

Fourth ITC Roundtables on Deforestation-free Global Value Chains

Paving the road towards
implementation of deforestation-
free global value chains

6 December 2022

13:30 - 17:30 CET

in person (Brussels) and online

Register here



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ITC Roundtables on
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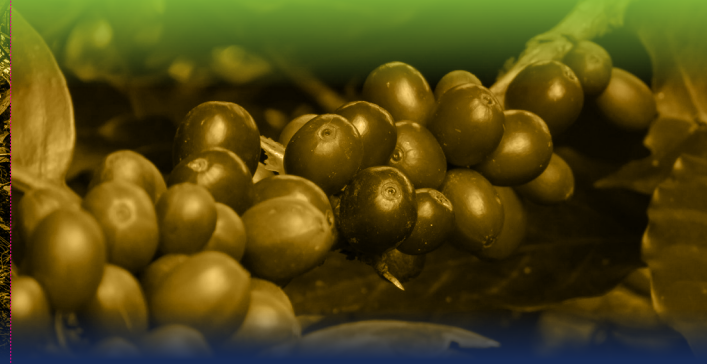
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International
Trade
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Natural ecosystems are the world's most important safeguards to protect the environment, maintain biodiversity and support food security. Yet, the forests, savannahs, grasslands, and peatlands are being destroyed around the globe at an alarming rate, which pleads for a call for action at every point along the value chain, from policymakers to producers and businesses.

International trade of agri-food commodities has obvious implications and an important role to play in protecting natural ecosystems, especially in sectors such as cattle, soy, palm oil, wood, fibre, cocoa, coffee and rubber.

Stakeholders across the world are taking active steps to halt deforestation and forest degradation. Multilateral organizations and governments are working on new regulations such as the recently proposed EU regulation on deforestation-free products and the OECD-FAO guidance for responsible agricultural supply chains. The private sector is also deploying initiatives including private standards and responsible sourcing requirements that include traceability throughout each value chain.

During the course of 2022, responding to the increasing private and public efforts to help protect the environment and prevent forest degradation globally, the International Trade Centre (ITC) has been convening a series of private-public roundtables. These public sessions have taken stock of existing initiatives, unpacked challenges, concerns and opportunities, and identified best practices to tackle deforestation.

Bridging the gaps

Building on the preceding three sessions held in March, May and June 2022, this fourth session on 6 December will focus the discussions on the identification of constructive and tangible actions towards the implementation of deforestation-free global value chains.

This session will aim to develop recommendations for inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships on deforestation-free actions and policies and will include a high-level plenary panel and technical breakout sessions focusing on the following areas:

- Traceability as a means of demonstrating and validating compliance;
- Inclusion of local stakeholders in producing countries;
- Models of partnerships towards implementation of the new regulation;
- Existing approaches and good practices.

The event will be held in a hybrid format, with the possibility to attend in person in Brussels. To ensure productive discussions, participants will be engaged ahead of the event and invited to share related materials such as case studies, good practices, and proposals.

Key messages

- Business as usual is not an option
- Farmers need to receive a decent income as poverty is one of the biggest forest predators
- Do not miss the forest for the trees: traceability is only a means to an end and needs a landscape approach to be truly effective
- Change requires time and resources to work with the millions of farmers impacted by the proposed regulation
- Collaboration is key to success and must take place across the entire value chain.
- There needs to be greater alignment of standards.
- Lifting small producers out of poverty is fundamental.
- Leave no-one behind should be a universal premise for success.