



# ValueLinks NEWSLETTER December 2022

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Dear Reader,

In the last two years, we have moved almost seamlessly from the global COVID 19 pandemic to the effects of the war in Ukraine. In terms of value chains, this has led to sudden changes in product supply and market demand, never-before-seen difficulties in transportation systems and drastic changes in marketing circuits. Some VCs have adapted and recovered, others are operating under new conditions. Economies have also suffered under these changes, especially in less developed countries and in rural areas. These changes are also felt in our projects and training programs for the promotion of value chains. New but also very often long(er) no-seen issues emerge, such as the relevance of food security.

When looking at the future, the challenges for *ValueLinks* practitioners go on: Governments and consumers are increasingly expressing the imperative need to take full responsibility for social, environmental and economic issues related to production, transformation and markets of products (and services). New requirements for the operation of VC's are being set up and new business model will emerge.

VC promotion continues being challenging. *ValueLinks* has also to update and adapt to the changing environment. In this sense, we invite all our members to keep documenting their thoughts as well as their experiences with the development of VCs and allow us to include them in our newsletter. We will be happy to share your contribution!

Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy the reading of this 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the *ValueLinks* Newsletter and have some happy and restful holidays!

*Andreas Springer-Heinze, Sonia Lehmann, Alfons Eiligmann, Lars Dürkop*

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[www.valuelinks.org](http://www.valuelinks.org)



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## 1. VALUELINKS TRAINING SEMINARS

### ValueLinks Seminars July – December 2022

Place/Date	Seminar/Participants	Trainers
July 14 to 15, 2022 Cebu City, <b>Philippines</b>	Training on the value chain approach using <i>Valuelinks</i> with 51 lending officers of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Visayas Region. Face to face and virtual training using MS Teams.	Rita I. Pilarca
July 28 to 29, 2022 Davao City, <b>Philippin.</b>	Training on the value chain approach using <i>Valuelinks</i> for DBP Lending Officers of Southern Mindanao.	Rita I. Pilarca
Aug 31, Sept 2, 2022 Online event <b>Philippines</b>	Training on the value chain approach using <i>Valuelinks</i> for DBP Lending Officers of Northern and Central Luzon Regions (via Zoom).	Rita I. Pilarca
September 12-23 <b>Online event</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in English, spread over two weeks and organized by GIZ-AIZ. The seminar was fully booked. 15 participants from Thailand, Malawi, Ethiopia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Zambia and Colombia attended the training.	Fernando Camargo, Alfons Eiligmann
October 3-10 Jacqueville (Abidjan), <b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in French organized by IDC and Promak-Afric, followed by a 3-day Training-of-Trainers seminar. 20 participants attended the first course, 9 participants attended the ToT course and constitute a new nucleus group of <i>ValueLinks</i> trainers in Côte d'Ivoire.	Magès Nanguï, Alfons Eiligmann
October 17-28 <b>Online event</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in French, spread over two weeks and organized by GIZ-AIZ. The seminar was fully booked. 15 participants from Germany, Tunisia, Cameroon, Senegal and Burkina Faso attended the training.	Moufida Houimli, Alfons Eiligmann
Oct 19& 21, 2022 Online event, <b>Philipp.</b>	Training on the value chain approach for DBP Lending Officers of Southern Luzon Region (via Zoom) based on <i>Valuelinks</i> .	Rita I. Pilarca
November 7-11 Nouakchott, <b>Mauritania</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in French with 17 participants organized by the GIZ project Co-Management des Ressources Naturelles Terrestres (CoRNT).	Imane Chafchaoui Alfons Eiligmann
November 14-23 <b>Online event</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in English, spread over two weeks, organized by GIZ-AIZ. The seminar was fully booked. 15 participants from Yemen, Lebanon, India, Congo DR, Uganda, Rwanda, Germany, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa.	Fernando Camargo, Alfons Eiligmann
Nov 28- Dec 5 Can Tho, <b>Vietnam</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in English with simultaneous translation in Vietnamese, followed by a 3-day Training-of-Trainers seminar organised by GIZ's Green Innovation Center in Vietnam. 24 persons attended the first course, 15 persons attended the ToT. As an additional result, a full set of <i>ValueLinks</i> training material is available in Vietnamese language.	Fernando Camargo, Alfons Eiligmann



