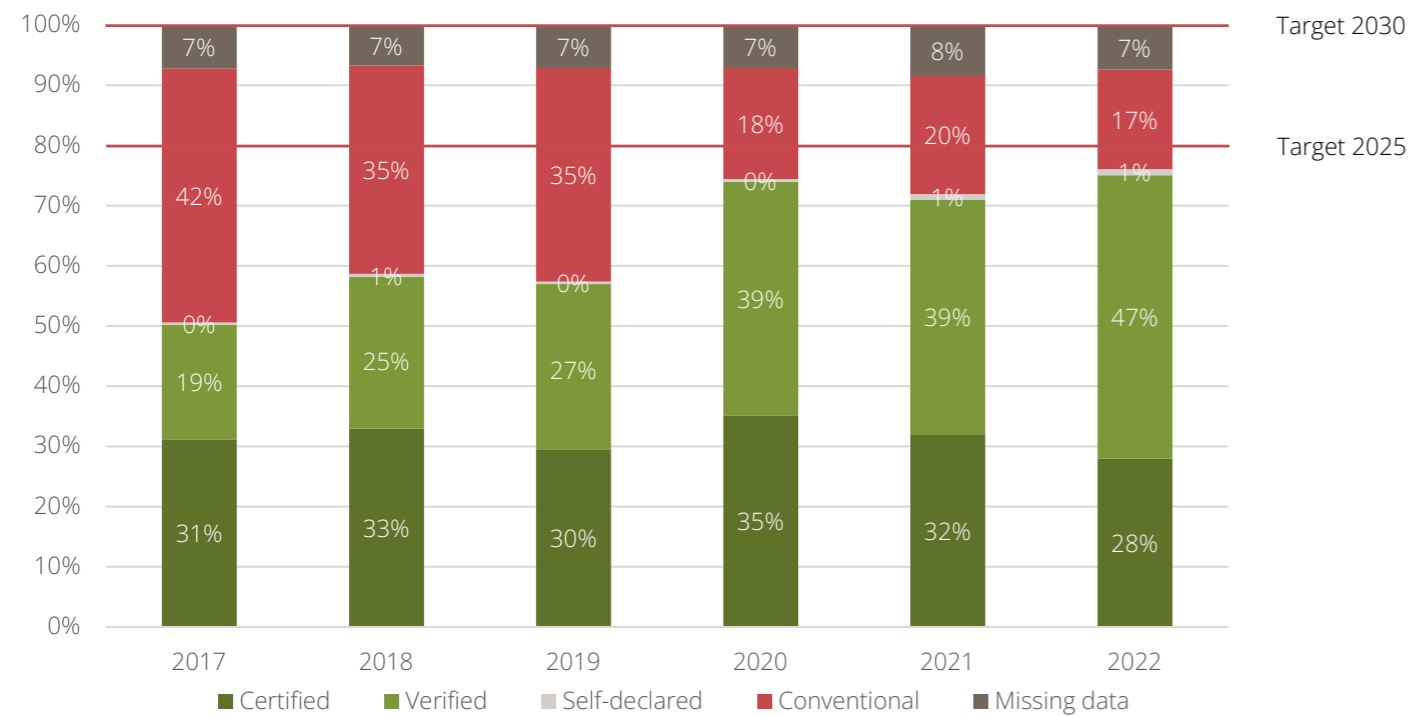


Fig. 3: Share of certified, verified, self-declared (not verified by a third-party) and conventional cocoa bean equivalents on total imports (%). Source: Member survey on sourcing statistics. Missing data results from imports recorded by Swiss trade statistics but not covered by SWISSCO members.

Looking at the share of different certification schemes, it becomes evident that a large portion of certified imported cocoa products (based on MT data) is certified by Rainforest Alliance (71 %). However, double or even triple certifications are possible, which is why the shares together make up more than 100 %.

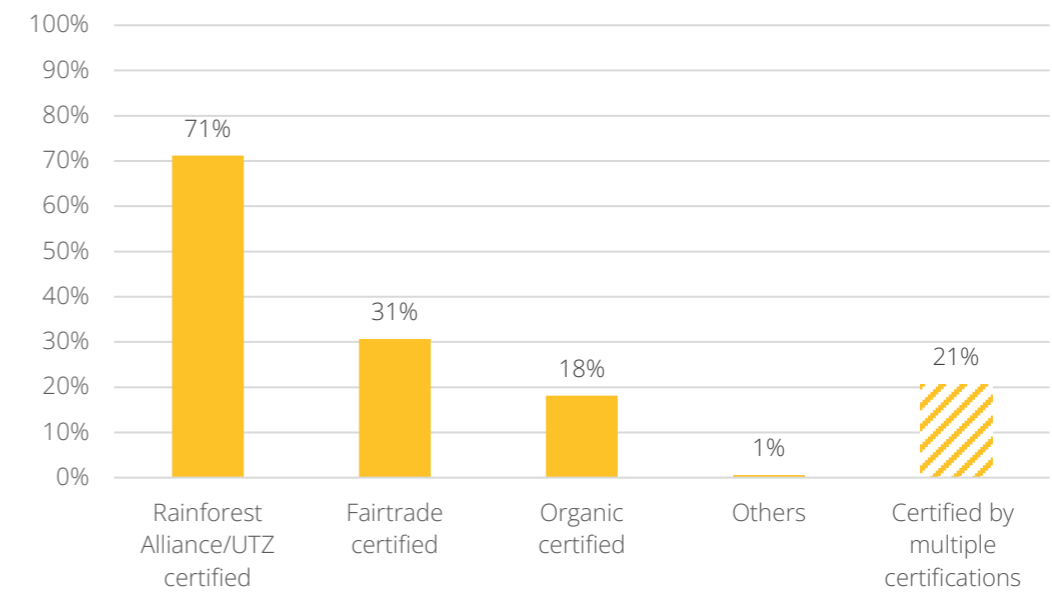


Fig. 4: Share of different certification schemes on total imports of certified cocoa products (%). Source: Member survey on sourcing statistics.



Share based on different product categories

The sustainable share of imports varies significantly between the different cocoa product categories. Looking at the most relevant import product for Switzerland, cocoa beans (see Figure 5), 98 % were sourced from sustainable production in 2022. Other products have a smaller share. For example, the share of sustainably sourced cocoa paste/liquor increased significantly by 33 %, from 66% in 2021 to a total of 97% in 2022. For cocoa powder, the share remained the same as 2021, at 67 %.

Overall, cocoa butter still accounts for the smallest share (56 %) of sustainably produced cocoa products, and therefore its traceability and sustainable production remain the biggest hurdle on the way to achieving the target of 80 % sustainably produced cocoa by 2025 and 100 % by 2030.

