Cocoa in figures

- **Where does cocoa grow?** **Africa** produces **68%** of the world's cocoa, South America 18%, and Asia 12%.
- **Cocoa champions**: **Ivory Coast** is the world's largest producer with **42%** of the market, followed by Ghana (12%), Indonesia (11%), Ecuador (7%), Brazil and Cameroon (5% each).
- **How much land** is needed to grow cocoa? More than **12 million hectares** are dedicated to cocoa, four times the size of Belgium!
- **Belgium, a key player in cocoa**:
  - It is one of the **5 largest importers** of cocoa beans, with 326,000 tonnes imported in 2023.
  - It is also the **second largest exporter** of cocoa products in the world, just behind Germany, with a value of **$4 billion** in 2023.
- **Who grows cocoa?** More than **80%** of the world's cocoa comes from **small family farms** of 1 to 5 hectares.

What is **UNI FOR CHANGE?**

UNI for Change is a dynamic that starts on campus and aims to **massively bring together** communities committed to taking positive action regarding the social and environmental transition.

Looking for **concrete action**?

Join us on the UNI for Change app and take part in the challenges of your choice, with lots of rewards up for grabs!

Register here!

www.uniforchange.com

Sustainable cocoa

The **bitter** taste of chocolate: cocoa's **hidden impact** on our planet

Cocoa and its impact on the environment

Deforestation

ODD 15

Its cultivation has a very real impact on **tropical forests**.

In Ivory Coast, for example, the forest area has gone **from 16 million hectares to less than 2 million** in just 60 years!

Limited agricultural model

ODD 1, 2, 3, 8

Cocoa **monoculture** is reaching its **limits**:

- Increasingly less fertile soils and declining pollination of cocoa trees
- Resurgence of diseases, parasites and viruses
- Very low resilience to climate change
- Producers increasingly dependent on fluctuating cocoa prices

Threat to the environment

ODD 13, 15

Since the 1990s, cocoa production has **barely improved in efficiency: to produce more, intact forests are being cut down**. Fewer forests also mean:

- Loss of biodiversity
- Less absorption of CO_2
- Loss of ecological services in tropical forests

Discover agroforestry and eco-responsible alternatives

A **compromise** must be found. In the shade, cocoa trees produce fewer pods, while in the sun, yields decline after 20 years. Too many trees can encourage fungi, but too much sun is conducive to myrids. It is imperative to encourage sustainable alternatives to preserve nature without sacrificing producers' livelihoods.

Respectful alternatives

chocolaterie Galler indépendante

&COCOA CACAO DE FORÊT

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE PEOPLE & NATURE

FAIRTRADE MAX HAVELAAR

Sustainable Development Goals concerned: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Climate Change, Life on Land.

Agroforestry: a sustainable solution for cocoa

Agroforestry, that is to say the **association of trees with cocoa plantations**, makes it possible to reconcile production over the long term while considering environmental, social and economic issues.

The benefits of agroforestry

Sustainable and profitable production: Agroforestry plantations remain productive for more than 50 years, compared to 20 to 30 years for monocultures. Income diversification: In addition to cocoa, producers can sell fruit, timber, or medicinal plants.

Better soil and plant health: The shade of the trees protects cocoa trees from drought and reduces evapotranspiration.

Fewer diseases and pests: slows the spread of parasites, which ravage crops.

A refuge for biodiversity and a climate asset:
The presence of trees allows many animal species to move between forests and plantations. Trees absorb and store CO_2, thus contributing to the fight against climate change.

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