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December 12-16 Jacqueville (Abidjan), <b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in French organized by IDC and Promak-Afric in form of a physical presence seminar with 19 participants from Côte d'Ivoire.	Magès Nanguï, Alfons Eiligmann
December 12-16, Kathmandu, <b>Nepal</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar organized by the project Green Resilient and Productive Agricultural Ecosystems (GRAPE). 20 participants attended the training.	Ralf Arning

## Upcoming *ValueLinks* seminars 2023

<i>Date/Place</i>	<i>Seminar/Participants</i>	<i>Contact</i>
January 9-13 Yaoundé, <b>Cameroun</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in French organized by IDC and ECOTRADING. The seminar is planned as a physical presence seminar targeting participants in Cameroon. The seminar is open for enrolment, participation fees are applied. For further information see <a href="http://www.idc-aachen.de">www.idc-aachen.de</a> .	<a href="mailto:training@idc-aachen.de">training@idc-aachen.de</a>
January 16-20, Yaoundé, <b>Cameroun</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in French organized by the Project Forêt et Environnement (ProFE) exclusively for project staff only.	
January 23-27 Adama, <b>Ethiopia</b>	5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in English organized by IDC and Green Agro Solution (GAS)/Lersha. The seminar is planned as a physical presence seminar targeting participants in Ethiopia. The seminar is open for enrolment, participation fees are applied. For further information see <a href="http://www.idc-aachen.de">www.idc-aachen.de</a> .	<a href="mailto:training@idc-aachen.de">training@idc-aachen.de</a>
June 19-29 and October 9-18 <b>Online events</b>	Two 5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in English, spread over two weeks, are planned by GIZ-AIZ in 2023. The seminars will probably be announced early in 2023 and will be open for enrolment. Participation fees are applied. For further information please follow: <a href="https://learning.giz.de/pub/Weitere-Angebote/folder/Sonstiges">https://learning.giz.de/pub/Weitere-Angebote/folder/Sonstiges</a> .	<a href="mailto:kundenportal-aiz@giz.de">kundenportal-aiz@giz.de</a> or <a href="mailto:info@valuelinks.org">info@valuelinks.org</a>
June 5-14 and November 6-15 <b>Online events</b>	Two 5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in French, spread over two weeks, are planned by GIZ-AIZ in 2023. The seminars will probably be announced early in 2023 and will be open for enrolment. Participation fees are applied. For further information please follow: <a href="https://learning.giz.de/pub/Weitere-Angebote/folder/Sonstiges">https://learning.giz.de/pub/Weitere-Angebote/folder/Sonstiges</a> .	<a href="mailto:kundenportal-aiz@giz.de">kundenportal-aiz@giz.de</a> or <a href="mailto:info@valuelinks.org">info@valuelinks.org</a>
June 2023 <b>Online event</b>	A 5-day <i>ValueLinks</i> Introductory Training seminar in Spanish, spread over two weeks, is planned by GIZ-AIZ in 2023. The seminar will probably be announced early in 2023 and will be open for enrolment. Participation fees are applied. For further information please follow: <a href="https://learning.giz.de/pub/Weitere-Angebote/folder/Sonstiges">https://learning.giz.de/pub/Weitere-Angebote/folder/Sonstiges</a> .	<a href="mailto:kundenportal-aiz@giz.de">kundenportal-aiz@giz.de</a> or <a href="mailto:info@valuelinks.org">info@valuelinks.org</a>



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## Some impressions from *ValueLinks* trainings in Côte d'Ivoire



In October and December 2022, the Coordination of the agricultural projects of GIZ in Côte d'Ivoire organized participations in two *ValueLinks* trainings for their staff and partners. About 50 participants learned on the different modules of the methodology and exercised their learnings on products and value chains they are already working on with in their projects. Some of the value chains worked upon were cocoa, hévéa, manioc and maize. The trainings will help identifying collaboration opportunities as well as joint approaches across the GIZ projects. Information submitted by Sonia Lehmann ([sonia.lehmann@giz.de](mailto:sonia.lehmann@giz.de)) and Magnus Schmid.