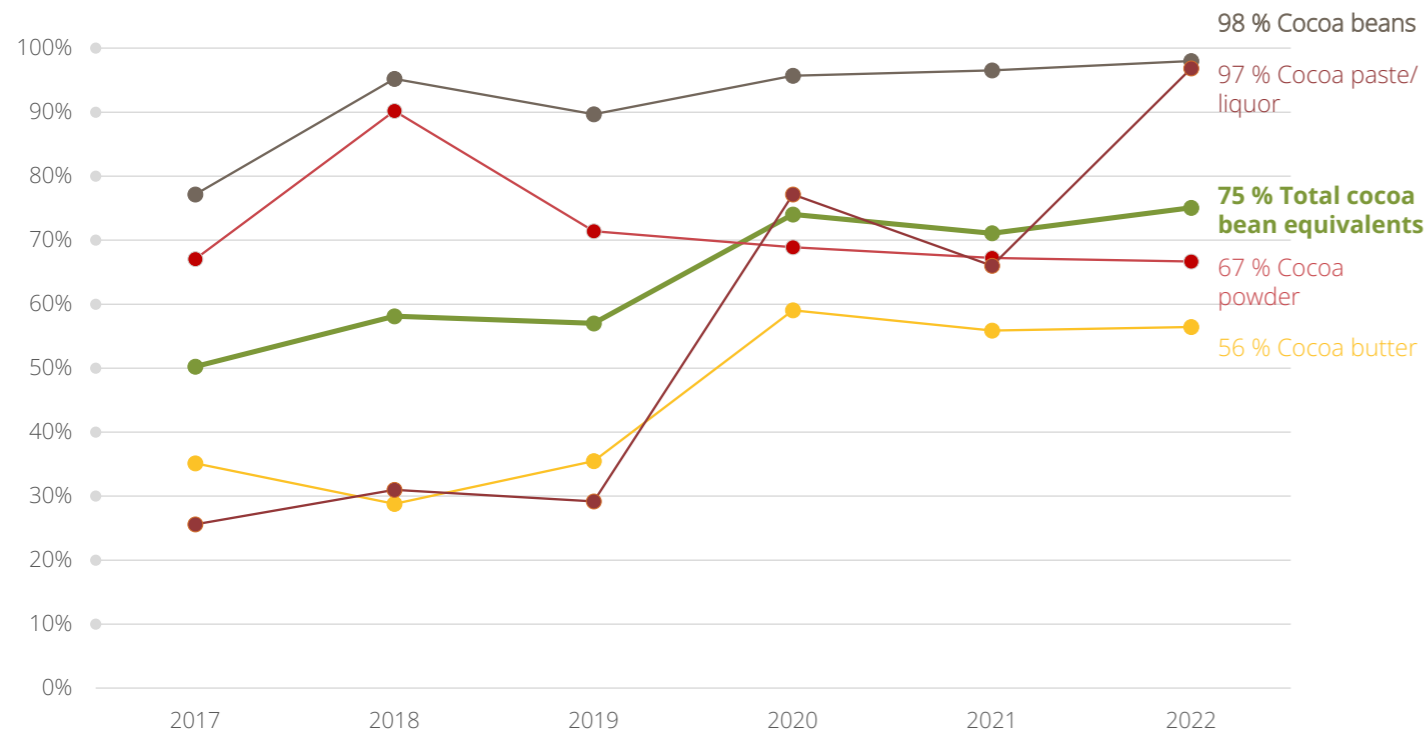


Fig. 5: Share of sustainably sourced cocoa bean equivalents for different product categories (%). Source: Member survey on sourcing statistics.

Differences between companies

Significant differences can be observed when looking at the share of sustainably produced cocoa imports of the various SWISSCO members. In 2022, 56 % of the members have already imported 80-100 % certified or verified cocoa bean equivalents, while 25 % of companies import less than 50 % sustainable cocoa products (see Figure 6 below).

The figure further shows that the total number of members with imports is increasing (with the exception of 2020), which means that more and more companies are committing to import 100 % sustainably sourced cocoa products by 2030.

Overall, the share of companies with lower shares of sustainable sourcing (brown and red colours) has decreased over the years and the number of companies with a higher share (green colour) has steadily increased.

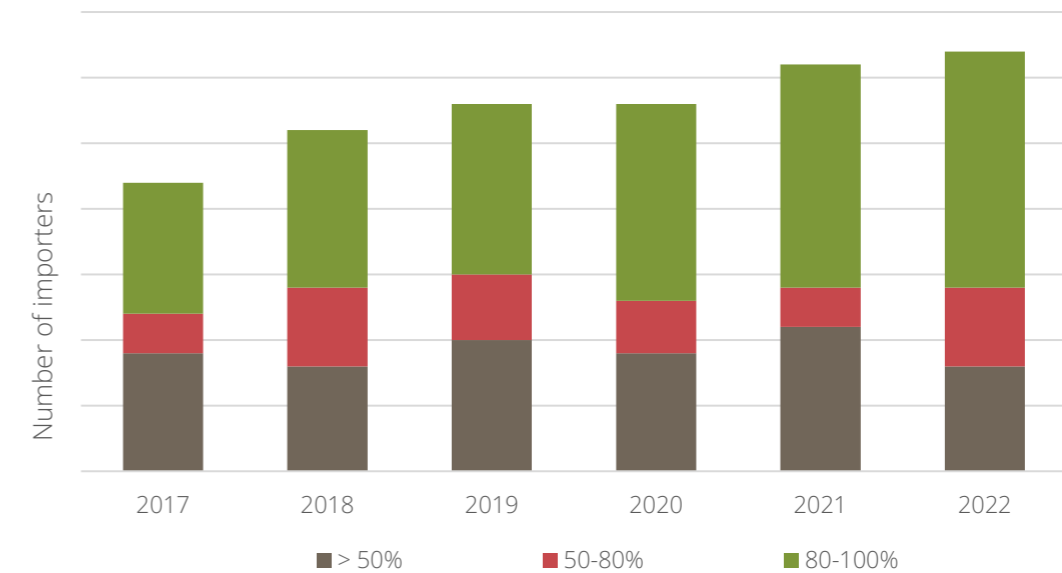


Fig. 6: Share of sustainably sourced cocoa bean equivalents of importing companies that are members of SWISSCO. However, as companies import different amounts of cocoa bean equivalents this increase does not automatically correlate with the overall increase in the total share of sustainable imports achieved.

3.1.5 Summary of results 2022

- In 2022, 75 % of cocoa bean equivalents imported into Switzerland were sourced from sustainable production. The result in 2022 is a 4 % increase compared to the previous year.
- 98 % of the cocoa beans imported into Switzerland were from sustainable production. Meanwhile, cocoa butter still accounts for the smallest share of sustainably produced cocoa products.
- 93 % of all cocoa products imported into Switzerland are covered by SWISSCO members. This means that the share of missing data has decreased from 8 % in 2021 to 7 % in 2022.
- The number of SWISSCO members with high shares of sustainably produced imports is increasing. However, some continue to have very low shares. To achieve the target of 80 % sustainably produced cocoa by 2025 and 100 % by 2030, it is necessary that these companies significantly increase their share of sustainably produced imports by 2030.

3.1.6 Case Study: Chocolate producer Villars Maître Chocolatier



Villars Maître Chocolatier joined SWISSCO when the platform was launched in June 2017, making it one of its founding members. Over the years, the company has steadily increased its share of sustainably produced cocoa imports. Particularly striking is the increase from 49 % in 2021 to 79 % in 2022 - thus almost reaching SWISSCO's mid-term goal of importing at least 80 % of sustainably produced cocoa products by 2025 three years early. The company is set to reach 100 % of sustainably sourced cocoa by 2025. Villars' development can therefore be seen as good practice.

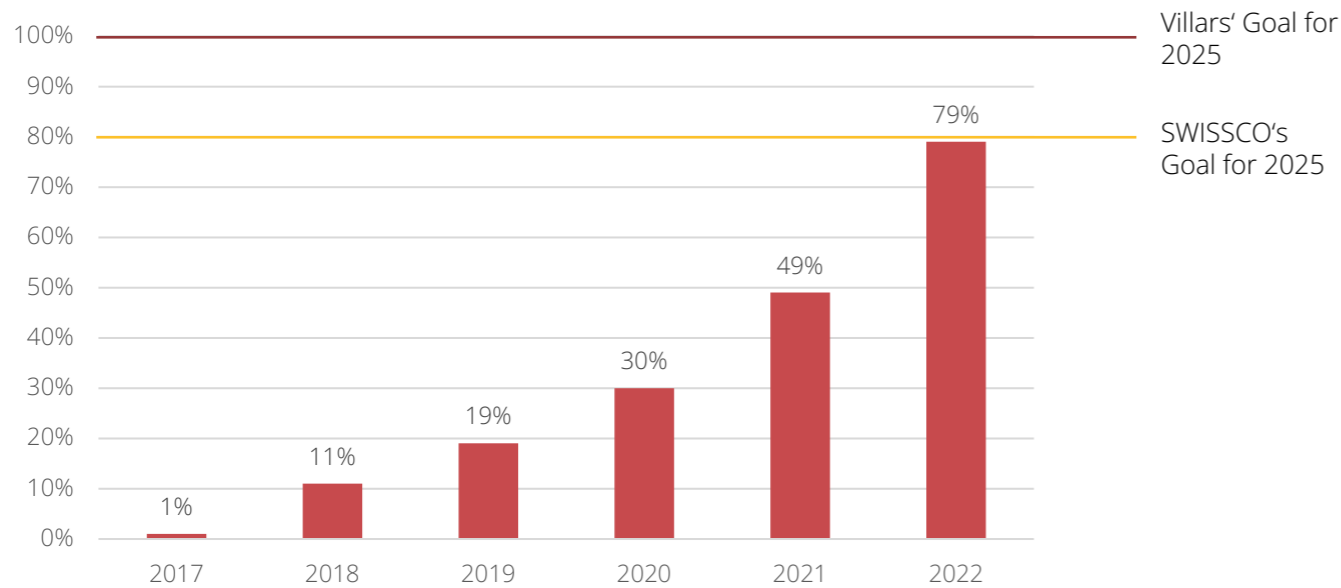


Fig. 7: Share of sustainably produced cocoa bean equivalents imported by chocolate producer Villars Maître Chocolatier from 2017 to 2022.

