

The background of the slide is a collage of cocoa-related images. In the top left, there are broken pieces of a dark chocolate bar. In the top right, a whole dark chocolate bar is visible. In the bottom left, there is a pile of fine, light brown cocoa powder next to a wooden spoon. In the bottom right, there are several cocoa beans of various shades of brown and orange, some with their husks still on.

Sainsbury's

Our Policy on Cocoa

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Our Scope

At Sainsbury's we seek to build resilient supply chains by sourcing products ethically and sustainably.

This document details our position and sourcing requirements for all goods for retail suppliers across all product areas own-brand and licensed products where cocoa is an ingredient within a product.

The following products are in scope of this document:

- **All Sainsbury's own brand products containing any type of cocoa based ingredient (including cocoa powder, cocoa liquor, cocoa mass, cocoa butter, cocoa beans, cocoa nibs)**

This sustainable sourcing policy should be read alongside the **Responsible Sourcing Manual**, the [Policy on Ethical Sourcing](#) and the **Corporate Food Labelling Guidelines**.

The policy statements outlined in this document are in addition to all applicable legislation. Sainsbury's suppliers must ensure they meet all requirements laid down in law at the point of manufacture and where the products are finally sold to the customer.

Whilst this policy is intended to help suppliers provide products suitable for Sainsbury's own-brand, they do not absolve suppliers of their responsibility to understand and comply with all the quality, legal and safety requirements for their products.



SECTION ONE

Our Position

At Sainsbury's, we are committed to respecting human rights and the environment across our value chain. We have a passion for delivering to our customers not only great products, but great products that are produced to the highest ethical, quality and sustainability standards.

Cocoa is one of our main raw materials that goes into a variety of products that our customers love. However, research shows that cocoa farms and farmers are decreasing annually due to various sustainability threats they face. Apart from challenges in achieving a decent livelihood, cocoa farms are high risk for forced labour, worst forms of child labour, unsanitary housing, poor working conditions and long working hours.

In addition, globally forests constitute the largest and most significant ecosystems and are a key resource for local communities. Yet, despite their importance, there continues to be significant depletion of forests year on year. 70% of illegal deforestation in West Africa is linked to cocoa farming. Cocoa is also highly vulnerable to climate change, multiplying the impacts to other risks.

Through our [Plan for Better](#) commitments, we are committed to sourcing Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) forest-risk commodities by 2025, including cocoa. Certification of cocoa enables us to mitigate against environmental and human rights issues. Traceability information ensures our cocoa products are sourced from deforestation and conversion free land.

SECTION TWO

Statements of intent

- 100% of our own-brand and owned-brand products will be sourced to an independent sustainability standard by end 2024
- 100% of our own-brand and owned-brand products will be traceable to origin by end 2024



Photo courtesy of Rainforest Alliance

Our Approach

Through certification and traceability data we can monitor progress work towards our Plan For Better commitments. The below requirements in each section must be met to mitigate the associated risks:

General requirements	
1.	- Cocoa derived ingredients must be sourced to either of the below sustainability standards: - Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard (latest version) - Preferred RA certification systems are Identity Preserved (IP) & Mixed IP, followed by Segregated, as these options provide a level of traceability. Mass Balance is only permitted if traceable options are not yet available. - Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa (latest version) – Mass Balance is only permitted if traceable options are not yet available. - Barry Callebaut's Cocoa Horizons Standard (latest version) – Segregated is required. Mass Balance is only permitted if traceable options are not yet available. - For Rainforest Alliance certification, the premium cost (including the sustainability differential & sustainability investment) for cocoa has a minimum price for the sustainability differential and is negotiable. - Any proposed additions or alternatives to the sustainability standard used must be discussed with the category and CR&S colleagues before committing to a transition. Additionally, any associated sustainability claims or additional communications must be discussed with the category and CR&S colleagues. - Full chain of custody documentation is required, meaning that cocoa must be proven to be from sustainable sources, also importantly, the Sainsbury's supplier must have a valid Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance chain of custody certification. - All downstream suppliers must adhere to the data uploads and disclosure within the criteria of required information by the certification provider.
Traceability requirements	
2.	Suppliers must submit traceability information as requested via Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance on an annual basis.
Protection of forests and other natural ecosystems*	
3.	- We encourage suppliers to make a commitment to eliminating deforestation and conversion (across their operations, supply chains and financial investments) by the end of 2025. - We encourage the use of agroforestry systems, we know that trees are good for the planet and we'd be supportive of growers planting the right tree in the right place - Cocoa must not be harvested illegally in contravention of legislation in the country of harvest - Only cocoa grown on land converted prior to 2020 will be accepted, unless preceded by existing standards or legislation - There must be no deforestation of High Conservation Value (HCV) forests - Before any activity that may affect indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, land, resources, territories, livelihoods, and food security, their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) must be secured
Respect for human rights	
4.	- Suppliers shall have appropriate human rights due diligence processes and procedures in place to adequately identify and address human rights risks in the supply chain. - Suppliers shall also ensure that the supply chain complies with all requirements in the responsible sourcing manual and Sainsbury's policy on ethical sourcing.

*Based on definitions agreed by the [Accountability Framework Initiative \(AFI\)](#). Requirements 4-6 are included within the Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade standards.

SECTION FOUR

Roles and Responsibilities

Suppliers:

- All suppliers will provide goods that meet the corporate policy
- All suppliers will provide information to Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance as requested to enable them to carry out assessments on our cocoa supply chains

Sainsbury's:

- Sainsbury's technical teams are accountable for keeping internal sourcing information up to date and for following labelling guidelines for the use of logos on pack.
- The CR&S team is responsible for completing verification with Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance
- Sainsbury's category team and CR&S will define the appropriate SD/SI levels in case of Rainforest Alliance certification.

Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance:

- Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance will validate sustainability claims on our cocoa supply chains



Photos courtesy of Rainforest Alliance

SECTION FIVE

Governance

This policy has been agreed by the Food Technical Governance Group and will be reviewed annually by the Head of Environment, or as required. All changes will be communicated to our supply partners.

Definitions

Where relevant, our definitions align with [Accountability Framework Initiative \(Afi\)](#)

- **Deforestation:** The loss of natural forest as a result of (i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; (ii) conversion to a plantation; or (iii) severe or sustained degradation.
- **Conversion:** Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in the natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function
- **Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF):** a volume of commodity produced on land that was not subject to conversion or deforestation past a defined cut-off date.
- **Identity Preserved** - A traceability option in which it is possible to identify the certified ingredient or product back to a single farm or farm group.
- **Segregated** - the full product content is certified, although it can come from different certified sources/farms, including other countries of origin.
- **Mass balance** - an administrative traceability level that allows a certificate holder to claim a product which is not certified as certified when the equivalent quantity was sourced as certified.

Supporting documentation

(accessible via Evolve)

- Responsible Sourcing Manual
- [Policy on Ethical Sourcing](#)
- Corporate Food Labelling Guidelines



Photos courtesy of Rainforest Alliance

Sainsbury's

Our Policy on Cocoa

The information in this document may be supported by other Sainsbury's Documents.
The information outlined in this document is in addition to all applicable UK and EU legislation.

Sainsbury's suppliers must ensure they meet all legal and regulatory requirements both at the point of manufacture and where the products are sold to the consumer. Whilst this document is intended to help you supply products suitable for the Sainsbury's brand (i.e. all brands owned by Sainsbury's), they do not absolve you of your responsibility to understand and comply with all the quality, legal and safety requirements for your products or the products you supply.

For the purpose of this document Sainsbury's means Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited and Argos Limited only. Sainsbury's Argos is the trading name of both:

- 1) Argos Limited, Registered office: 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA. Registered number: 01081551
- 2) Sainsbury's Supermarket Limited, Registered office: 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA. Registered number: 03261722

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PL005 – V2	Sustainability Manager	Updated to reflect change in head office location	June 2025