

Foreword

The Cocoa Sustainability Curriculum is a collective document, developed with the participation of stakeholders from the entire cocoa chain during 2021: federal government and state governments, sectoral entities, representatives of producers, cooperatives, technical assistance and rural extension services, industries, institutes and associations, certification standards, among other relevant actors.

The Curriculum is based on several existing materials, such as the Manual of Good Practices (CEPLAC), Integrated Production (Embrapa), as well as codes, standards and corporate programs specific to entities and partners of the CocoaAction Brasil initiative.

This document aims to be a sustainability reference for cocoa growers, technicians and institutions seeking continuous improvement of production, with the goal of reducing the negative impacts arising from the activity. It will not be, nor intends to be a certification system, but rather a source of good agricultural practices and farm management, focusing on sustainable actions.

The Cocoa Sustainability Curriculum is divided in three thematic areas -Crop Management, Environmental Management and Social Management - and includes two subcategories (Fundamental and Priority Practices). Its objective and relevant content does not define "how" to do things, but rather "what"



to do in order to achieve a more prosperous and sustainable cocoa farming. The themes addressed in this document will be further explored and the definitions of "how" to comply with these and other practices will be developed collectively, to become a manual of good practices in the near future.

The cocoa grower who adopts the practices of the Curriculum and performs well in this process will tend to be more sustainable. Those that effectively incorporate sustainable practices into their production system have the opportunity to reach better financial results as well, since the efficient management of resources saves inputs, improves productivity and the quality of the cocoa beans, and enables the control of production costs. In addition, the embracing of sustainable practices leads to improvements related to the use of natural resources (such as soil, water, etc.), thus reducing the impacts generated by production.

The Cocoa Sustainability Curriculum will also serve as a reference and starting point in terms of preparation for farms that choose to obtain certification in the future, and seek new markets.

It is important to note that among the principles for implementing the Sustainability Curriculum one should always consider the existing legislation relevant to each theme, including compliance, mitigation of discriminatory practices, adjustments of the work place and a better organization of the property. In this way, the biggest beneficiary of the adoption of sustainable practices will be the grower himself/herself.

Finally, this document aims to accelerate the process of adoption of baseline sustainability by small growers, who are the majority in the context of Brazilian cocoa production.

Entities Participating in Curriculum Development



1 CROP MANAGEMENT

Crop Management

CLASSES	FUNDAMENTAL PRACTICES	PRIORITY PRACTICES
1.1. Farm Management		1.1.1. Farm must identify the use of areas by means of: CAR (Rural Environmental Registry)/equivalent document or sketch of the total area (basic blueprint, aerial or satellite photo) discriminating the cocoa production areas, permanent preservation areas ("APP"), legal reserve areas ("RL") and water streams.
	///////////////////////////////////////	1.1.2. Keep records of operations, products, varieties, planting density, handling practices used in the entire production area, with dates and name of the executing person, whenever needed.
1.2. Propagative Material		1.2.1. Use suitable productive potential material which was technically recommended, of known origin, taking into consideration the edaphoclimatic specificities of the region where it will be used and its productive potential.
1.3. Plant Density	///////////////////////////////////////	1.3.1. Adequate plant density (n° of plants/hectare) of cocoa in production areas, when planting new areas and in renovation areas, in order to ensure productivity with economic viability.
1.4. Soil Conservation and Suitability		1.4.1. Adopt soil conservation techniques during planting and handling of cocoa, considering edaphic suitability.
1.5. Location of the Cocoa Crop	1.5.1. Do not illegally grow cocoa in Conservation Units of Integral Protection, on public land, indigenous land or quilombola land.	
1.6. Soil Fertility Evaluation	///////////////////////////////////////	1.6.1. Establish a soil nutrition and correction plan, according to technical recommendation based on periodic soil analyses.

Crop Management

CLASSES	FUNDAMENTAL PRACTICES	PRIORITY PRACTICES
1.7. Irrigation Needs		1.7.1. Develop technical project for the implementation of irrigation and conduct a handling plan according to technical recommendation. Request a grant or grant waiver according to legislation in effect (applicable in irrigated farms).
1.8. Agrochemical Application	1.8.1. Do not handle and/or apply agrochemicals without personal protective equipment (PPE).	
	1.8.2. Do not use commercial substances (chemical, biologic or organic) to control pests and diseases without approval from Brazil's MAPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply)/ANVISA (National Health Surveillance Agency).	
	///////////////////////////////////////	1.8.3. Use only agrochemicals referred by agronomical prescription and implement strategies for rotation of active principles, respecting dosages suggested by labels, grace periods and reentry intervals in areas.
1.9. Pruning and Light Management	///////////////////////////////////////	1.9.1. Implement pruning practices according to technical recommendation, considering light optimization, nutrition, plant health, focusing on productivity and operational efficiency.