Interview with Stephan Buchser, Managing Director Villars Maître Chocolatier

What is your recipe for increasing the share of sustainable products?

Since 1997, the company's strategy has been to highlight our Swiss chocolate know-how, specialising in milk chocolate. Our cocoa raw materials came mainly from conventional channels. In the 2010s, we wanted to better understand and control our cocoa supply chains. This new approach allows us to meet consumer expectations and sustainability objectives. The launch of the cocoa platform in 2017 enabled us to anchor this choice of sustainability.

What challenges have you faced and how did you overcome them?

We are not large enough to directly source cocoa from all the countries supplying us so we have chosen to commit to a certified cocoa supply chain, the „Rainforest Alliance“, in order to guarantee sustainability via a third-party organisation and to be able to promote this commitment to our consumers through a label. We have progressively labelled all our chocolate ranges to absorb the additional financial costs over several years and to remain competitive with distributors and consumers.

What other efforts do you take to improve sustainability in the cocoa sector?

Today, nearly 80% of our cocoa supplies come from sustainable sources and our objective is to obtain 100% by 2025. Being part of SWISSCO has allowed us to progress thanks to the exchanges between the different actors, cocoa traders, NGOs, academics, SECO and our colleagues. This also allows us today to engage with some partners on an emerging landscape project in Madagascar.

3.2 Baseline Report 2022

The guiding principle of SWISSCO's Roadmap 2030, launched in 2021, is to tackle challenges together. To be successful with this approach, SWISSCO needs to know about members' current efforts and priorities. Therefore, the Baseline Report 2022 examined their commitment to achieving the Roadmap goals in the four target areas (living income, deforestation, child labour and traceability) and in the two key transversal themes (gender and innovation).

The report brings clarity on members' current actions and interests (see page 20), but also identifies areas where additional efforts or more specific data are needed. For example, it is often difficult for members to measure and transparently report the impact of their actions, which makes it challenging for SWISSCO to assess the achievement of the Roadmap goals.

The Coordination Office is committed to supporting the platform's members in overcoming such challenges. For example, the platform's current Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework will be further developed to make it more precise and fit for purpose, and a Household Income Study will be conducted.

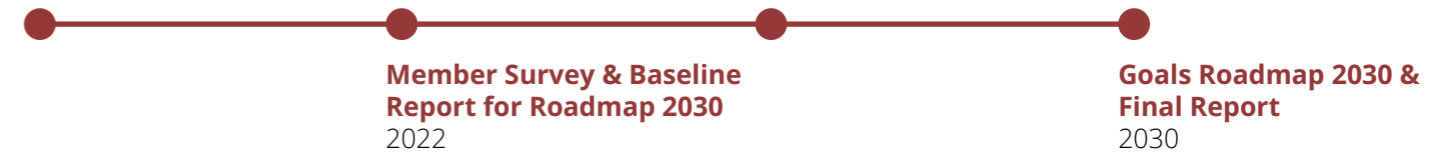
The interim report in 2025 will provide an update on how SWISSCO is progressing in implementing the Roadmap. The report will compare commitments and achievements with the data from the Baseline Report and identify additional actions needed to reach the goals by 2030. The final report in 2030 will provide concluding information on the successes and failures in achieving the Roadmap 2030 targets.

Launch SWISSCO Roadmap 2030

21. September 2021

Milestones Roadmap 2030 & Interim Report

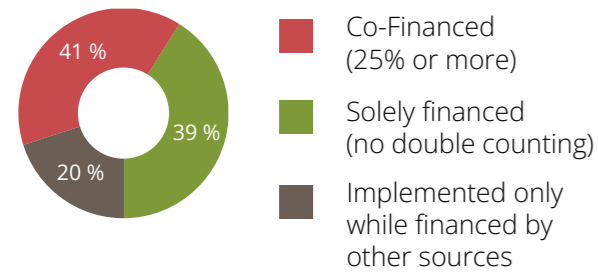
2025



Read the whole report [here](#).



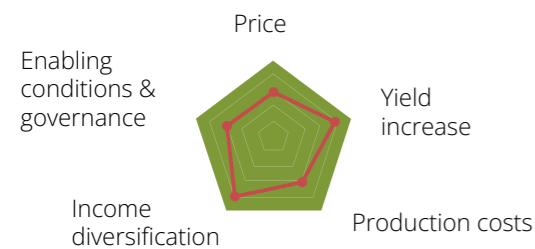
These are the key findings, based on the 85 % of members that answered the survey:



In 2021, SWISSCO's members reached about 1.46 million cocoa farming households with their sustainability engagements. A large part of the programmes is solely financed, thus avoiding double counting.



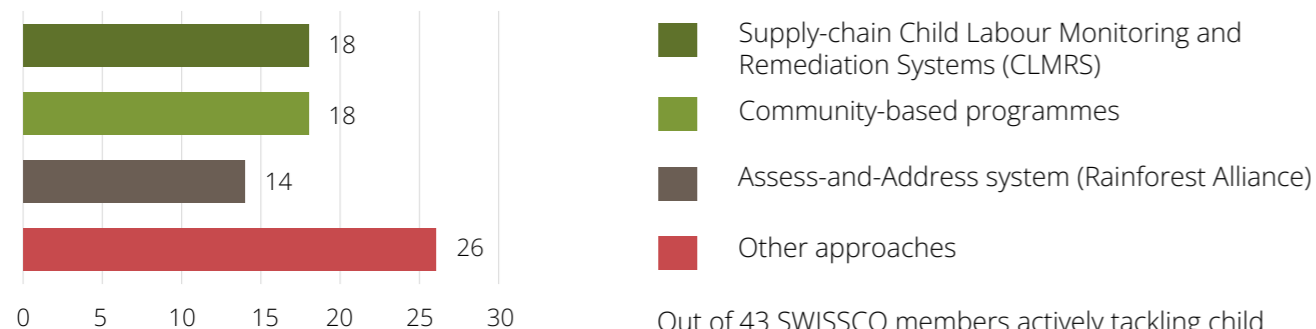
Climate-smart, regenerative and agroforestry practices are gaining increasing attention. However, there is a need for better qualitative analysis of farmers' adoption of these practices.



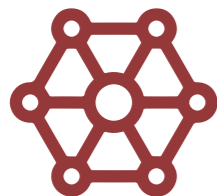
Income diversification and yield increase are the most used activities to enable farmers to earn a living income.

72 %

72 % want to learn more about the impact of their activities on household incomes as only a few members can so far make reliable statements about impacts.



Out of 43 SWISSCO members actively tackling child labour, about half do so by applying more than one of the above measures.



There is big interest in cooperating across different commodity sectors to tackle systemic challenges such as deforestation, child labour and improved framework conditions.

4. NETWORK AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

2022 marked the first year of the joint working groups with the other European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs). In addition, several key events took place in Switzerland that fostered the knowledge exchange between the members of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa.

In 2022, SWISSCO members were involved in all five topic-specific working groups that are organised together with SWISSCO's partner initiatives in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and France (see pages 21-23). In addition, three events exclusively for SWISSCO members are worth mentioning:

- the launch of the climate task group on April 7 (see page 24),
- the traceability event held in Zurich on May 24 (see page 25),
- and the annual General Assembly on June 27 (see page 26).

4.1 ISCO working groups

As of 2022, all previous Swiss-level working groups were merged into joint working groups of the European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs). The joint working groups successfully started to operate, covering the topics of (i) living income, (ii) child labour, (iii) forests & agroforestry, (iv) traceability & transparency, as well as (v) monitoring & evaluation. Each ISCO has taken the lead for certain working groups (see Table 2 below), while participation in the working groups is open to members from all ISCOs.

	Aim of the working group	Contact persons from the respective ISCO	
Living Income	Discuss measures to achieve a living income for cocoa farmers and their families and support members in translating their respective objectives into concrete actions.	Mark de Waard, Marloes Humbeek	DISCO DUTCH INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE COCOA
Forests & Agroforestry	Advance climate-friendly cocoa farming practices and forest conservation by highlighting case studies and discussing best practices.	Charles Snoeck, Marloes Humbeek	Beyond Chocolate
Child Labour	Promote cross-country and cross-sectoral learning about the multitude of interwoven actions needed to eliminate the root causes of child labour.	Christian Robin, Sophie Tüllmann	Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa
Traceability & Transparency	Encourage sharing of experiences in the use of traceability systems and discuss possibilities to enhance the compatibility and complementarity of different systems.	Beate Weiskopf, Ulrike Joras	Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa
Monitoring & Evaluation (since 2021)	Optimise the monitoring of the members' activities and harmonise the frameworks of all ISCOs.	Beate Weiskopf, Ulrike Joras	Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

Table 2: Overview of the five ISCO working groups.