## 2. EVENTS, STUDIES, EXPERIENCE AND INFORMATION

### ***ValueLinks* Lounge on climate change adaptation and mitigation**

As part of an ongoing GIZ initiative to develop specific *ValueLinks* training material for VC analysis with a focus on climate change adaptation/mitigation and specific solutions for climate change adaptation/mitigation, the *ValueLinks* Association organized an informal online exchange on these topics among *ValueLinks* experts on Tuesday, August 16 using our *ValueLinks* lounge format at the wonder.me platform. The two experts Fernando Camargo and Alfons Eiligmann presented a first outline of the updated *ValueLinks* training material for environmental analysis and specific climate change-related VC promotion solutions and discussed to what extent the draft material met with the expectations of other *ValueLinks* members.

Since August, the material has been developed further in different coordination meetings with GIZ and has been tested in several pilot training sessions, e.g. in Vietnam and Nepal. As a result, final versions of the material will be ready in January 2023 and will be uploaded to the *ValueLinks* website. *ValueLinks* Association members will be informed when the material will be available on the website.



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## The Food System concept : “Transformation of the global food system”: Contributions of the ValueLinks methodology

### The Food System concept

“Food Systems Transformation” has become a key term in the international development debate. Most prominently, the term figured in the title of the “UN Food System Summit” (UNFSS) held in New York, in September 2021.

The agenda of the UNFSS constitutes a framework for development agencies (as one group of many actors involved) for many years to come. It directly refers to the “Sustainable Development Goals” of the UN. All 17 SDGs are addressed. The agenda is highly important for the community of value chain developers. Everyone working in this field is asked to relate to the concept and agenda.

As it stands, the ValueLinks methodology fits in very well with the UN definition of food systems. The scientific background document for the UNFSS states:

“Food systems embrace the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal (loss or waste) of food products that originate from agriculture (incl. livestock), forestry, fisheries, and food industries, and the broader economic, societal, and natural environments in which they are embedded.” (UNFSS Scientific Group Reader, p.30, the document can be found at [www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/documentation](http://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/documentation))

Moving to the normative concept of a *sustainable* food system, FAO offers the following definition:

“A sustainable food system is one that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generation is not compromised. This means that it is profitable throughout, ensuring economic sustainability, it has broad-based benefits for society, securing social sustainability, and that it has a positive or neutral impact on the natural resource environment, safeguarding the sustainability of the environment.” ([www.fao.org/food-systems/en/](http://www.fao.org/food-systems/en/)).

As can be readily seen, this is an all-encompassing concept. It covers every aspect of food value chains including the consumption of food. In fact, the agenda places a strong emphasis on nutrition – the diversity of food available and healthy diets. The transformation of the global food system is put into the context of climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity, and poverty. One of many topics addressed is food waste.

### **How can the current food system be transformed into a sustainable food system?**



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The main question is *how* these goals shall be achieved, i.e., how stakeholder all over the world can bring about the desired large-scale transformation. The UNFSS did not come up with a unified programme strategy, but defined five “Action Tracks” structuring the search for prototype solutions:

[1 – Ensure Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All](#), [2 – Shift to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns](#), [3 – Boost Nature-Positive Food Production at Scale](#), [4 – Advance Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution](#), [5 – Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses](#)

The “Action Tracks” allow for a wide range of different policies, programs, and projects. Any contribution to the goals is welcome.

## **The contribution of the *ValueLinks* methodology to the food system transformation agenda**

The *ValueLinks* methodology fits into the agenda as it shares the baseline of sustainable development, the SDGs. The tools reflect the concern for the economic, ecological, and social pillars of sustainability. What can *ValueLinks* offer?

First, we should remind ourselves, that ***ValueLinks* is a methodology**, not a type of project. Therefore, its tools can be useful for a variety of programs, and different topics in the agenda. The contribution of *ValueLinks* is tools for analysis, decision-making and the design of solutions.

Two methods stick out that can make an important contribution to put the ideas into practice:

One is the fact, that *ValueLinks* pursues a systems-oriented approach to development. According to the definition, “food system” refers to all kinds of food products, worldwide, including all actors that are involved in one way or another in producing and consuming food. *ValueLinks* visualizes subsystems of the larger food system - the value chains. Thus, it helps to substantiate the actors and their relations, elaborating the food system in very concrete terms. We do so via the tools contained in module 2 of *ValueLinks*: VC mapping and, building on a baseline map of the VC, economic, environmental, and social analyses. Once particular food products come into view, analysing their value chain is indispensable. For example, *ValueLinks* tools could be used to understand the structure of fruit and vegetable VCs, and clarify bottlenecks to marketing and consumption. Similarly, we have the tools to connect value chain development with the protection of ecosystem services.

