Focus areas

Delivering on our commitment to more sustainable cocoa

At Cargill, we approach cocoa sustainability holistically, recognizing the deep interconnections of its challenges. Positioned at the heart of the global cocoa supply chain, we bridge the gap between farmers, markets, and customers through innovative solutions. This pivotal position carries both an opportunity and a responsibility to drive lasting change. Through innovation and evidence-based approaches we deploy robust methodologies and trusted technologies for bean-to-bar traceability.

In these unprecedented times, our work remains as relevant as ever. New legislation is coming into force establishing standards across the value chain. This is an opportunity to increase focus on supporting livelihoods. We continue to collaborate closely with farmers, partners, government, and customers, all with the shared goal of fostering a thriving cocoa sector that benefits both people and the planet.

Cocoa sustainability: an integral part of our global commitments

Climate

Cargill is actively reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across its global operations and supply chains. Addressing deforestation remains a top priority, as land use change from cocoa cultivation contributes to 66% of Scope 3 emissions in our cocoa and chocolate supply chain. To combat climate change, Cargill supports cocoa farmers through adaptation strategies like agroforestry, restoration, and reforestation projects.

Read more

Land & Water

Cargill promotes responsible and sustainable agricultural land and water use. We strive to advance solutions that protect our lands, conserve water, improve water access, and support farms economically so communities can succeed. Our efforts include 100% cocoa bean traceability, programs to grow more cocoa on less land, promoting agroforestry, and conservation practices. These actions help contribute to our goal of a deforestation-free supply chain and align with Cargill's science-based targets and the Paris Agreement.

Read more

People

We empower cocoa farmers and farmer organizations through technical skill-building and access to services, improving cocoa farming profitability and productivity. Our holistic approach extends beyond cocoa farming to diversify incomes and strengthen resilience. We collaborate with partners to address community needs, including healthcare, nutrition, education, child labor, and economic opportunities for women and youth.

