

Recommendations for action sorted by Member Groups

Stand: 20.12.2021

In the following, the recommendations for action to the member groups of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa are presented, which were elaborated in the context of the sustainability discussion and prioritised according to their contribution and orientation towards GISCO's objectives. It is recommended that members align their commitment to a sustainable cocoa sector with these recommendations.

Recommendations for action to BMZ and / or BMEL	Contribution to objectives
1. (esp. BMZ:) Conducting policy dialogue with producer countries / Strengthening local structures (in particular regarding individual objectives 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9)	
- Revision of the national price setting and marketing mechanisms in the producing countries, including premium payments to farmers and implementation of a Living Income Strategy and the promotion of transparency	1
- Supply control and management of the national and regional production of cocoa	3
- Introduction of a national sustainability standard in the producing countries	3
- Development of holistic agricultural programmes to create alternatives to cocoa cultivation and counteract overproduction	3
- Development of a state-monitored traceability system for cocoa, as well as support for the implementation of the Forestry Act in the cocoa-producing countries and for the implementation of incentive systems for farmers to avoid expanding their production into forest areas	5
- Implementation of national standards in the producing countries that prevent abusive child labour in the cocoa sector	6
- Incorporating specific requirements to combat child labor into the development and implementation of the regional sustainability standard on cocoa (West Africa)	
- Political dialogue on the implementation of human rights obligations that prevent abusive child labour in the cocoa sector	
- Strengthening cocoa farmers and cooperatives in the national political dialogue and strengthening networks and local farmers' representatives (federations and associations)	
- Raise issue of child labor in government negotiations and offer support	
- Addressing child labor across sectors and countries to prevent the problem from shifting to other sectors	
- Strengthen national (and local) governments and their capacities to coordinate processes, strengthen coherence, e.g., to integrate industry-sponsored initiatives into the national system to combat child labor	9
- Support the development of a comprehensive and broad-based national system to identify risks, prevent and address child labor (e.g. CLMRS)	
- On the ground, support a long-term holistic approach to an enabling environment consisting of a "smart mix" of legislation, policies, and various implementation measures that incorporate poverty reduction, education, health, and gender equality measures	
- Strengthening cocoa farmers and cooperatives in the national political dialogue and strengthening networks and local farmers' representatives (federations and associations)	
2. (esp. BMZ:) Development of regulations and incentives (in particular regarding individual objectives 5, 6, 8, 11)	
- Joining or supporting the Cocoa & Forests Initiative	5
- Promotion of reforestation measures in cocoa-producing countries	5
- Support the EU legislative initiative on human rights due diligence in the cocoa value chain as part of a "smart mix" of measures;	6
- Formulate a guidance paper on how non-state actors can best support existing systems and policies, or "best-practice guidance" to ensure that their initiatives are additive	

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- Policy dialogue on regulatory measures - including exchanges between civil society, industry and other stakeholders in order to keep the issue on the political agenda	8
- Offering support measures for human rights and environmental issues in the private sector (e.g. NAP-Helpdesk)	8
- Creation of binding targets for public procurement of sustainable cocoa	11
- Offering support measures for the implementation of sustainability commitments in the private sector and for further development of sustainability strategies and promoting their implementation among private actors (industry, retail) and measuring their impact	All
3. (BMZ and BMEL:) Harmonisation and implementation of projects within the framework of development cooperation (in particular regarding individual objectives 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11)	
- which provide for sustainability goals, criteria and premiums for farmers and that have a holistic living income strategy (promotion of market-oriented diversification of cultivation and income via the value chain approach; support for the processing and marketing of alternative products for local and regional markets; promotion of business management training; contractually agreed premium and minimum price models)	1
- Support for the development of a service market for cocoa farming with the aim of promoting efficient, diversified, deforestation-free and market-oriented farming systems. (agricultural research, plant material, inputs, consulting & training of farmers, financing, transport, information, etc.) and improving access of cocoa farmers to services in demand, as well as strengthening cocoa cooperatives as a link between service providers and farmers and professionalising their activities	2
- Promoting a market-oriented diversification of cultivation and income via the value chain approach and promoting the processing and marketing of alternative products for local and regional markets, thus counteracting overproduction	4
- Implementation of Integrated Pest Management projects	4
- Promote community-based approaches and coordinate and integrate government, private, and civil society approaches. (This includes, for example, the creation and formalization of local focal points that can ensure an exchange and harmonized approach between different community-based institutions-for example, between economic cooperatives, the school system, traditional community leadership, government child protection, and systems promoted by NGOs/donors/private sector)	6
- Strengthen primary and secondary education systems	
- Promotion of gender equality in cocoa sector and strengthening the professionalisation of young people	7
- Strengthening of cooperatives and civil society	7
- Strengthening stakeholder participation in local decision-making processes in the cocoa sector through multi-stakeholder initiatives for greater sustainability in the cocoa sector	9
4. (BMZ a. BMEL:) Implementation of communication strategies to educate consumers (e.g. impact on the level of farmers)	11
5. Promotion of standard systems for a sustainable cocoa sector	
- Introduction of contractually agreed minimum prices and/or premiums within the framework of certification programmes that provide a living income for cocoa farmers	1
- Implementation of incentive systems for farmers not to expand their production into forest areas	5
- Promotion of standard systems that provide for traceability systems	5
- Integration of Child Monitoring and Remediation System in all certifies cooperatives	6