One year of experience with ISCO working groups

Interview with Sophie Tüllmann, Scientific Collaborator at SWISSCO and actively involved in facilitating the collaboration with the ISCOs.

How did you experience the first year with the new working groups?

Overall, I draw a very positive conclusion from this first year of organising joint ISCO working groups. A large number of SWISSCO members are engaged in the respective working groups and get to network with relevant stakeholders from all over Europe as well as with representatives of cocoa-producing countries.

Where do you see the opportunities of this new form of cooperation?

Compared to the national-level working groups, we benefit from a much bigger pool of knowledge, experiences and ideas. Members not only learn from each other's successes but also from failed approaches. Failed approaches thereby become immensely valuable, as they might keep others from going down the same road. However, we still have some work to do so that members feel comfortable in openly sharing their failed approaches and not only best practice examples.

Where do you see difficulties?

With more participants per group, it becomes more challenging to encourage the individual person to actively participate. Especially members with less experience in the respective topic are more likely to stay in the background while members with specific niche expertise will tend to dominate the discussions. Therefore, we are challenged to design meetings that satisfy the needs of both types of participants, those with a lot of expertise and those with little.

What feedback did SWISSCO members give?

The members very much welcome the opportunity for open discussions at a pre-competitive level. We also know that especially for larger companies and international organisations that are active in more than one of the ISCO countries, the joint ISCO working groups and the efforts to harmonise the monitoring reduce their workload. However, especially small members don't always have the necessary resources to participate in and follow the discussions of the working groups. For them, we need other formats. It also became clear that not all members are happy with a pure exchange of knowledge. Some want the working groups to be more action-oriented, for example by initiating joint actions in the value chain. Others want a more strategic approach, with working groups developing joint roadmaps that hold members accountable for their commitments and actions.

„We still have work to do so that members feel comfortable in openly sharing their failed approaches and not only best practice examples.“



Sophie Tüllmann
Scientific Collaborator



What are the next steps?

We will continue to gain experience with the ISCO working groups, whose aim will remain the exchange of knowledge – at least for now. In addition, we will provide targeted support for members that look for joint actions beyond knowledge exchange in building alliances between ISCO members and across the sector. Meanwhile, we will make sure that we organise events just for SWISSCO members from time to time in order not to lose close contact with our members. This also allows us to organise meetings in languages other than English.

Internal SWISSCO member events

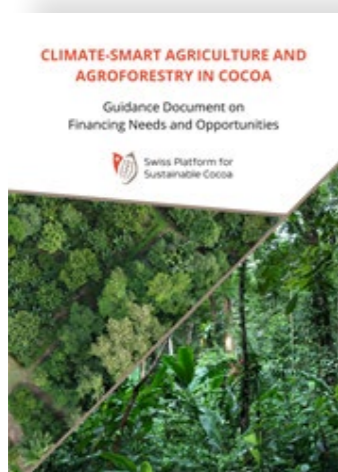
While the new joint ISCO working groups have replaced the previous SWISSCO working groups, the SWISSCO Coordination Office is committed to facilitating the internal exchange of SWISSCO members on certain topics. One of these topics is agroforestry and climate-friendly farming practices, another is traceability. Learn more about it on pages 24-25.

4.2 Kick-off of the Swiss Climate Task Group

On April 7, 2022, the Climate Task Group was established and about 20 members joined. The aim of this working group is to collect and systematise knowledge within SWISSCO on the necessary investments for the transition to regenerative cocoa production systems.

In addition to the kick-off meeting, the Coordination Office conducted interviews with members and compared seven case studies on production systems. The aim was to first give an overview of the characteristics of different climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry approaches. Based on the findings on transition periods and economic models, specific next areas of work and relevant intervention areas were then identified. They show that various complementary private and public sector financing options are feasible, including domestic resource mobilisation and innovative climate finance models.

This knowledge was compiled in the guidance document "Climate-Smart Agriculture and Agroforestry in Cocoa – Guidance Document on Financing Needs and Opportunities", which was circulated and discussed within the working group in January 2022 and published in April 2023.



Access the document [here](#):



Members' experiences with the implementation of resilient farming systems

In order to find a common understanding, SWISSCO members were asked to identify key success factors for implementing resilient farming systems as well as the remaining challenges that need to be overcome.

Present challenges

- Lack of technical skills of farmers and extension services
- Strong focus on short-term productivity
- Lack of knowledge on best practices and definitions across the sector
- Lack of clear policy framework
- High implementation costs
- Difficulty to obtain carbon finance
- Benefit sharing mechanisms often do not reach and benefit smallholders
- Difficult to scale

The groups' identified key success factors

- Long-term research (use of demo-plots, visualisation of data, targeting of farmers)
- Market access and integration for producers
- Strong and long-term business relations
- Economic incentives for companies
- Technical guidelines to support implementation on the ground
- Improved technical training for trainers
- Participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches

4.3 SWISSCO member event in Zurich: The power of data – beyond traceability

On May 24, 2022, SWISSCO and Swisscontact invited all SWISSCO members to discuss about constraints and opportunities that the collection of data for traceability creates along the value chain and thus where the participants see the main levers for action.

The findings are listed in the column on the right. Read the whole report [here](#):



In addition, to illustrate actions already taken by some actors to improve data collection and thus traceability, mini cases were compiled (formulated in the providers' own words). Read the mini cases [here](#):



The two guiding questions and their main findings were:

What are the biggest constraints to a fully traceable value chain?

- Access (or lack thereof) to the internet, electricity, and mobile devices for the farmers or even collector.
- The habit of farmers selling their cocoa to multiple traders, increasing the work load by having to fill in multiple forms.
- Farmers' illiteracy, demanding data collection to be done by a third party, which increases the risk of human biases such as attempting to meet expectations from the interviewer.
- The long transport ways within cocoa-producing countries, during which handwritten adhesive stickers easily get lost.
- False information provided by middlemen, e.g. about the number of certified farmers or about household indicators.
- High costs to overcome the above-listed challenges.

How can the information and data collected in the process to enhance traceability be used to improve farmers' and their families' lives?

- Close interaction with farmers allows bottom-up solutions and increases trust.
- The data can be used for specified technical assistance and for additional services such as household budget calculations and building a track record for access to finance.
- Digital payment systems make payments safer and can verify farmgate price transactions and premium disbursements.
- A more transparent system allows to have better insights into the whole farm composition and could help to identify additional income opportunities.
- Having reliable data on plots and households allows to indicate at an early-stage households or farms that are in jeopardy for child or forced labour.

4.4 Celebrating five years of SWISSCO – the General Assembly 2022

The General Assembly, on June 27, marked the fifth anniversary of SWISSCO. The consensus of the assembly was that while some improvements in the sector have been made, much work still lies ahead. In particular, closer cooperation with partners in the countries of origin is of central importance. This issue was taken up in a panel discussion following the statutory part, with the title “Cocoa Sustainability Challenges from a Producer Country Perspective”.

This is how key speakers at the assembly talked about SWISSCO’s achievements of the last five years and the efforts needed in the future:

„Today, Swiss companies are doing a lot in the area of sustainability. But the problems in the countries of origin exceed our possibilities for intervention. This is where SWISSCO offers concrete added value. In cooperation with the various partners, the commitments of our companies can be strengthened.“

Urs Furrer, Director of CHOCOSUISSE and SWISSCO Board member

„We are looking for cooperation on equal footing. To achieve this, it’s important that we see the farmers not just as recipients of aid, but as partners in the search for and implementation of appropriate solutions in the fight against poverty, climate change and child labour.“

Nelson Adubofour, Executive Secretary, Kuapa Kokoo Cooperative, Ghana

„SWISSCO has developed into a true multi-stakeholder platform, providing space for discussion, collaboration and innovation. However, in view of the major challenges in the value chain, members need to engage more actively in this platform and beyond and use the power and influence they have.“

Kathrin Amacker, President of Max Havelaar Foundation



5. PROJECTS

Since 2018, SWISSCO has been mediating and monitoring funds from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO to co-finance projects of its members in cocoa-producing countries. At the end of 2022, most of the projects of the first project cycle have been completed and a new funding cycle has started.

5.1 Objectives and design of the projects

Due to its networking spirit, SWISSCO is ideally positioned to promote the implementation of innovative and cross-sectoral projects by members, scale investments and develop flagship initiatives. The projects aim to improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families and protect natural resources, using the Roadmap 2030 targets (see <https://www.kakaoplattform.ch/about-us/our-goals>) as a guiding framework.

