



CHALLENGE

Climate change poses serious challenges to agricultural supply chains, with extreme temperatures and erratic rainfall disrupting growing seasons, reducing yields, and increasing risks such as pests and diseases. These disruptions threaten the stability of global supply networks, particularly those that depend on smallholder farmers in the Global South. Many of these farmers face heightened vulnerabilities due to limited access to resources, infrastructure, and climate adaptation strategies. At the same time, unsustainable agricultural supply chains contribute significantly to climate change: approximately 25 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions originate from farming and food production, often linked to deforestation, soil degradation, and inefficient resource use.

Introducing sustainable practices

Recognising these risks, global companies reliant on agricultural commodities are increasingly investing in climate resilience and sustainability to secure their supply chains. These supply networks sustain millions of farmers, their families, and communities, making cross-sector collaboration—from production to retail—essential for long-term economic and environmental stability. Transparent, sustainable sourcing practices, deforestation-free supply chains, and climate-smart agriculture are key strategies to mitigate risks and build resilience.

At the international level, the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aims to limit global warming to 1.5–2°C above pre-industrial levels through emission reductions and carbon sequestration. It also emphasises improving countries' adaptation to climate impacts and enhancing resilience. These objectives align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are supported by national climate targets (NDCs) and regular progress reporting. Companies share a responsibility to integrate human and environmental rights protections into their sourcing policies, driving the transformation towards sustainable supply chains.

I4C fosters beneficial solutions

The Initiative for Climate-Smart Supply Chains (I4C) connects corporate sustainability goals with partner countries' climate targets (NDCs). By funding collaborative projects, I4C fosters mutually beneficial solutions that enhance climate resilience, protect the environment, and ensure sustainable agricultural supply chains—all while improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

OUR WORK



- Capacity building and training about climate-smart agriculture
- Training of Trainers (so-called change makers)
- Agroforestry
- agroecological production
- access to markets
- increase income, e.g. through organic certification, higher quality and productivity
- focus on gender equity
- encouraging participation of young people



PROJECT DETAILS



Climate smart and fair coffee value chains in Ethiopia

Consortium: Moyee, MAAS, Tega & Tula, Exchange Trading, DAIH

Commodity: Coffee | **Country:** Ethiopia

Target group: 11,000 smallholder farmers

GIZ funding: approx. 1,780,000 Euro

Private sector contribution: 1,780,000 Euro

Duration: 12/2022 to 05/2026



Low carbon agriculture for smallholder cocoa farmers in Ecuador

Consortium: Olam Ecuador S.A., Rikolto International

Commodity: Cocoa | **Country:** Ecuador

Target group: 2,800 smallholder farmers

GIZ funding: approx. 1,500,000 Euro

Private sector contribution: 1,500,000 Euro

Duration: 04/2024 to 03/2027



Cotton in agroecological intercropping in Brazil

Consortium: Diaconia, VEJA Fair Trade

Commodity: Cotton | **Country:** Brazil

Target group: 2,000 smallholder farmers

GIZ funding: approx. 460,000 Euro

Private sector contribution: 640,000 Euro

Duration: 09/2023 to 01/2026



aGROWforests for sustainable spices in Indonesia

Consortium: Verstegen, PT CAN, Fairfood

Commodity: Pepper | **Country:** Indonesia

Target group: 2,300 smallholder farmers

GIZ funding: approx. 1,530,000 Euro

Private sector contribution: 1,530,000 Euro

Duration: 12/2022 to 05/2026



„In the past, when I saw weeds, they made me feel uncomfortable. But now I take it easy. Even if the weeds are tall, my heart is still calm.“ **UMAR, PEPPER FARMER**

„The aGROWforests project aims to increase pepper production and income while at the same time adapting the agricultural system to climate change.“ **YAYANG VIONITA, AGRONOMIST AT VERSTEGEN**



More information

Find out more about the Initiative for Climate Smart Supply Chains and get in touch!



The Initiative for Climate Smart Supply Chains is part of the Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative (SASI). <https://www.sustainable-supply-chains.org>



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Registered offices
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Contact
Florian Reil
T +49 228 44 60-0
F +49 228 44 60-17 66
E florian.reil@giz.de
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