

Deforestation-free Sourcing Policy



A productive and resilient food system requires healthy and (bio)diverse ecosystems. Tradin Organic is a global company in the organic food industry and with that, takes responsibility of its impact on the natural environment. We believe in a responsible and transparent way of doing business and that this is crucial for a stable, long-term, and sustainable access to our ingredients.

This **Deforestation-free Sourcing Policy** outlines the measures in place to protect forests and biodiversity throughout our own sourcing projects and supply chains. This Policy is also incorporated into our **Supplier Code of Conduct** (SCoC), which is mandatory to sign for all Tradin Organic suppliers. These documents are part of our overall **Due Diligence System**, which also includes a **grievance mechanism** (read more on our [website](#)).

OUR COMMITMENT

Tradin Organic wants to **prevent deforestation and degradation of forest** in our own sourcing activities, as well as when sourcing through local partners. We use the [FAO definition of forests](#) (lands of more than 0.5 hectares, with a tree canopy cover of more than 10 percent, which are not primarily under agricultural or urban land use) in this policy. We maintain a latest cut-off date of 31 December 2020 to align with the [EU Deforestation Regulation](#), meaning we focus on validating no deforestation took place in all of our sourcing area after that date. When an origin holds Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance certification, the cut-off dates maintained are 31 December 2018, and 1 January 2014, respectively.

We also believe that **regenerative organic farming, such as agroforestry systems**, has the potential to **stop deforestation and spark reforestation**. By establishing regenerative agroforestry systems, farmers can improve the fertility and yield of their fields. This will help eliminate the incentive to clear new plots of land. In addition to that, agroforestry systems introduce a variety of new crops, including shade trees with economic benefits such as fruit- and timber trees. This promotes biodiversity while enabling the farmers to diversify their income, and boost their food security. Moreover, a well-established regenerative agroforestry system has the potential to sequester carbon and help combat climate change.

OUR APPROACH

Tradin Organic employs an extensive international team of locally stationed field scouts and agronomists who work directly with farmers and processors. This local presence has enabled us to build several successful sourcing projects and strong partnerships that provide us with a steady and secure supply of a wide range of organic ingredients. Tradin Organic's sourcing, quality, and commercial teams aim to jointly ensure organic and ethical integrity, along with the highest traceability of our products. We want to guarantee that all products that we source, supply and produce are free from negative impacts, and work together with our sourcing communities and suppliers to do so.

There is **no globally recognized deforestation-free certification program** available yet, although some standards include limited coverage of deforestation prevention (B). We therefore collect geodata of the fields growing risk (A) products in our portfolio, so we can perform **verification** to the best possible extent:

- **Tradin sourcing projects** and **suppliers** of high-risk ingredients (A) will be required to fill out our (digital) [Deforestation-free Sourcing Questionnaire](#). The key components of this questionnaire are providing geolocations of all fields involved in the production (best available, ideally GPS polygons), and detailing mechanisms in place to prevent deforestation.
- The information provided is reviewed by the Sustainability Team, using sources like [Global Forest Watch \(Pro\)](#), and either determined to qualify as a sufficient self-declaration or trigger follow-up action, such as an audit by a trained Tradin Organic staff member.
- We welcome any third-party certification or audit report (B) that covers deforestation prevention, but only as support of the information provided by the supplier in the Questionnaire.
- In case we cannot verify a sufficient level of transparency and assurance of compliance by a supplier, and the supplier is not willing to engage in an improvement plan, **the consequences will include ceasing the business relation**.

We commit to **publicly report** progress on the verified share of our supply chain on an annual basis. Where required for compliancy, data and information will be shared with clients and/or government institutions.

A: Classification of risk

To define ingredients with heightened risk, Tradin Organic aligns with legislation, including laws in development. The current version of this policy is directed by Dutch and EU regulation and includes the following product groups relevant for Tradin Organic:

- Cocoa
- Coffee
- Soy
- Palm oil

B: Recognized standards

There is no globally recognized deforestation-free certification program available yet. Some standards do include limited coverage of deforestation prevention. The current version of this policy acknowledges the following programs, as supportive documentation in our mandatory questionnaire:

- Rainforest Alliance
- Fairtrade Cocoa Standard and Fairtrade Coffee Standard
- KRAV Extra Requirements for Areas with High Conservation Value (HVC)
- Any other check by a recognized third-party of geolocations combined with forest- and land change data, that confirms no deforestation or degradation of forest has taken place at the origin.

For questions and comments, please contact us at sustainability@tradinorganic.com