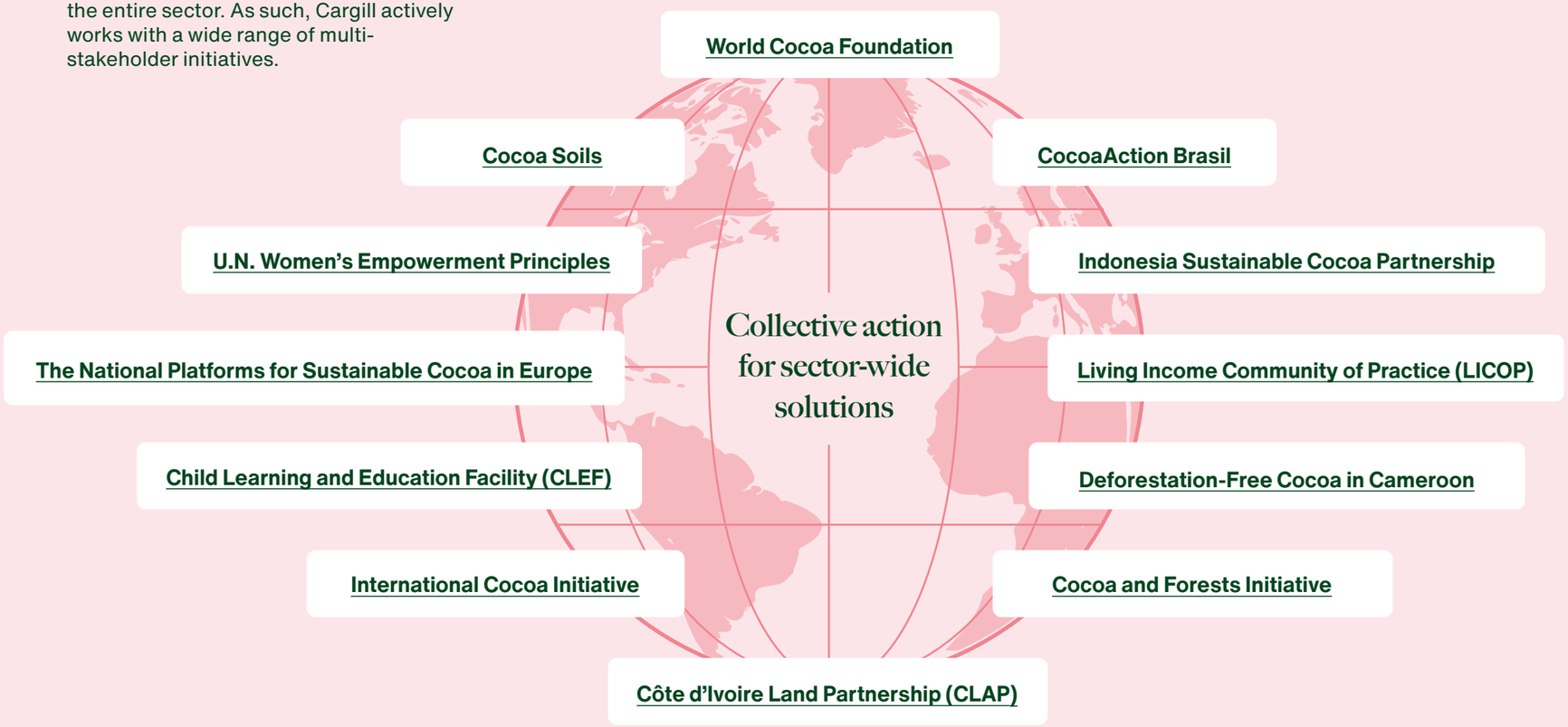
Read more

Our Promise solutions

Since 2012, the **Cargill Cocoa Promise** has been the cornerstone of our cocoa sustainability approach. Following our **Theory of Change** and **Results Framework**, we continuously monitor and evaluate our programs so we can maximize our positive impact. Our Promise Cocoa is supplied through this program.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

Sustainability challenges cannot be solved by one actor alone. They require close public-private collaboration and often a pre-competitive environment to enable the development of sector-wide solutions. Nurturing such collaborations is critical for the entire sector. As such, Cargill actively works with a wide range of multi-stakeholder initiatives.



Programs and partnerships

Climate

Climate change is having a direct and growing impact on the food system, the farmers we work with, and our industry. We are making continued progress in reducing our emissions in our operations and provide customers with insights into emission hot spots in their supply chain.

Reducing our operational footprint

To reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions within our operations, we've implemented innovative strategies that leverage cocoa bean shells from our processing facilities as a renewable resource. Cargill's cocoa processing sites in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are now using these shells as a biofuel. The shells are transformed into syngas, which is used for steam production, and biochar, which aids in carbon sequestration. In the Netherlands, cocoa shells will soon fuel a biomass boiler at Cargill's vegetable oils plant.

Cargill embarked on a partnership to introduce a fully electric pusher and four electric barges in the Netherlands, ensuring zero-emission inland cocoa bean transportation.

Moreover, ten of our factories are on track to cut around 1.3 million metric tons of CO_2 emissions over the coming decade by transitioning to renewable energy sources. Learn more in our **Climate** section.

Reducing GHG emissions across our supply chain

Looking beyond our own operations into our broader supply chain, rehabilitating landscapes has been a focus across the industry to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Partnering with customer Nestlé we have been rolling out agroforestry initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire: Together with 9.400 farmers, we will plant up to 1.36 million multi-purpose trees. The planted trees are expected to sequester an estimated 290,000 tCO_2eq by 2047. This initiative contributes to the reduction of Scope 3 emissions in the common supply chain of Nestlé and Cargill. We will partner with SustainCERT to validate the project design and methodology against the **Value Change Initiative** principles. This validation will help confirm the credibility of our approach to carbon removal monitoring over the project lifetime.

Climate

Evolving beyond cocoa

As global demand for indulgent products grows, consumers seek more sustainable options. To answer consumers' expectations, Cargill partners with **Voyage Foods**, utilizing their patented technology to create even more sustainable and delicious confectionery alternatives to chocolate and spreads with no nuts or dairy used in the recipe formulation. Cargill will exclusively distribute these products under its Indulgence Redefined range, addressing customer preferences for lower carbon footprint solutions.