As is well known, *ValueLinks* does not favour any specific strategies and solutions but aims at facilitating the search for them. The second major contribution of *ValueLinks* is its tools for facilitating a process to create consensus among VC actors (module 4). Engaging the stakeholders is key for any transformative action. Formats include round tables, cooperatives, local partnerships, stakeholder fora, PPP, and others. The need to engage in collaborative action is confirmed by the Summary and Statement of Action of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the UN Food Systems Summit:



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“Transformative action demands the engagement and close participation of the people who drive our food systems, such as farmers, herders, food workers, and fisher folk. In addition to governments, the business community — from Small and Medium Enterprises to Multinational Corporations — has an important role to play through responsible business practices and innovative solutions to make food systems more sustainable, resilient, and equitable, while adapting their practices to ensure all people can access a nutritious and healthy diet.”  
[www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/news/making-food-systems-work-people-planet-and-prosperity](http://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/news/making-food-systems-work-people-planet-and-prosperity)

Summing up, we can say that *ValueLinks* offers a series of tools as well as lots of experience to address many of the issues included in the UNFSS debate.

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## Adaptation of value chains to global warming

The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the [United Nations](http://www.un.org) (UN) [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](http://www.ipcc.ch) (IPCC) has three parts. The second is the report of Working Group II on “Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability”. The report was published in February 2022 ([www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2)). It presents many cases from agriculture and land use. Interestingly, the report clearly focuses on adaptation to global warming. The reason is that many people, especially in poorer countries, are already severely affected. They have no choice but to find ways to cope.

The report is divided into two categories, "sectors" and "regions" (the continents). Several "sectors" relate directly or indirectly to the food system which occupies by far the largest space. The IPCC has evaluated proven adaptation strategies for agriculture. These include the diversification of income sources, improved varieties, community management of water and ecosystems, shifting of cropping zones, and different kinds of technical improvements along the chain.

The report is of utmost significance for the *ValueLinks* community. The first task is to carefully review the value chains that receive support from projects. We can distinguish three types of value chain situations and, correspondingly, three paths of adaptation. The logic is as follows:

### (1) Value chains that should be given up

Some value chains are not adaptable in their locations and therefore cannot survive. An example, in the case of watermelons from the middle Draa Valley in Morocco (Zagora Province). Watermelons only thrive with intensive irrigation - in a region that is becoming increasingly dry. The local population is protesting loudly against the excessive water consumption of agriculture. Giving up that



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branch of production is better than increasing water efficiency, which would mean maladaptation. The actual adaptation is for people to look for alternative sources of income.

## **(2) Adapting VC processes**

After weeding out the unsalvageable sectors, we are left with chains that will continue but need to adapt. The most obvious form of adaptation is resilient, more efficient production methods. The path of agricultural development is continued minimizing resource input. A good example is the rice value chain SE Asian countries: Salt-tolerant rice varieties. Greater salt tolerance of rice plants is a response to increasing salinity in lowlands, a consequence of drought and rising sea levels. This adaptation pathway continues the previous of VC development of rice, responding to the pressure of climate risks.

## **(3) Creating entirely new agro-based value chains**

The third adaptation pathway is the development of completely new ways of producing organic raw materials, turning them into food, fibers, or biodegradable plastics. Processes that require no soil and little water are of particular interest. This strategy amounts to a partial decoupling of production from soil and water. Examples are vertical farming, in-door food production, semi-open production systems such as fish farming, algae cultivation in tanks, propagation of insects. Such forms of production are easier to control as climate conditions become unreliable. A special case is “carbon capture and storage” (CCS) as a service product (the service consists in a certificate sold to clients who pay, e.g., for reforestation).

So far, the emphasis has been on the second adaptation pathway. Key objectives include the continued utilization of land affected by climate change and improved water efficiency. Energy efficiency counts as adaptation as well, especially now, in times of rising energy prices. Saving energy serves the purpose of CC mitigation at the same time.

