



# Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative (INA)

A platform of stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and politics

## Background

More than 400 million people live from the cultivation of agricultural commodities such as coffee, cocoa, bananas, palm oil or cotton. It is often smallholders growing these commodities. These farmers can thus be viewed as those people who are securing the sustainable supply of food to the world's population. Yet they often cannot provide for themselves or their own families. Poverty, abusive child labour, environmental problems and outdated farming methods remain major challenges in the cultivation of agricultural commodities.

*“We need a different approach to supply chains. They always start with a person who has to make a living from his or her work.”*

Dr Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development



## Cross-commodity commitment

In recent years, various sector-specific Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MAPs) have been established to make agricultural supply chains more sustainable. Many companies are members of the relevant MAP platforms and go beyond that by investing in their own sustainability programs.

Certification through voluntary sustainability standards also makes an important contribution to the development of sustainable agricultural supply chains. Nevertheless, actions still need to be taken to address low wages and incomes as well as deforestation; these can only be addressed for the long-term through cooperation across sectors.

## Working together for more sustainability in global agricultural supply chains

The Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative (INA) brings together more than 70 stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and politics. A common approach taken by all stakeholders, INA sees these players working across their respective supply chains.

Together, they want to improve the living conditions of smallholders and establish greater sustainability in global agricultural supply chains through holistic approaches.

INA concentrates especially on the protection of remaining natural resources as well as living income and living wage.



## INA is service provider and implementation platform. INA's cross-cutting issues:

KNOWLEDGE HUB

DIGITALISATION

LOCAL ALLIANCES

### Living Income

Most of the smallholder families at the beginning of every supply chain cannot live from their work. Because of unfair trade practices such as low commodity prices and short-term contracts, they are not able to cover the costs of an appropriate standard of living. The families need a living income to invest in good nutrition, education and their businesses. The amount of income needed to comprise a living income can vary depending on country and region.

The chart below shows the gap between the actual income and the living income of a typical cocoa-producing family of seven in Ivory Coast. These calculations are important and useful as an orientation for developing sustainable trade practices.



Private sector, civil society and political actors within INA are working on a common strategy to close the income gap. Therefore, the cross-commodity approach is essential as the income of the smallholder families is based on different income sources. Throughout pilot projects, INA stakeholders review how they can concentrate their commitment in a way that is conducive to securing a living income for smallholders.

Moreover, INA serves as an information platform. The stakeholders find the right conditions to work together with like-minded people on cross-cutting issues. The initiative also examines digital solutions to support producers and increase transparency in the supply chain.

### Become active in INA

The Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative (INA) is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and coordinated by a team from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The initiative works without formal membership and is always open to interested stakeholders who wish to engage in joint activities across commodities. Please do not hesitate to contact: [ina@giz.de](mailto:ina@giz.de).

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) promotes the Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative as a multi-actor partnership, thus contributing to the sustainable development goals – in particular the following:



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Contact [RL121@bmz.bund.de](mailto:RL121@bmz.bund.de)  
[www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)

On behalf of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn

Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative (INA)

E-Mail: [ina@giz.de](mailto:ina@giz.de)  
[www.sustainable-supply-chains.org](http://www.sustainable-supply-chains.org)

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