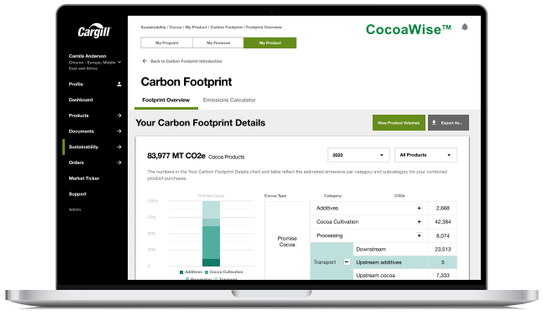
Measuring the carbon footprint of cocoa

In our efforts to increase transparency, we've assessed our GHG emissions related to our cocoa supply chain. Using recognized benchmarks and advanced deforestation assessment methods, we've calculated the footprint of our cocoa and chocolate products. While awaiting the final Land Sector and Removals Guidance from GHG Protocol, we currently rely on established best practices to quantify GHG emissions from land use change, considering deforestation events over the past 20 years. We will continue to ensure the use of cutting-edge methodologies in the coming years, as the developments in this field are fast-paced.

Cargill commissioned studies to evaluate the carbon footprint of three representative cocoa products and five representative chocolate and compound products. The carbon footprint methodology used by Cargill was validated by an external party. Our customers can now access this carbon footprint information through our CocoaWise™ digital reporting platform. The online Carbon Footprint Calculator helps customers gain insights into emissions hot spots in their supply chains and serves as a launching point for more in-depth engagements on climate solutions.

Tracking progress on our environmental outcomes is critical to ensuring we meet our ESG targets. We are building Lifecycle Analysis (LCA) capabilities in alignment with evolving, overarching environmental accounting standards to unlock deeper understanding of our impacts and help our customers make informed decisions about how they can reduce environmental impact in their supply chains.

Results have undergone technical review by an industry leading LCA consultancy. Due to evolving GHG accounting guidelines, results are in the process of being updated to reflect methodology updates.



EU Deforestation Regulation

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) prohibits placing or making available relevant products linked to deforestation on the EU market. Cargill shares the European Union's objective of combating deforestation and forest degradation linked to the production of agriculture commodities and products. The EUDR reflects many of Cargill's commitments to increasing transparency and traceability in our supply chains. When the regulation takes effect, all referenced supply chains must implement measures to ensure they are deforestation-free.

Land

Sustainable land use is a key cornerstone of our cocoa sourcing activities. Our comprehensive land strategy strives to prevent deforestation and promote forest conservation. This approach also aims to protect biodiversity, educate on soil and water protection, and reduce climate impact due to carbon release. We enhance farmer livelihoods through active collaboration with partners and communities.

Protecting forests

We have developed a robust methodology to understand where deforestation is happening and where forests remain in the landscapes that we source from. Our approach is built on geographic information systems (GIS) software tools, geospatial datasets of land cover (i.e. forests), and methodologies from the World Resources Institute's (WRI) Global Forest Watch platform. By overlaying farm maps with geospatial data, our teams can detect forest cover changes on our cocoa suppliers' farms as well as in nearby forests and protected areas. Cargill has also teamed up with Satelligence, which deploys satellite monitoring technology to detect deforestation in near-real time across Cargill's soy, palm oil, and cocoa supply chains. We follow through with rigorous on-the-ground verification in partnership with Meridia to verify accurate data. The data also tells us which farms are closest to intact forest landscapes and boundaries of protected areas, and thus present higher future deforestation risks.

Honoring our standards, every day

We engage suppliers in high-risk areas to mitigate deforestation. Cargill's corporate Code of Conduct and Supplier Code of Conduct outline ethical expectations for all parties involved in our supply chain. These codes set standards for doing business around the world, based on the company's seven **Guiding Principles**. Outside perspectives, such as Oxfam's agribusiness scorecard, show our steady and consistent progress and help us benchmark best practices and evaluate opportunities for improvement. Additionally, Cargill's cocoa and chocolate grievance process is designed to address human rights and environmental concerns within our supply chain and operations. This procedure ensures a structured, consistent, and transparent approach for resolving grievances.