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Recommendations for Action to Retail (Member Group B)	Contribution to objectives
1. Harmonisation of sustainability programmes and projects <i>(in particular regarding individual objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9)</i>	
- Implementation of projects that provide sustainability goals, criteria and premiums to farmers and have a holistic living income strategy	1/6
- Support for the development of a service market for cocoa farming with the aim of promoting efficient, diversified, deforestation-free and market-oriented farming systems	2
- Promotion of market-oriented diversification of cultivation (including agroforestry systems) and income via the value chain approach and support for the processing and marketing of alternative products for local markets, thus counteracting overproduction	4
- Implementation of incentive systems for farmers not to expand their production into forest areas and promotion of reforestation measures	5
- Integration of Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems in sustainability programmes and projects	6
- Promoting gender equality in the cocoa sector and empowering of young people	7
- Strengthening of local cocoa farmers, cooperatives and civil society	9
- Strengthening stakeholder participation in local decision-making processes in the cocoa sector through multi-stakeholder initiatives towards greater sustainability in the cocoa sector	9
2. Development of direct marketing relations between cocoa farmers' cooperatives and industry, with fair long-term marketing conditions that provide for price premiums for farmers	1/6
3. Implementation of sustainability commitments to avoid deforestation and support for the Cocoa & Forests Initiative	5
4. Ensuring and controlling traceability in the supply chain	5/6
5. Implementation of human rights due diligence according to the <i>UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (UNGP's)</i> . Implementation of the 5 core principles of the OECD Guidelines, to which the Federal Government's National Action Plan for Human Rights (NAP) also refers	6/8
6. Promotion of environmentally sound cultivation - Increase focus on environmental-friendly production (e.g. organic cocoa) which refrains from the misuse of pesticides - Raise awareness and provide training on the use of pesticides, dangerous tools and other activities that fall under the category of worst forms of child labor. Evaluate the situation and develop measures to prevent the worst forms of child labor	6
7. Increasing the proportion of cocoa-containing end products that are certified according to sustainability standards or independently verified	11
8. Further development of standards regarding sustainable cocoa sector	
- Introduction of contractually agreed, guaranteed minimum prices and/or premiums within the framework of certification programmes that enable cocoa farmers to earn a living income	1
- Implementation of incentive systems for farmers not to expand their production into forest areas	5
- Promotion of standard systems that provide for traceability systems	5
- Integration of <i>Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems</i> in all certified cooperatives	6