Environmental Management

CLASSES	FUNDAMENTAL PRACTICES	PRIORITY PRACTICES
2.1. Environmental Planning	2.1.1. Deforestation of primary and/or secondary forest degradation (since 2008) degradation should not take place, unless allowed by environmental government permits, when available.	
	///////////////////////////////////////	2.1.2. Adequately dispose of residues, whenever possible, promoting recycling and composting, and avoid burning of residues.
	2.1.3. Do not use illegal firewood.	///////////////////////////////////////
		2.1.4. Identify degraded areas within the farm/property (not limited to production areas) and execute a plan to recover them. Protect and preserve permanent preservation areas ("APP") and legal reserve areas ("RL"), complying with criteria of the current legislation.
	///////////////////////////////////////	2.1.5. Do not release polluting effluents, including domestic sewage, directly into water streams; search for ways of correctly disposing them.
2.2. Handling of Agrochemicals		2.2.1. Have a suitable place to conduct triple washing (or pressure washing in sprayers) of empty agrochemical containers. Store them adequately (isolated, safe and identified room/storage unit) after being washed and perforated, until their correct return.
	///////////////////////////////////////	2.2.2. Have a suitable place for handling agrochemicals and mixtures of spray solutions for application.
	///////////////////////////////////////	2.2.3. Do not use agrochemical containers for any other end/purpose.

Environmental Management

CLASSES	FUNDAMENTAL PRACTICES	PRIORITY PRACTICES
2.3. Storage of Agrochemicals	///////////////////////////////////////	2.3.1. Keep agrochemicals in suitable storage conditions, in closed and ventilated rooms (of restricted access), with clear identification of hazards and risks, in accordance to current legislation.
	///////////////////////////////////////	2.3.2. Places where agrochemicals are stored must have a leakage containment system and respect the recommended distances from streams, houses and roads.
2.4. Storage of Fertilizers		2.4.1. Store fertilizers in a safe way (according to the legislation), preventing environmental contamination.
2.5. Expired Products & Return of Empty Packages		2.5.1. Keep expired products separated from the rest, in a safe place until time of return; correctly return empty containers of agrochemicals, whenever there are chances of doing so. Keep the returning receipts/ documentation on file.

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3 SOCIAL MANAGEMENT

Social Management

CLASSES	FUNDAMENTAL PRACTICES	PRIORITY PRACTICES
3.1. Labor Legislation	3.1.1. Forced labor, analogous-to- slave labor and illegal child labor are forbiden. In regard to the last case, consider the foreseen specificities of family farming.	
	///////////////////////////////////////	3.1.2. Register and pay workers according to the legislation in effect. In the case of partnerships/sharecropping, a contract should be in place.
3.2. Working Hours		3.2.1. Do not exceed the work hours stablished by legislation, or the maximum limit of overtime by workers/ employees; respect the rest period within the working day, according to CLT and NR-31 regulation. Consider the foreseen specificities of family farming.
3.3. Prevention of Accidents	///////////////////////////////////////	3.3.1. Identify higher risk activities for workers, and consider training for specific and dangerous duties. Adopt measures to mitigate accidents and insalubrity of closed quarters.
3.4. Workers' Health	///////////////////////////////////////	3.4.1. Submit workers to annual health check-ups, according to legislation in effect. Consider the foreseen specificities of family farming.
3.5. Housing and Availability of Potable Water	///////////////////////////////////////	3.5.1. Provide suitable housing for workers residing on the premises (farm).
		3.5.2. Provide potable water for workers that is stored in a clean place, free from contamination and of easy access, in order to secure the individual consumption of water, including working fronts.
3.6. Use of PPE	///////////////////////////////////////	3.6.1. Workers/employees that handle agrochemicals must have suitable locations to change clothing, to wash and store specific PPE (personal protective equipment). PPE must be in good wearable conditions, and the application of agrochemicals must be conducted by workers using PPE.

DEC/2021