92%

of farmers polygon mapped and monitored for deforestation risk in our Promise supply chain in West Africa

99%

of mapped cocoa plots in West Africa show no primary forest loss since 2014

"Through an innovative and collaborative effort, Cargill and Meridia established a rigorous field data verification protocol and launched a comprehensive training program for cooperatives. This ensures strict adherence to quality and sustainability standards while effectively mitigating field data risks by verifying field data quality for regulatory compliance. Crucially, this process supports Cargill's sophisticated internal verification system, which works to closely monitors deforestation risks within their supply chain."

Thomas Vaassen,
Co-founder & CEO
Meridia

Land

Traceability and transparency throughout the supply chain

Through CocoaWise™, our interactive digital reporting platform, we have been providing the relevant data in regard to traceability and transparency to our customers.

- 54% sustainable cocoa volumes sold[1]
- 100% of cocoa in our direct supply chain traceable to the first point of purchase
- 76.6% of farmers delivering volume through digital First Mile Traceability within the Promise supply chain

Community agroforestry enhances biodiversity

In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, we collaborate with both global and local partners such as PUR, AGROMAP, FOA S.A.R.L, Impactum, and CSIR-FORIG to integrate various agroforestry models into the communities where we source cocoa. The design supports income diversification, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. These models offer farmers a mix of native and naturalized tree species, including fruit and timber trees, tailored to local needs. We continuously work and learn with our partners to ensure our interventions are highly adaptable. Using movies and focus groups, we discuss land tenure and other issues to build trust and encourage adherence to laws.

Clean cookstoves reduce wood consumption

Our approach seeks innovative solutions that benefit both people and the planet. Traditional cookstoves in West Africa use wood, contributing to forest degradation. The clean cookstove project with PUR provides families with cookstoves that have better thermal efficiency and firepower, reducing wood consumption and pollutants. Instead of directly distributing the cookstoves, we train and hire women from the community to build them. To date, 310 cookstoves have been built, with positive feedback from the families using them.

Restoring landscapes in Brazil

In Brazil, where cocoa trees are native, we are planting cocoa trees to support restoration. Together with Algar Farming, we will restore 3,000 hectares previously used for pasture, planting 2,550 hectares of cocoa and 450 hectares of forest. This project includes agroforestry models, ecological corridors, and significant environmental and social benefits for the region.

1,370,000+
multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting

17,200+
farmers applying agroforestry

[1] This represents the percentage of cocoa and chocolate products in bean equivalent sold as sustainable via Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade, Promise Verified, or customers' own programs.

Water

Reliable access to clean water is essential. To drive climate resilience and adaptation, we need solutions that support soil health, preserve biodiversity, and protect watersheds across the food system. In our cocoa communities we help provide access to clean, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Building farmer knowledge of smart water solutions

Regenerative agricultural practices enhance cocoa cultivation by improving soil health, increasing water-holding capacity, and promoting nutrient retention. These methods not only boost productivity but also contribute to environmental sustainability and long-term farm resilience. We build knowledge and understanding of these practices through our farm training and coaching programs. All our farmers in our direct supply chain are trained on chemicals management, water management, and conservation, as well as wastewater management to protect water resources and improve farm methods.

Enabling access to safe drinking water and sanitation

In partnership with the Global Water Challenge, the **Cargill Currents program** has benefited more than 95,800 people with improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and enhanced water security. In water-scarce communities, addressing water security and providing proper access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) provides multiple benefits. For example, for women and girls improved water access frees up time for education, work, and income generation. The program has already reached more than 33,000 women.

100%

of farmers in our Promise network receive training on sustainable agriculture and environmental management

27

water facilities and boreholes established in West Africa, giving access to clean and potable water

95,800

people benefited from improved WASH access