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Recommendations for Action for Retail (Member Group C)	Contribution to objectives
1. Implementation of communication strategies to educate consumers (e.g. Impacts on the level of farmers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create awareness among consumers - Create transparency about what food retailers can and cannot provide 	6/11
2. Increasing the proportion of cocoa-containing end products that are certified according to sustainability standards or equivalently independently verified	11
3. Support for the development of direct marketing relationships (own brands), within the framework of sustainability programmes and projects between cocoa farmers' cooperatives and industry, with fair long-term marketing conditions that provide for price premiums for farmers	1
4. Consideration of sustainability commitments to avoid deforestation and support for the <i>Cocoa & Forests Initiative</i>	5
5. Ensuring traceability in the supply chain	5/6
6. Implementing of human rights due diligence according to the <i>UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights</i> (UNGP's). Implementation of the 5 core principles of the OECD Guidelines, to which the Federal Government's National Action Plan for Human Rights (NAP) also refers to	6/8
7. Promotion of environmentally sound cultivation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase focus on environmental-friendly production (e.g. organic cocoa) which refrains from the misuse of pesticides - Raise awareness and provide training on the use of pesticides, dangerous tools and other activities that fall under the category of worst forms of child labor. Evaluate the situation and develop measures to prevent the worst forms of child labor 	6
8. Harmonisation of sustainability programmes and projects (<i>in particular regarding individual objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9</i>)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of projects that provide sustainability goals, criteria and premiums to farmers and have a holistic living income strategy 	1/6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for the development of a service market for cocoa farming with the aim of promoting efficient, diversified, deforestation-free and market-oriented farming systems 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of market-oriented diversification of cultivation (including agroforestry systems) and income via the value chain approach and support for the processing and marketing of alternative products for local markets, thus counteracting overproduction 	4/6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of incentive systems for farmers not to expand their production into forest areas and promotion of reforestation measures 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration of <i>Child Labour Monitoring und Remediation</i> systems in sustainability programmes and projects 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of pilot projects that go beyond CLMRS 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting gender equality in the cocoa sector and empowering young people 	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening local cocoa farmers, cooperatives and civil society 	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening stakeholder participation in local decision-making processes in the cocoa sector through multi-stakeholder initiatives for greater sustainability in the cocoa sector 	9
8. Further development of standards regarding a sustainable cocoa sector	

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- Introduction of contractually agreed, guaranteed minimum prices and/or premiums within the framework of certification programmes and/or projects that provide a living income for cocoa farmers	1
- Implementation of incentive systems (within the framework of certification programmes) for farmers in order not to expand their production into forest areas	5
- Promotion of standards that provide for traceability systems	5
- Integration of <i>Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems</i> in all certified cooperatives	6
Recommendations for action to civil society and certification organisations (Member Group D)	Contribution to objectives
1. Strengthening the participation of farmers and their organisations in decision-making processes	9
- Strengthening cocoa farmers and cooperatives in the national political dialogue and strengthening networks and local farmers' representations (federations and associations), strengthening local civil society, differentiated strengthening and promotion of local women	
2. Improving cocoa farmers' access to requested services	2
Strengthening cocoa cooperatives as a link between service providers and farmers and professionalising their activities	
3. Implementation of campaignings to educate and mobilise consumers (e.g. on impacts at the level of farmers and on the purchase and use of cocoa-containing end products from sustainable cultivation)	6/11
- Create transparency, including on what is already being done to combat child labor	
4. Participation in political processes on sustainable cocoa in Germany	10
Discussing regulatory measures - for this purpose exchange between civil society, industry and other actors in order to keep the topic on the political agenda	
5. Raising awareness among cooperatives about the new forest law in Côte d'Ivoire and implementing projects on <i>Integrated Pest Management</i>	5/6
- Promote awareness among all actors along the supply chain	
- Raise awareness and provide training on the use of pesticides, dangerous tools and other activities that fall under the category of worst forms of child labor. Evaluate the situation and develop measures to prevent the worst forms of child labor	
6. Further development of standards regarding a sustainable cocoa sector	
- Introduction of contractually agreed, guaranteed minimum prices and/or premiums within the framework of certification programmes that enable cocoa farmers to earn a living income	1/6
- Implementation of incentive systems for farmers not to expand their production into forest areas	5
- Promotions of standards that provide for traceability systems	5
- Integration of Child Labour Monitoring und Remediation Systems in all certified cooperatives	6
- Anchor approaches in standards and integrate mandatory criteria to avoid child labor	6
- Increase transparency regarding their own approach (and clarify whether a supply chain or community-based approach is being taken)	6

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