Sustainably sourced cocoa beans – the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program
To keep our promise concerning sustainability regarding cocoa beans* – our most important ingredient – we have established the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program together with local partners. Over 60,000 cocoa farmers already participate in our Program.

The Program enables us to trace cocoa beans back to their origin and support farmers and their communities based on their specific needs. It empowers farmers to manage their farms in accordance with sound agricultural, social, ecological, and economic practices. The engagement enables farmers to increase their yields and incomes, shows them how land for agriculture can be safeguarded in the long-term, and fosters access to farming equipment and infrastructure.

*Projects to source traceable and sustainable cocoa butter started in 2016.

For more information see our Sustainability Report:

What it’s all about

Start of the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program in Ghana, with a focus on traceability and community development

Lindt Cocoa Foundation is established

Start of the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program in Madagascar

Start of the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program in Papua New Guinea

Our goal: 100% of our cocoa beans are sourced through the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program (traceable & externally verified)

Extension of the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program to cover the four elements of the Program, including external verification

Start of the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program in Ecuador

Cocoa bean supply chain from Ghana is fully traceable and verified

Start of the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program in the Dominican Republic

Our goal: 100% of our cocoa beans are sourced through the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program (traceable & externally verified)
Meet three farmers in our Program

Adwoa Agyeiwah, Ghana, Goaso
Adwoa Agyeiwah grows cocoa on 2.5 hectares. She is a single mother of three children. “The Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program helped me to improve my productivity and to earn more. Moreover, I learned to grow other crops in addition to cocoa. With this extra income I sent my daughter to the boarding school house and paid my son’s basic school examination certificate registration.”

Narson Genarcice, Madagascar, Anjiabory
Narson Genarcice grows cocoa on 2 hectares. He joined the Program in 2015. “I will get cocoa seedlings, which I can plant in my fields. That allows me to enhance my earnings, since there are parts of my fields that are not yet productive enough.”

Guido Monserrate, Ecuador, Código OV
Guido Monserrate joined the Program in 2015. “The training in the production of organic fertilizer, herbicides, and insecticides with material from our own farms was especially useful. I could save money, and the use of organic fertilizer or pesticides is better for our health and the environment.”
Farmers in the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program are trained in good agricultural, social, environmental, and business practices. Practical training, in which the farmers see the success themselves, has proven its worth. Through the Program, demonstration plots are established in partnership with certain farmers and used during training.
Traceability and farmer organization
To have a positive impact on local circumstances, we have to know where our cocoa beans come from. Therefore, our Program starts with the following steps:

1. Register farmers and organize them in groups for Program implementation

2. Gather baseline data about farms (incl. GPS coordinates), farmers, and communities to assess their needs

3. Establish a traceability system of cocoa beans from the cocoa farms up to our factory doors

Training and knowledge transfer
Through theoretical and practical training and coaching, farmers are able to professionalize the following practices:

1. Agricultural practices
   Farmers learn everything from planting and maintenance to harvesting, fermentation, and drying of cocoa beans

2. Environmental practices
   Training includes information about biodiversity and the protection of the environment (e.g., how to make and use organic fertilizer)

3. Social practices
   Farmers are sensitized in health, labor safety, and labor standards (e.g., child labor)

4. Business practices
   Farmers learn how to manage their farms as a business and how to diversify their income sources
Farming Program

3. Farmer investments and community development
To support farmers in professionalizing their farms, and to support the communities in their development, the Program provides, for example:

- Distribution of more productive and more disease-resistant cocoa seedlings, as well as shade trees
- Access to farming equipment (e.g., rubber boots, pruning tools or fertilizer)
- Construction of water systems and boreholes for clean drinking water
- Primary school refurbishment to reduce the risk of child labor

4. Verification and continuous progress
To assure the effectiveness of the different activities, a structured evaluation of the Program takes place – internally and externally:

- Internal monitoring by field staff based on yearly visits to all farmers in the Program
- Annual external assessment through “The Forest Trust” (TFT), including visits to each Program
- Identification, discussion, and implementation of corrective actions based on data gathered and recommendations
The Program supports the farmers and their communities in line with their needs: the communities benefit, for example, from boreholes for clean drinking water. Investments are also made in new cocoa plants or cocoa seedlings, plant protection products and pruning tools, etc. This enables farmers to work more efficiently and improve their harvests.
The Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program aims at decent and resilient livelihoods of today's and future cocoa farmers and their families, and a sustainable intensification of agriculture. This shall be achieved through:

- Higher productivity of farms
- Diversified incomes and increased resilience of farmers
- Conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems
- Reduction of the risk of child labor
- Improved community infrastructure

Farmers & communities benefit from:

- Trainings in good agricultural practices
- More productive and more disease-resistant cocoa seedlings
- Farming equipment to run farms more effectively
- Income diversification
- Community and infrastructure investment

For more information please visit www.farming-program.com