Through SWISSCO’s intermediary, all projects receive a financial contribution from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, which aims to strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors. SECO’s contribution covers a maximum of 50 % of the total costs, the rest is provided by the members and other partners.

The project cycle from 2018-2022

In a first project cycle from 2018 to 2022, SECO provided CHF 6.5 million for the implementation of 15 projects that reached nearly 90’000 cocoa farmers. These projects are shown in detail on pages 28-31, and a learning report on the most important achievements and findings will be published in 2023.

Outlook: New project cycle from 2023-2026

By the end of 2022, most projects from the first project cycle have ended. For the years 2023 to 2026, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO will provide CHF 13 million for a new project cycle. The projects will focus on the three core themes: “Sustainable Sourcing Landscapes”, “Innovative Value Chain Projects”, and “Peer Learning & Collaboration”.



Learn more about the projects [here](#):

90’000

Number of farmers reached between 2018 and 2022

31

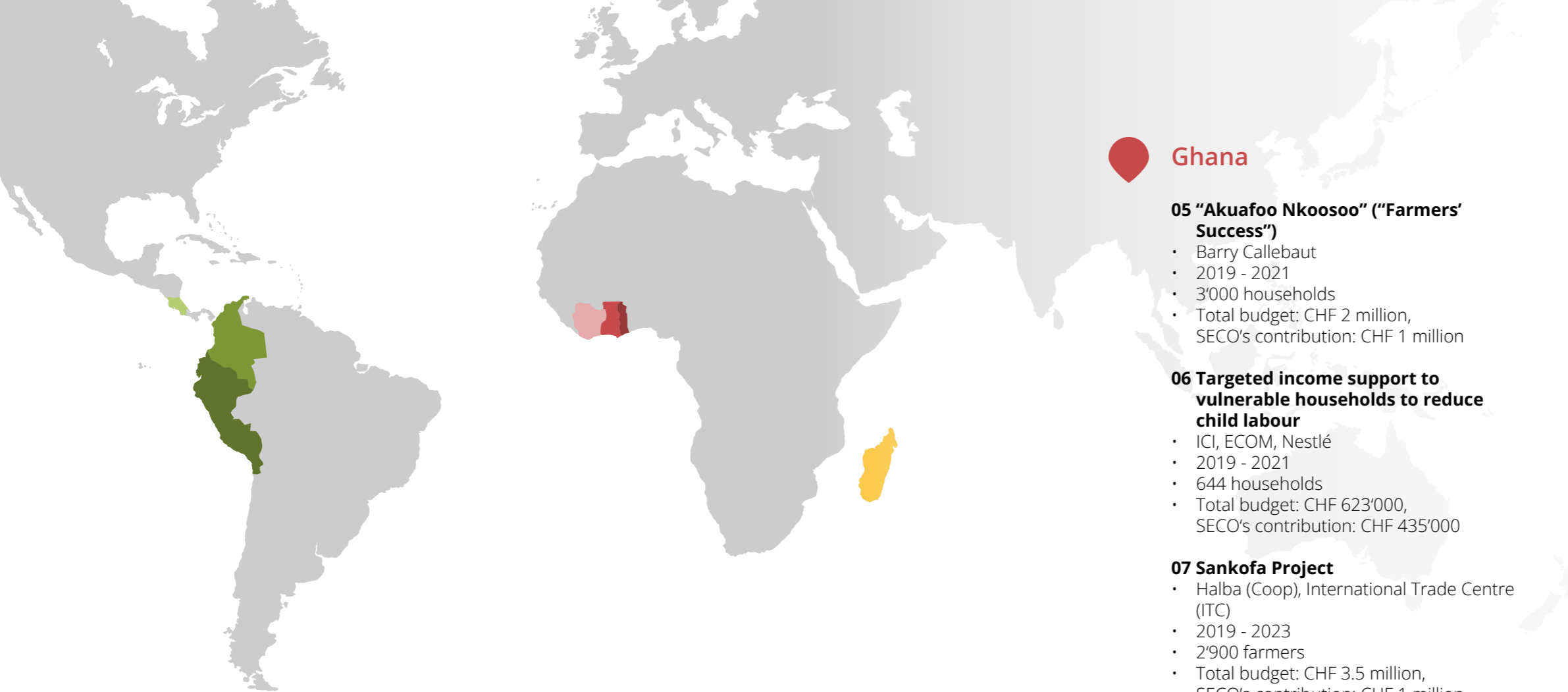
Number of SWISSCO members involved in the project cycle 2018-2022

CHF 6.5 million

Contribution of SECO for the project cycle 2018-2022

CHF 13 million

Contribution of SECO for the project cycle 2023-2026



5.2 Overview of projects from the 2018-2022 project cycle

Costa Rica

01 Improve livelihoods of indigenous, organic and Fairtrade cocoa farmers

- Chocolat Stella Bernrain, APPTA
- 2019 - 2022
- 100 farmers
- Total budget: CHF 180'000, SECO's contribution: CHF 90'000

02 Cocoa Tech Bridge

- Läderach (Switzerland) AG
- 2019 - 2022
- 300 farmers
- Total budget: CHF 190'000, SECO's contribution: CHF 95'000

Colombia

03 Colombian Specialty Cocoa for the Swiss Sustainable Market

- Swisscontact, Colcocoa, Pakka, EOS Entrepreneur Foundation, Solidaridad, Max Felchlin AG
- 2020 - 2022
- 2'524 households
- Total budget: CHF 1.48 million, SECO's contribution: CHF 920'000

Peru

04 Sustainable Cocoa Sourcing Landscapes in Peru

- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- 2020 - 2022
- 2'500 farmers
- Total budget: CHF 2.6 million, SECO's contribution: CHF 1.2 million

Ghana

05 "Akuafuo Nkoosoo" ("Farmers' Success")

- Barry Callebaut
- 2019 - 2021
- 3'000 households
- Total budget: CHF 2 million, SECO's contribution: CHF 1 million

06 Targeted income support to vulnerable households to reduce child labour

- ICI, ECOM, Nestlé
- 2019 - 2021
- 644 households
- Total budget: CHF 623'000, SECO's contribution: CHF 435'000

07 Sankofa Project

- Halba (Coop), International Trade Centre (ITC)
- 2019 - 2023
- 2'900 farmers
- Total budget: CHF 3.5 million, SECO's contribution: CHF 1 million

08 A holistic approach to improving cocoa farmer livelihoods in Ghana

- Sustainable Management Services Ghana and Lindt & Sprüngli (International) AG
- 2019 - 2023
- 50'000 farmers
- Lindt & Sprüngli AG's contribution: CHF 8.3 million, SECO's contribution: CHF 1 million

09 Fair and sustainable chocolate through complete transparency

- Schöki
- 2020 - 2023
- Total budget: CHF 500'000, SECO's contribution: CHF 250'000

Togo

10 Innovative approaches to organic cocoa farming in Togo

- gebana
- 2020 - 2022
- 1'200 households
- Total budget: CHF 481'074, SECO's contribution: CHF 230'915

Côte d'Ivoire

11 Village Competence Centers

- CABOZ
- 2019 - 2022
- 2'955 farmers
- Total budget: CHF 1'075'000, SECO's contribution: CHF 500'000

12 Reducing deforestation and increasing farmer incomes

- Barry Callebaut, Mondelez, Impactum
- 2020 - 2022
- 600 farmers
- Total budget: CHF 781'000, SECO's contribution: CHF 300'000

13 The Green Nawa Initiative

- FarmStrong Foundation, Agroforce Commodities
- 2020 - 2022
- 14'000 households
- Total budget: CHF 764'000, SECO's contribution: CHF 300'000

Madagascar

14 Climate resilient cocoa landscape in Madagascar

- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- 2020 - 2022
- 1'500 farmers
- Total budget: CHF 580'000, SECO's contribution: CHF 300'000

15 Salama Mateza

- mTomady, Max Felchlin AG
- 2021 - 2023
- 880 households
- CHF 33'400 contributed by SECO

Project descriptions from the 2018-2022 project cycle

More information about the projects' goals, approaches and achievements is available via the QR codes. On this page, all QR codes can be clicked on.

01 Improve livelihoods of indigenous, organic and Fairtrade cocoa farmers

In this three-year project carried out by Chocolat Stella Bernrain and APPTA, farmers learned how to produce bio-fertilizers and propagate disease-tolerant cocoa varieties. The aim was to increase productivity of the cocoa harvest for the coming decades and thereby improve the livelihoods of these indigenous organic and Fairtrade farmers.



