



Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa in Ghana

Improving the sustainability of the cocoa value chain in Ghana and the livelihoods of cocoa farmers by encouraging close cooperation between stakeholders and financing innovative public-private partnerships

The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SPSC) is a joint initiative of the Swiss chocolate industry, SECO, academia and civil society to promote sustainability and resilience along the entire cocoa value chain. In the frame of its co-financing facility, the program supports in Ghana four innovative public-private partnership projects.

Rationale

Cocoa is one of the key economic sector to lift people out of poverty and to contribute to the social inclusion of marginalised segments of society. For Ghana, as a producing country, the industry generates export revenues and employment, accounting for more than 30% of export earnings over the period 1995-2014. However, due to forest degradation and deforestation linked to cocoa farm expansion, improvements must be made to increase the sustainability of the sector. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Ghana in 2017, provides the basis for such ambition. The MoU strengthens the ties between the various stakeholders (SPSC members, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ghana Cocoa Board) and acknowledges the importance of such cooperation to improve the sustainability of the sector to benefit society as a whole.

Objectives and activities

The SPSC aims to increase social, ecological and economic sustainability in the cocoa value chain in order to substantially improve the living conditions of cocoa producers and create an attractive cocoa sector for the current and future generations. Such goal falls in line with the ambitious goal set by the Swiss chocolate industry stakeholders to only source sustainable cocoa in the long-term, defining as a first milestone an 80% sustainable sourcing goal by 2025.

The program builds on the following three components:

1. **Seed support to the Swiss Cocoa platform Association:** delivering core functions by striving to cooperate and actively contributing to internationally coordinated impact studies and research efforts centred on key challenges (e.g. income of farmers, extreme climate, etc.). It aims to strengthen collaboration with existing platforms such as Ghana Cocoa Platform.

Country/region

Ghana

Executing agency

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa, Ghana Cocoa Board, Barry Callebaut, Lindt & Sprüngli, Nestlé Suisse SA and Halba

Duration

2018 - 2021

Total budget

CHF 16'600'000

SECO contribution for Ghana

CHF 3'950'000



2. **Strengthening peer learning in a pre-competitive space:** Trust-based sharing of know-how and best practices based on lessons learned in pre-competitive areas through Communities of Practice (CoPs) generating additional value to the sustainable supply chain.
3. **Leveraging Private Sector Investments:** Initiating public-private partnership and supporting innovative private sector driven projects aimed at improving the living conditions of farmers and their families in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A call for proposals was published for the third component, to which nine market players responded. Based on the set objectives and desired outcomes, four private companies were selected to carry out sustainable projects in Ghana:

- **Project Akafofo Nkoosoo (Barry Callebaut, 2019-2021):** supporting the livelihoods and financial inclusion of 3'000 Ghanaian cocoa farming households by combining rejuvenation of their cocoa farms with small-scale vegetable production to diversify incomes and increase resilience.
- **Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program (2018-2022):** aiming at creating improved farm livelihoods in 56 targeted districts in Ghana with a focus on increased net-incomes by (1) increasing farmer's productivity through sustainable intensification, (2) diversifying their household incomes, (3) building and securing their assets and (4) building a business case for service providers to ensure the delivery of appropriate products and services.
- **Project Nestlé (2019-2020):** Reducing the prevalence of child labour by strengthening the income of 2'500 vulnerable cocoa growing households using a cost-efficient, risk-based targeting and monitoring mechanism linked to the Ghanaian Government Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program.
- **Project Sankofa (Chocolats Halba, 2019-2023):** a multi-stakeholder approach on income diversification, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. More than 20'000 farmers and community members are directly or indirectly benefitting from an agroforestry system improving climate resilience and diversification of farm income.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana facilitates the consultation meeting between the SPSC and the Government of Ghana represented by the Ghana Cocoa Board.

Further information and contact details

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