How can VC development support adaptation? Basically, this is an issue of technological upgrading comparable to any other – a well-known subject in VCD. The difference is time lags. Investing into water management comes to late when the drought has already occurred. Thus, we must make provisions for *future* scarcity. A new type of VC development activity thus is raising awareness. *ValueLinks* should include a “climate resilience analysis” tool to be offered in stakeholder meetings. It should follow a three-step procedure: identification of climate risks, estimating their severity and identifying the vulnerability of actors and VC processes, followed by proposals to enhance resilience. This procedure is used by the IPCC in its report of 2022. The tool should offer a qualitative approach. Straightforward, simple assessments raise awareness allowing for quick action. As the environmental “hot spot analysis”, the tool should help setting priorities. The innovation is specific to each case, anyway.

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### **Modelling cocoa income, living income reference price, living income differential and viable farm size in South-East Côte d'Ivoire**

In 2022 PRO-PLANTEURS undertook a socio-economic study with the objective **to achieve a better understanding of the economic attractiveness of cocoa production in terms of costs and returns of cocoa farmers** participating in the PRO-PLANTEURS project activities in Abengourou, Aboisso and Agboville regions in South-East Côte d'Ivoire.

In a first step important secondary data and PRO-PLANTEURS primary data were analysed. These comprised of the KIT-survey (Bymolt et al., 2018) among 1,485 cocoa smallholder households Côte in d'Ivoire, recall period 2015/16, the PRO-PLANTEURS Endline survey among 657 households, recall period 2019/20, and the Typology survey among 62 households, recall period 2020/21. Fairly robust results were achieved, especially on all cost and return items that involved cash transactions. However, the monetarization of activities not involving cash, e.g. the physical number (in workdays) and the monetary value of unpaid household/family labour in cocoa cultivation or unpaid work by mutual self-help groups was less solid. For these less solid data categories informed "guesstimates" and extrapolations were made.

In a second step, data were organized in a way to present costs and returns along a gross margin table/cocoa budget for three model scenarios with cocoa producers grouped in low (255 kg cocoa/ha), medium (476 kg/ha) and high performers (758 kg/ha). Knowing how much an average cocoa family needed as a living income per year it was possible to further calculate how much the labour force of the household must earn per labour unit in order to reach this amount. It also allowed the calculation of a farm gate living income reference price for cocoa and other important parameters.

The most important results were as follows. The **actual farmgate price was 1.52 EUR per kg/cocoa** for the 2020/21 season. The **farm gate living income reference prices** for the three performance levels were: **2,16; 1,72; and 1,59 EUR per kg/cocoa for low, medium and high performers**. This shows on the one hand that in none of the scenarios a living income prices was reached, although the gap between the actual price of 1.52 EUR/kg is near to the high performing level of a farm gate living income reference price of 1.59 EUR/kg. It demonstrates further that technology level, competence and skills of cocoa are important. The higher the competence and skills, the better the performance and the lower the living income reference price. Likewise, also a **Living Income Differential (LID)** (the monetary amount to close the gap between a living income reference price and the actual price per 1 ton of cocoa) was calculated. The LID was 631.40; 194.20; and 62.10 EUR/ton cocoa or 699.80; 215.20 and 68.80 USD/ton cocoa for low, medium and high performing cocoa farmers. The amount of 400 USD/ton required by the LID set by Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana is situated therefore between the scenario of low and medium performing farmers in our model.



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Our data set also allowed us to calculate a “**viable farm size**”. We defined a viable farm size as a farm that only grows cocoa, employs all its available household labour (without child labour), assumes an even demand for cocoa labour throughout the year and does not require external household labour. Assuming, first, that the model household has a total annual labour capacity of 651,8 workdays per year, and assuming, secondly, that the labour input for cocoa cultivation is 75; 100 and 125 workdays/ha for low, medium and high performing farmers, **one arrives at a viable farm size of 8.7; 6.5 and 5.2 ha per household**. This shows that the high performing household model needs less land to employ all its labour.

