

Knowing how bad agrochemical practices can harm both people and the environment, we are fully committed to work closely with our suppliers to improve practices in our cocoa supply chain. We also recognize that it is not easy to completely move out of agrochemical use, especially in sourcing countries where the cocoa sector face a lot of pests and diseases.

This is why we have developed a framework that aims at ensuring safe use of agrochemicals, while promoting good agricultural practices and organic alternatives that will ultimately help reduce the use of agrochemicals and improve soil health. The following principles serve as a framework for our cocoa suppliers:

1. Only use authorized list of agrochemicals
  - Authorized by [applicable law](#)
  - Eliminate the use of active ingredients class Ia and Ib according to WHO classification
  - Only use agrochemicals sold by authorized vendors, in original and sealed packaging
2. Safe use of agrochemicals
  - Unless fully equipped and trained to handle agrochemicals, use the services of specialised labour groups available at the community level
  - No children under 18, no pregnant and lactating women involved in applying agrochemicals
  - Apply restricted entry intervals – use flags or signs to identify treated fields and prevent access, and inform community members
  - Install buffer zones – set up strips of at least 10m of natural vegetation along rivers
  - Safe storage of agrochemical containers
3. Promote use of organic alternatives
  - Use on-farm composting of organic soil matter and cocoa pod shells (natural fertilisation)
  - Limit usage of agrochemicals to the strict minimum (based on exact farm information) and as last resort
4. Maintain cocoa tree health and reduce the risk of pests and diseases
  - Ensure adequate irrigation
  - Conduct pruning to increase air flow in the canopy and decrease humidity
  - Ensure adequate spacing (approximately 3m) between cocoa trees when planting
  - Optimise growing conditions by ensuring trees are in partial shade through planting of shade trees
  - Harvest cocoa beans at the appropriate time
  - Check and monitor cocoa trees to identify signs of pest and disease
  - Remove and replace old and diseased cocoa trees
  - Enhance biodiversity through agroforestry – mix of shade trees, fruit trees and other useful trees based on the particular farms' needs