08 A holistic approach to improving cocoa farmer livelihoods in Ghana

The project aims at improving the resilience of farming households in Ghana through applying a holistic approach. A variety of activities are implemented to sustainably increase production and diversify farmer income sources, tailored to individual farmers' needs.



09 Fair and sustainable chocolate through complete transparency

This project is part of SCHÖKI's efforts to produce chocolate from cocoa that enables farmers a living income in a sustainable way. SCHÖKI is convinced that fairness and sustainability are possible only through complete transparency along the whole value chain. To achieve this, SCHÖKI initiated the development of an open-source software solution called „SusChain“.



02 Cocoa Tech Bridge

The project developed a cloud-based mobile application to track the exact origin of cocoa from Costa Rica and manage financial premiums flows from Läderach (Schweiz) AG to small-scale farmers as part of its „Family Life“ sustainability program.

10 Innovative approaches to organic cocoa farming in Togo

The project by gebana introduces a variety of innovations for a more transparent and efficient cocoa supply chain, and to improve farm management and farmers' income.



03 Colombian Specialty Cocoa for the Swiss Sustainable Market

The project adopted new sustainable business models for the supply of Colombian speciality cocoa to the Swiss market. In particular, the project promoted transparent long-term business linkages and helped farmers to improve farm profitability and quality.



11 Village Competence Centers

CABOZ and its partners introduced two village-based competence centers. The centers now serve as post-harvest processing facilities, produce and distribute high quality cocoa and shade tree seedlings, offer training and consultancy services, provide access to saving schemes, and sell agricultural tools and inputs.



04 Sustainable Cocoa Sourcing Landscapes in Peru

This project implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation supports the region of San Martin in Peru in its efforts to sustainably develop its territory. To do so, it brings together a variety of stakeholders and supports innovations on both farm and landscape level.

12 Reducing deforestation and increasing farmer incomes

This project focused on stopping deforestation and providing cocoa farmers with an alternative income. It combined a Payment for Environmental Services (PES) scheme and Carbon Insetting benefits to address the prevailing issues and to meet companies' commitments to zero-deforestation and improved incomes for cocoa farmers.



05 "Akuafoo Nkoosoo" ("Farmers' Success")

The project, implemented by Barry Callebaut, aimed at rejuvenating cocoa farms and promoted income diversification and the use of climate-friendly cookstoves. This led to an improvement of the livelihoods of 3'000 Ghanaian farming households.



13 The Green Nawa Initiative

FarmStrong Foundation uses a multifaceted approach to restore the degraded Nawa Region in Côte d'Ivoire and improve smallholders' livelihoods. Using various innovations and subsequent synergies, activities include farm and forest mapping, tree planting, support of agroforestry practices and raising awareness of the population on environmental stewardship.



06 Targeted income support to vulnerable households to reduce child labour

With this project, ICI, ECOM and Nestlé tested and documented two innovative approaches to improve efforts to prevent and address child labor in cocoa-growing communities in Ghana. These were: (1) to develop a risk model to predict child labor, based on existing information about farming households, and (2) to design a cash transfer program for cocoa-growing households and test its impact on child labor.

14 Climate resilient cocoa landscape in Madagascar

This project aims at collectively engaging the local stakeholders in the development of a sustainably managed landscape in the Sambirano valley. Based on an in-depth landscape assessment, a coalition consisting of HELVETAS, CDE, Earthworm Foundation and Tetra Tech supports local level dialogues among multiple stakeholders to formulate a common vision for the landscape and to establish a landscape governance mechanism.



07 Sankofa Project

The project partners led by Halba (Coop) and ITC promote climate-smart agriculture in Ghana through a multi-stakeholder approach, thereby scaling-up previous efforts towards income diversification, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.



15 Salama Mateza

With the Salama Mateza project, Max Felchlin AG connects 880 cocoa farmers and their families to comprehensive health coverage. This is to ensure their access to quality essential health services and protect them from medical impoverishment by reducing out-of-pocket expenses for healthcare. A similar project called „AKWAABA“ is being conducted in Ghana together with Elucid.



5.3 Interview with Monica Rubiolo from SECO

Monica Rubiolo is Head of Trade Promotion at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO and has been a board member of SWISSCO since its foundation. In the interview, she reflects on the lessons learnt from the project cycle 2018-2022 co-funded by SECO and explains what needs to be done to increase the impact of such projects.

In 2022, the projects co-financed by SECO from the first project cycle came to an end. What is SECO's overall assessment?

Our evaluation is very positive. The interest in the co-financing facility was greater than expected, with many SWISSCO members and their partners piloting innovative approaches and more than 90'000 farmers that benefitted. The members, including SECO, have gained a lot of knowledge, be it in dynamic farming methods, social services for cocoa farmers, climate-related issues or digitalisation and traceability. However, now that the projects have come to an end, it is important that the experiences are shared so that good results can be replicated and scaled up. This is where more effort is needed.

What exactly is needed?

Both the achievements and drawbacks of the projects must be shared with other members and relevant stakeholders. But this is not always easy. I still observe some lack of trust in the debates, although a lot has been invested in increasing trust and a culture of dialogue has been developed within SWISSCO. But in particular when it comes to issues around income and price, it still gets complicated. This is understandable from the individual member's view, but it is important to remember that achieving impact at sector level is what we ultimately want. For this to happen we need to bring the most out of the projects.

Where do you see SWISSCO's role in this?

We need to have the courage to address problems jointly and insist on transparency as far as possible. We also have to invest in a common understanding on key terms and concepts such as "sustainability" to avoid misunderstandings and be more precise in what we want to achieve. And, of course, the projects need to be monitored professionally, which is an area where the platform has developed a lot during the first project cycle.

Why is the focus of the project cycle from 2023 onwards on so-called landscape projects and where did the idea come from?

This is a learning from the first project cycle, but also from SECO's work in other commodity sectors. It has become evident that development projects generally need to become more holistic if they want to have a lasting impact. In the cocoa sector, it is possible to bring change in individual supply chains, sure. But it is questionable how sustainable these results can be if the entire circumstances in the countries do not change. Instead, the root causes have to be addressed and cooperation is needed with authorities and stakeholders from a variety of sectors in a given region. Planting trees alone is not enough.

„Cooperation
ist needed
with
authorities
and
stakeholders
from a variety
of sectors in a
given region.
Planting trees
alone is not
enough.“



Monica Rubiolo

Head of Trade Promotion,
State Secretariat for
Economic Affairs SECO



This approach is not new for SWISSCO, however.

Yes, it has indeed been SWISSCO's core idea from the very beginning that the complex problems in the cocoa value chain can only be tackled holistically and through cooperation with many actors. Nevertheless, it took time to move from awareness to concrete actions that actually do justice to the complexity. For example, it was a time-consuming but necessary process to institutionalise the platform's goals in the Roadmap 2030. Since its adoption in 2021, we have a better common ground for specific actions, including more systemic approaches.

Will one project cycle now follow another? Or will SECO's role in partnerships with the private sector change over time?

Since SWISSCO's Coordination Office has become more financially self-supporting, SECO can focus more on the co-financing facility than earlier. It is great to see that on average, SECO's contribution is one-third while two-thirds of the projects are financed by members and their partners. Nevertheless, in the long term, I think the share provided by the private sector should become even bigger so that SECO can focus more on its core task of facilitating good framework conditions and promoting policy dialogue. After all, the platform was launched by the initiative of the private sector and the civil society, and SECO is here to support only where necessary.

Learning Report on first project cycle

In 2023, SWISSCO will publish a learning report on the projects from the cycle 2018-2022. In the report, achievements and drawbacks will be discussed in detail, also in relation to individual projects, but mostly regarding the project cycle as a whole. The report will be published on SWISSCO's website and via the newsletter. Stay tuned!

6. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Throughout the year 2022, SWISSCO continued to work closely with various key stakeholders in the global cocoa industry. On the one hand, it aligned its activities with other European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs). On the other hand, visits in Côte d'Ivoire, Peru and Ghana fostered collaboration with authorities and partners in the cocoa-growing regions.

6.1 European Collaboration

The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa is one of five European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs). The aim of the ISCOs is to align their activities and to bundle their efforts for a sustainable cocoa value chain by using synergies and promoting transnational knowledge sharing. In doing so, the ISCOs have agreed on four common goals (see box on the right) and develop joint strategies to support their members in achieving them. Since 2022, members of the ISCOs can engage in five working groups (see chapter „NETWORK AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE“).