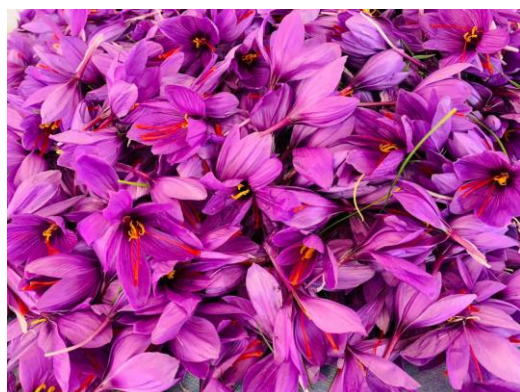
We are aware that despite making a dedicated effort to arrive at fairly robust data, well-informed assumptions and good calculations, the “average” or “medium” situation of cocoa farming is more complex. There are further important nuances, e.g., important differences between men and women headed households, which were not discussed here or in the publication. However, in the full paper we were able to present a plausible and transparent way how to arrive at farm gate living income reference prices and living income differentials.

The full paper of 70 pages in English and French has been saved into the *ValueLinks* folder system under **ValueLinks'** membership area (04-Member Upload > 07 Living Income Resources > 05 Study\_Cost and Returns in Cocoa Production PRO-PLANTEURS\_2022.pdf) and can also be downloaded under:

[Study Cost and Returns in Cocoa Production PRO-PLANTEURS 2022.pdf \(kakaoforum.de\)](#)

By: Dr. Eberhard Krain (consultant), [eberhard.krain@gmx.de](mailto:eberhard.krain@gmx.de) and Sonia Lehmann (Project Manager, PRO-PLANTEURS), [sonia.lehmann@giz.de](mailto:sonia.lehmann@giz.de)

### Le Safran d'Almis Marmoucha



Le présent article s'inscrit dans le cadre de travail de recherche et d'action pour la promotion de la CdV Safran en cours de mise en place au niveau de la province de Boulemane dans le cadre de partenariat entre le CPDH<sup>1</sup> de cette province et l'association Targa-AIDE<sup>2</sup>, dans le cadre de l'axe Soutien de l'ESS », du programme 3 de la phase 3 de l'INDH (P333).

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<sup>1</sup>

Comité Provincial pour le Développement Humain ;

<sup>2</sup> Association Interdisciplinaire pour le Développement l'Environnement (AIDE) ;



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Il est à signaler que le SRAT<sup>3</sup> de la région de Fès Meknès de décembre 2017 (rapport final), a intégré ; comme troisième point de son option stratégique « soutien au secteur agricole », axe stratégique « Relance économique » ; la promotion et la valorisation du Safran en tant que filière agricole vocationnelle et potentielle à côté de la Lavande, l'élevage et l'agriculture. La direction provinciale de l'agriculture DPA de la province de Boulemane, de son côté ; et dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Plan Maroc Vert (PMV); a lancée, en partenariat avec l'association Ikouirn féminine de développement rural, une opération de plantation du Safran depuis 2018, au profit de femmes membres de coopératives qui se localisent au niveau du cercle Marmoucha et plus spécialement une coopérative de la commune territoriale (CT) de Sarghina, et une coopérative de la commune territoriale d'Almis Marmoucha, cette dernière est l'une des coopératives sélectionnées dans le cadre de l'appel à concours d'idées 2021 organisé par le CPDH de la province de Boulemane en partenariat avec l'association Targa-AIDE qui s'occupe de la mise en œuvre du P333 au niveau de ladite province.



L'appui de Targa-AIDE vient en continuité des actions précédentes, dans ce propos, une visite de terrain s'est organisée la journée du 1<sup>er</sup> novembre 2022 au niveau des propres champs du safran de la coopérative Safran Almیس au niveau de la CT d'Almis, et ce, pour en plus de l'appui financier qui sera octroyé à la coopérative, la réalisation d'un documentaire sur la culture du Safran, du labour de la terre (préparation du sol) et plantation, en

passant par le suivi de proximité au niveau champs (irrigation, désherbage/binage<sup>4</sup>) en finissant par la récolte, la valorisation et la vente.

By : Abdesselam El Mouket, Conseiller technique provincial de l'association Targa-AIDE/Province de Boulemane ([a.elmouket@targa-aide.org](mailto:a.elmouket@targa-aide.org))

### FAO: New policy brief on due diligence and cooperatives

Agricultural cooperatives are an integral part of the global agri-food system, providing essential jobs, income, and market access opportunities for smallholder farmers and others in agri-food supply

<sup>3</sup> Schéma Régional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) ;

<sup>4</sup> Action de biner, de remuer la terre pour l'ameublir et enlever les mauvaises herbes.



