

AMSTERDAM SUSTAINABLE COCOA CONFERENCE

THURSDAY 6TH & FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2025

BEURS VAN BERLAGE, AMSTERDAM



**We're not just talking about sustainability
We're leading the change**

INTRODUCTION

AMSTERDAM SUSTAINABLE CONFERENCE 2025

Chocoa 2025: Amsterdam Sustainable Cocoa Conference Program

Dates: February 6-7, 2025

Are we ready for a new era for the cocoa and chocolate industry?

The Amsterdam Sustainable Cocoa Conference 2025 at Chocoa brings together global leaders of the cocoa and chocolate industry, authorities of main cocoa producing and chocolate consuming countries, representatives of cocoa farmers, NGOs, innovative service providers and the research community. As independent platform we aim to bring latest evidence, nuance and inspiration to our professional audience, guiding the sector into a new era. We have scheduled several interactive panel discussions, featuring expert speakers from different countries of origin, representing different stakeholders and perceptions.

The first days of this year's Conference will focus more on sector-wide developments and structural challenges and responses of global industry, while the second day puts cocoa producers at the heart of the discussion. Visitors of the Conference can also benefit from two late-afternoon sessions organized as part of the Chocolate Makers' Forum on Chocolate Tourism and Cocoa Quality. All visitors of the Conference have free access to the Tradefair from Wednesday the 5th of February onwards and can access all public side sessions.

Join us for two days of learning, networking, and inspiration!

Day 1: Thursday 6th February 2025

Time	Session	Title
	Opening	Opening Day 1: Welcome to the Amsterdam Sustainable Cocoa Conference 2025
09:30 – 11:00	1 – Panel	Are we ready for a new era in cocoa?
11:00 – 12:45	2 – Panel	Let's hear it from retail!
12:45 – 13:45		Lunch Break
13:45 – 15:15	3 – Panel	Are companies ready to take joint action?

Day 2: Friday 7th February 2025

Time	Session	Title
09:00 - 09:30	Opening	Opening Day 2: Recap farmers day
09:30 – 11:00	4 – Panel	Why should we care more for invisible farmers and workers in the cocoa supply chain?
11:30 - 12:45	5 – Panel	What's new in Carbon finance?
12:45 – 13:45		Lunch Break
13:45 – 15:15	6 – Panel	Future proof cocoa and chocolate.



DAY 1: Thursday 6th February

AMSTERDAM SUSTAINABLE CONFERENCE 2025

Location: Effectenbeurszaal, Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam

09:00 Opening session Day 1: Welcome to the Amsterdam Sustainable Cocoa Conference

09:30 Session 1: Are we ready for a new era?

The combination of a sharp rise in world market cocoa prices and a sharp decline in cocoa production has caught the industry off guard. How come this was not foreseen? And, more importantly, what does the outlook look like for the upcoming cocoa season? In this opening session of the Amsterdam Cocoa Sustainability Conference, we take stock of the latest insights and predictions on cocoa prices and cocoa production. In addition to discussing the impact of these global trends, we open the floor to an honest debate on how governments, industry and NGOs (must) take responsibility for creating stability and resilient cocoa.

Topics

- Tackling major supply risks, such as CSVDD/Galamsey
- Revisiting pathways to increase cocoa production
- Regenerative cocoa and income diversification
- Market segmentation: push for superior cocoa

11:00 Session 2: Let's hear it from retail!

Retailers are usually not in the spotlight when sustainable sourcing is being debated, this while they are well positioned to influence sustainable sourcing practices and sustainable chocolate production. Not only do they determine the assortment of chocolates, but they also sell private label chocolates. Increasingly, retailers showcase their private label chocolate as fair and sustainable chocolates. In this session we will hear from retail how they take responsibility and what are challenges.

Topics

- Sustainable procurement
- Alliances
- Influencing consumer behavior

13:45 Session 3: Are companies ready to take joint action?

The realization that individual company projects do not have the desired result in the countries of origin is not new. The global consensus seems that reducing structural challenges requires collaboration between different stakeholders, including farmers, NGOs, companies and governments. But how do we shape joint action in a highly competitive market? What is the appetite for landscape approaches and joint action, and what stands in its way?

Topics

- Landscape approaches in Cameroon and Nigeria
- Income diversification & women empowerment
- New coalitions to meet global commitments



DAY 2: Friday 7th February

AMSTERDAM SUSTAINABLE CONFERENCE 2025

Location: Effectenbeurszaal, Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam

09:00 Opening Session Day 2: Recap Farmers' Day (TBC)

It is the first time that a Farmers' Day will be organized during the Amsterdam Cocoa Week. In the opening session on the second day of the conference we will give cocoa producers the stage to share key takeaways from the Farmers' Day. Their representatives will take a seat in the different panel discussions.

09:30 Session 4: Why should we care more for invisible farmers and workers in the cocoa supply chain?

Too little is known about the majority of cocoa farmers and workers. This while mitigating negative impacts on human rights in companies' supply chains does not stop at the level of registered farmers. Recent estimates suggest that around 50% of cocoa is sourced from companies' indirect supply chain. In this session we aim to understand more about these underrepresented groups and create a sense of urgency on why and how we cannot close our eyes for this more hidden part of the population.

Topics

- Farmers and workers in cocoa's indirect supply chain
- Wage mapping and fair compensation for work
- How to act upon EU legislation on forced labour?

11:30 Session 5: What's new in Carbon Finance?

In this session we will bring in the latest developments in carbon finance relevant for the cocoa industry and farmers. This session aims to highlight actionable strategies and collaborative efforts that are making carbon finance a viable and profitable option for cocoa farmers, ensuring a sustainable future for the industry.

Topics

- Innovations in carbon finance
- Making carbon finance work for farmers
- Future outlook

13:45 Session 6: Future proof cocoa and chocolate

In this forward-looking session, we discuss disruptive developments aimed at creating a more resilient and sustainable cocoa industry. As climate change, market volatility, and social issues threaten cocoa production, this session will explore innovative strategies that ensure a risk-free future for cocoa and chocolate. This session aims to equip participants with insights and strategies for navigating the future of cocoa and chocolate, ensuring that producers can thrive in a changing landscape while meeting global demands for sustainability and ethical sourcing.

Topics

- Cacao cell cultivation
- Artificial Intelligence in Cocoa
- Technologies for measuring and anticipating on climate impact
- Getting ready for EU Legislation