Common goals of the European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs)

- Contribute to a living income for cocoa farmers and their families;
- Halt cocoa-related deforestation and promote sustainable reforestation and biodiversity;
- End child labour and forced labour in the cocoa value chain;
- Enhance the transparency in the cocoa value chain.

An important momentum: the ISCONference 2022

The highlight of European wide peer-learning has been the first ISCONference taking place in Brussels on the 1st of September 2022. It brought together stakeholders from all European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs) – including the recently founded initiative in France.

The meeting was attended by about 200 representatives from ISCO members and partners of consuming and producing countries and therefore provided important momentum for a closer collaboration among the platforms. The event featured panels and presentations by ISCO members and other high-level speakers.

As poverty is often seen as the root cause of social and environmental challenges in the sector, the event focused on the issue of living income, making links to the challenges of deforestation, child labour and traceability.

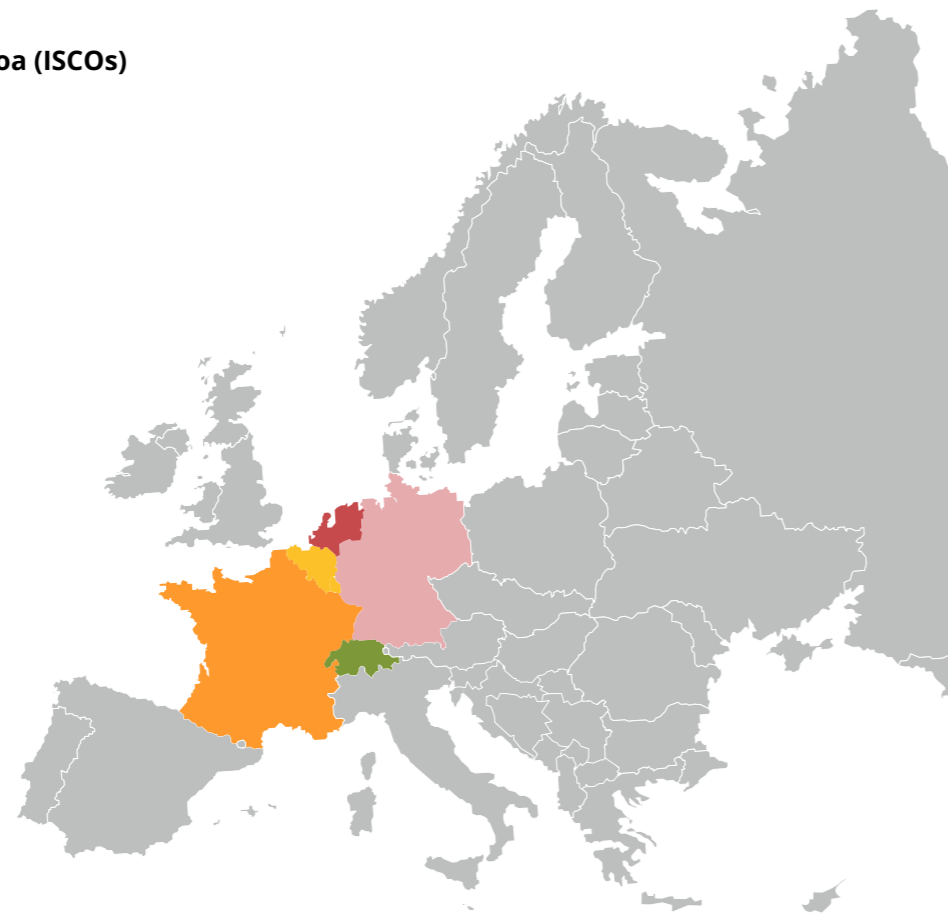
A report summarising the key discussions and findings of the different panel discussions and breakout sessions of the ISCONference can be found [here](#):



The following main recommendations were made and will guide the ISCOs' activities in 2023

1. Address the issue of price: A clear need was identified for a more transparent and fact-based exchange on the issue of price and the functioning of markets within the EU as well as with producer country representatives. Moreover, the ISCOs should encourage partners to renew their procurement practices and should not shy away from sensitive discussions on price.
2. Work towards standardised data collection and joint analysis. The ISCOs should further align data collection within the sector and come to joint conclusions and resulting action points.
3. Continue to strengthen public-private partnerships in order to contribute to long-term sustainable and locally owned approaches.
4. Promote more pre-competitive collaboration between ISCO members in order to join forces rather than competing.

European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs)



6.2 Dialogue with cocoa-producing countries

In 2022, representatives of SWISSCO visited several cocoa-growing countries and conducted intensive dialogue with local partners. The Swiss embassies and cooperation offices in the individual countries played a paramount role to conduct the political dialogue.

Mission to Côte d'Ivoire in March 2022

Christian Robin, Executive Director of SWISSCO, and the Swiss Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, Anne Lugon-Moulin visited three value chain projects co-financed by SECO (2018 - 2022) that have now come to an end (see photo). The goal was to assess the achievements and sustainability of the measures. Another aim of the visit was to explore future cooperation opportunities with a focus on the Nawa region. Previously piloted approaches to agroforestry, reforestation, pruning, child labour, and village saving & loan associations could be scaled up in a coordinated way at the regional level. To this end, the mission allowed to bring locally active platform members closer together.



Mission to Ghana in August 2022

The umbrella theme of the mission was child labour. Sophie Tüllmann, Scientific Collaborator, was able to hold numerous discussions with representatives from the EU, the government, the private sector, civil society and a farmer cooperative (see photo). The purpose was to get a deeper understanding of the roles and engagements of the different stakeholders in Ghana involved in designing and implementing child labour-related interventions. The mission allowed to identify two specific key observations: (i) the multidimensionality of poverty and how this must be considered in the designing and implementation of any measures attempting to eliminate child labour and (ii) the need to improve the interoperability between Information Management Systems to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of preventative measures as well as monitoring & remediation activities regarding child labour.



Mission to Peru in July 2022

The mission to Peru fulfilled several purposes. First of all, Christian Robin, Executive Director, held a presentation at the Latin American Cocoa and Chocolate Fair (Salón de Cacao y del Chocolate Latinoamericano). SWISSCO co-financed the Swiss stand (see photo) together with the SeCompetitive Programme of SECO. Secondly, he was able to hold numerous discussions with representatives of the government, the private sector and international cooperation. The focus was on the increased regulatory pressure from Europe on the issues of cadmium, organic production and deforestation. Finally, the trip to the interior of the country, targeting the central „cocoa axis“ from Tarapoto in the San Martín region to Pucallpa in the Ucayali region, allowed to discuss the perspectives of a sustainable sourcing landscape approach based on a closer cooperation between SWISSCO members and other local and international partners.



ISCO-Mission to Ghana in November 2022

Representatives of all five European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs) undertook a first joint mission to Ghana. In a series of meetings with local partners, the secretariats touched on areas of collaboration and complementarity between the ISCOs and producing country initiatives. The mission also allowed the ISCO secretariats to better grasp the realities on the ground during field visits and interactions with cocoa farmers. Another important part of the mission were meetings with the management team of COCOBOD (see photo) as well as the Côte d'Ivoire – Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGCI). In both meetings, the unfavourable development of low cocoa prices took centre stage.

7. ORGANISATION

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

7.1 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 all 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 SWISSCO members come together annually for the General Assembly. During the assembly, decisions are made, elections are held, and key players share their experience and inform on the latest findings on selected topics.



Filippo Veglio

Senior Expert, Social & Environmental Sustainability, UEFA

President



Monica Rubiolo

Head of Trade Promotion, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Board member Sector C: Public sector

non-voting observer



Philippe Schneuwly

CEO, Swisscontact

Board member Sector D: Non-profit organisations

newly elected at General Assembly 2022



Ingrid Fromm

Research Associate and lecturer, BFH Bern University of Applied Sciences

Board member Sector E: Research institutions



Urs Furrer

Director, CHOCOSUISSE

Board member Sector A: Manufacturers and traders



Christian Robin

Executive Director Coordination Office



Nicole Bohren

Office Manager Coordination Office



Michaela Kuhn

Scientific Collaborator Coordination Office

as of September 2022, temporary position



Robert van Raamsdonk

Commercial Director Global Cocoa, Barry Callebaut

Board member Sector A: Manufacturers and traders



Bernhard Kammer

Head of Ecology & Sustainability Labels, Federation of Migros Cooperatives

Board member Sector B: Food retailers



Bettina Wyler

Communication Officer Coordination Office

as of July 2022, temporary position



Sophie Tüllmann

Scientific Collaborator Coordination Office

7.2 SWISSCO members

SWISSCO counted 82 members at the end of 2022. The members of the platform are organised in five sectors: chocolate traders, manufacturers and importers; food retailers; the public sector (with the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO as the only member); non-profit organisations; and research institutions (see Figure 8 and 9). Each member sector represents a stakeholder group along the cocoa value chain. The associated partners are international organisations that are active in the cocoa sector.