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chains in low- and middle-income countries. This policy brief introduces how agricultural cooperatives in developing countries can integrate risk-based due diligence into their business models to meet increasing market and legislative requirements related to sustainability and responsible business conduct in global value chains (GVCs). As downstream agri-food companies and traders begin to introduce sustainability requirements into their operations, their upstream partners and suppliers will also be required to demonstrate how they are managing social and environmental risks in their business operations. Agricultural cooperatives are essential actors to consider in these dynamics because many already participate in GVCs through commodity trade.

**Figure 1.** Common risks in agricultural supply chains and sourcing



Source: OECD and FAO, 2020.

Importantly, in developing countries, cooperatives are often at the heart of agricultural sourcing communities and can unlock significant opportunities for rural economic growth and poverty reduction. By adapting to changing market and legislative needs related to responsible sourcing and sustainability, cooperatives are better positioned to reduce adverse social or environmental impacts and improve their standing as a responsible supplier in GVCs.

Download: FAO: [Agricultural cooperatives, responsible sourcing and risk-based due diligence \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/publications/defaultcard/collection/en/c/13647)

## **New publication: How sector can contribute to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity**

The Global To support the further implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011--2020, adopted in Nagoya, Japan in 2010, this report shows first of all what key sectors can do to address the underlying drivers and pressures of biodiversity loss and



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contribute to its sustainable use. Secondly, this report presents actions and strategies for countries, the private sector, civil society and international organisations to support sectors to mainstream the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in their daily operations.

Download: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-79-en.pdf>

## **Study: Proposed EU Regulation on Deforestation & Forest Degradation: Understanding the impact of excluding other ecosystems**

On 17 November 2021, the European Commission published a proposal for an EU regulation on deforestation-free products. The proposal aims to reduce the EU's impact on global deforestation and forest degradation by restricting the sale of agricultural commodities such as soy, beef and palm oil unless they are "deforestation-free". The EU is presently the world's third largest importer of tropical deforestation and associated emissions, surpassed only by China and India. How "forest" is defined in the regulation will affect its reach and impact. Currently, the proposal uses the definition of "forest" set out by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The law will therefore not affect commodities produced on land cleared of native vegetation that does not fall under this definition, even where it is highly ecologically significant, such as biodiverse wooded savannahs and grasslands. The Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament has asked Trase to assess the impact of excluding other ecosystems from the EU regulation with a focus on soy and beef imports from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. The analysis covers more than half of the Amazon rainforest, part of the Gran Chaco and Atlantic forest, and almost all of the Cerrado, the most species-rich savannah biome in the world. The study shows that, if the EU regulation is limited to FAO "forests", it would leave three quarters of the Cerrado (79 million hectares) and a third of the Gran Chaco (32 million hectares) unprotected. Yet most of the conversion associated with the EU's soy and beef imports from South America is in these areas.

Find the analysis here: [https://resources.trase.earth/documents/Greens\\_Proposed-EU-regulation-on-deforestation-&-forest-degradation.pdf](https://resources.trase.earth/documents/Greens_Proposed-EU-regulation-on-deforestation-&-forest-degradation.pdf)

### **3. THE VALUELINKS ASSOCIATION/CONTACT**

#### **How to become a member of the International ValueLinks Association**

IVLA is a professional association of experts in the area of market development and value chain promotion. We welcome new members who are professionally active in this field, interested in sharing experience and in contributing to the advancement of the value chain approach to economic



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development, and the *ValueLinks* methodology in particular. The benefits of membership include privileged access to the latest methodological innovations, a platform for presenting own competences and achievements and contacts to colleagues all over the world.

These are the fees for membership:

	<i>Entry fee</i>	<i>Annual fee</i>
<i>Fee for members with an OECD passport</i>	€40	€80
<i>Reduced fee for members with a non-OECD passport</i>	€20	€40

If you are interested in becoming a member, please ask for an application format by writing an email to [info@valuelinks.org](mailto:info@valuelinks.org).

### ***YOUR contribution to the next newsletter***

A request and an offer to all members of the International *ValueLinks* Association: Please inform us about your activities so that they can be included in the next edition of this newsletter!

### **Is your personal profile updated?**

Please check whether your personal profile is still up to date. In case, please just upload new text and photos directly or send to : [info@valuelinks.org](mailto:info@valuelinks.org).

### ***Contact/Imprint***

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