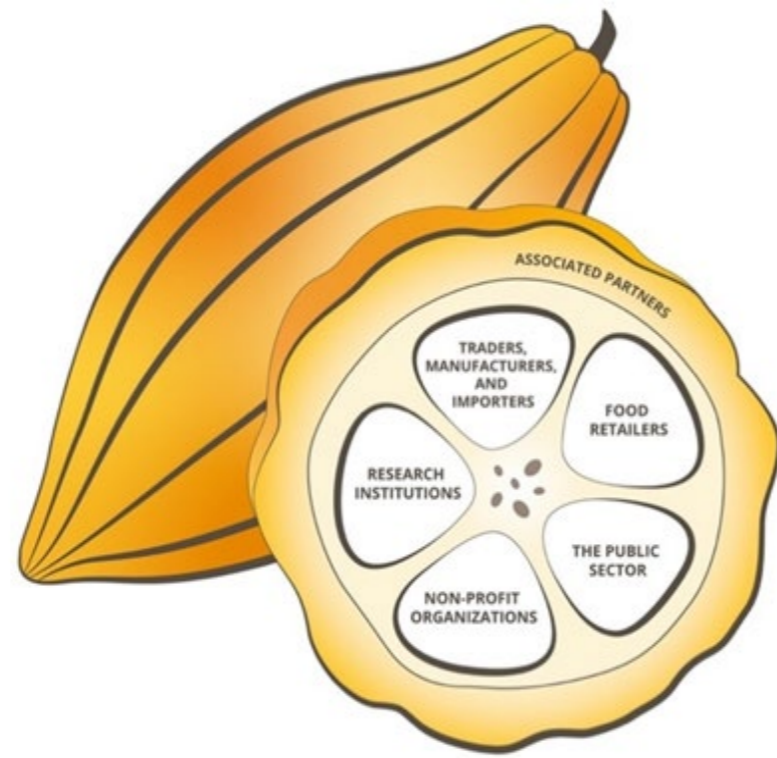


Fig. 8: The different member sectors of SWISSCO, with each sector representing a stakeholder group along the cocoa value chain.

New members in 2022

The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa welcomed 13 new members in 2022, most of them are manufacturers or traders (sector A). Four of the new 13 members – Mars, Good Chocolate Hub, Oro de Cacao and SBC – were accepted by the board in December 2022 and formally became members in January 2023, but are still listed.

The Platform now counts 82 members: 74 full members and 8 associated partners. Only full members have a voting right at the General Assembly.

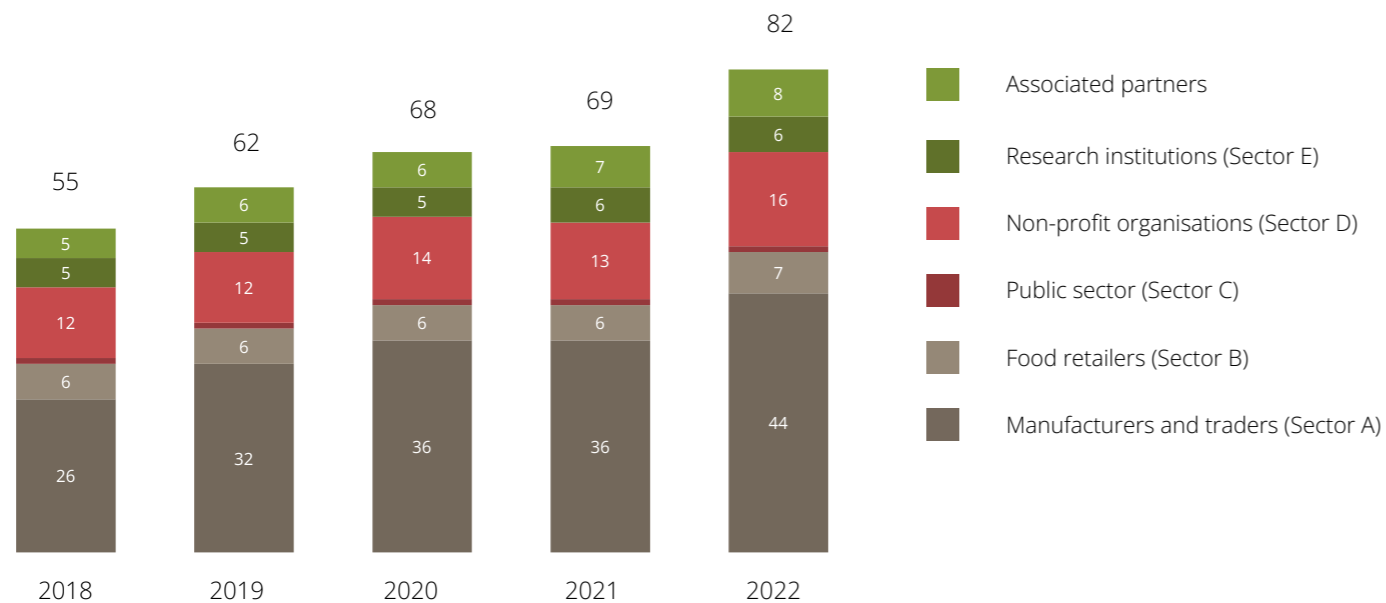


Fig. 9: Member growth and distribution of the members by member sector since SWISSCO's foundation in 2018.

Overview of all SWISSCO members

Sector A: Manufacturers and traders



Sector B: Food retailers



Sector C: Public sector



Sector D: Non-profit organisations



Sector E: Research institutions



Associated partners



“

The Platform's Roadmap 2030 is the compass guiding our collective actions. Let us keep learning and accelerate solutions to enhance the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the cocoa value chain.

”

Filippo Veglio
SWISSCO President

8. FINANCES

Notes on the finances 2022

The position «Fund SECO contribution (2018-2022)» reflects the unspent funds from previous SECO contributions and thus a liability, but will be fully disbursed in 2023.

In 2022, SWISSCO received a first instalment of CHF 1 million under the new SECO contribution agreement (2023-2026).

Balance sheet

Assets	CHF
Cash Bank EEK	1'495'335
Receivables	1'195
Prepaid expenses	-
Total assets	1'496'530

Liabilities	CHF
Payables	40'870
Other short-term liabilities	34'349
Accrued expenses and deferred income (SECO contribution 2023-2026)	1'000'000
Fund SECO contribution (2018-2022)	98'398
Current liabilities	1'173'617
Capital	302'410
Surplus of the year	20'503
Organisational capital	322'913
Total liabilities	1'496'530

Statement of operations

Income	CHF
Membership fees	249'000
SECO contribution (office, projects / peer learning network)	200'000
SECO contribution fund movements	231'426
Total income	680'426

Expenditures	CHF
Staff costs	-204'118
Expenses Board	-24'906
Project and administrative support	-66'627
Personnel expenses - office	-295'651
Working groups co-facilitation	-72'403
Monitoring, impact measurement and information sharing	-77'143
Personnel expenses - projects/peer learning network	-149'547
Office costs	35'130
Communication	-6'485
External consulting services	-
Events	-7'584
Logistics, general and travel expenses	-25'243
Other operating expenses - office	-74'442
Working groups co-facilitation	-4'592
Monitoring, impact measurement and information sharing	-31'753
Small Grant Facilities	-103'906
Other operating expenses - projects/peer learning network	-140'252
Total expenditures	-659'891
Operating result	20'535
Financial income	-
Financial expenses	-32
Surplus of the year	20'503

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Publisher

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To quote this report

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO): Annual Report 2022, www.kakaoplattform.ch/news-information/annual-reports

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) is a multi-stakeholder initiative, bringing together more than 80 members from along the global cocoa value chain: chocolate manufacturers and traders, retailers, NGOs, research institutions as well as the Swiss Government, represented by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO. Together, the members represent more than 90% of Switzerland's cocoa imports. The goal of the association is to actively improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers, to protect natural resources, and to promote biodiversity in cocoa producing countries.

Launched in 2017, the platform is financed by member fees as well as by contributions from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in its effort to strengthen public-private partnerships. This 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.

