

Organic & Fairtrade Competence Centre (OFTCC)

**Annual Report 2008
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Project objective:	The competence centre shall pro-actively contribute to the development of the OFTC sector and provides the stakeholders with competent and relevant services in the fields of knowledge management, value chain and market development, and networking and public relations. These services shall facilitate the consolidation and expansion of existing OFTC projects and the development of new initiatives. They shall help reduce development costs and improve the performance of these projects.		
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Project start:	2004	Phase duration:	4 years (2008-2011)

Abbreviations

BAFU	Bundesamt für Umweltschutz (Ministry of Environment)
CC	Competence Centre
CMDT	Companie Malienne de Développement de Textiles
CoP	Community of Practice
FiBL	Research Institute for Organic Agriculture
FLO	Fairtrade Labelling Organisations
HEKS	Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz
ICAC	International Cotton Advisory Council
ICCO	Interchurch organisation for development co-operation
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ITC	International Trade Centre
KM	Knowledge Management
OC	Organic Cotton
OE	Organic Exchange
OFTCC	Organic & Fairtrade Competence Centre
OFTC	Organic and fair-trade commodities
PPP	Public-private partnership
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SECO	State Secretariat of Economic Affairs
UNPCB	Union Nationale des Producteurs de Coton Burkinabé

Contents

ABBREVIATIONS.....	2
CONTENTS.....	3
1 OVERVIEW OF THE COMPETENCE CENTRE'S MANDATE.....	4
2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONTEXT.....	4
3 PROJECT PROGRESS	5
3.1 Achieved impact.....	5
3.2 Results versus expected outputs.....	6
4 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS AND CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED	9
4.1 Developing efficient management systems and business models.....	9
4.2 Community of Practice on organic cotton and knowledge sharing platform.....	10
4.3 Organic and fairtrade cocoa programme	11
4.4 Value chain and market development.....	11
4.5 Sensitizing stakeholders.....	12
ANNEXES.....	13
Annex 1: Main activities and events in 2008.....	13
Annex 2 : Action plan for 2009	1

1 Overview of the competence centre's mandate

The competence centre (CC) pro-actively contributes to the development of the OFTC sector and provides the stakeholders with competent and relevant services in the fields of knowledge management, value chain and market development, and networking and public relations. These services shall facilitate the consolidation and expansion of existing OFTC projects and the development of new initiatives. They shall help reduce development costs and improve the performance of these projects. Stakeholders in this sense include producers, project organizers, traders, processors, distributors, NGOs, relevant government agencies, media, and consumers.

The encouraging results achieved with cotton and its rotation crops (e.g. sesame, shea nut) call for a transfer of the gained experience to other commodities. The market shows a particular interest in organic and fairtrade cocoa from smallholder projects. The CC will therefore take up cocoa as a new focus commodity, in collaboration with interested private sector actors, other donors and other NGOs. Nevertheless, the organic and fair-trade cotton sub-sector is still in an initial and highly dynamic stage. Further efforts are needed to optimize value chain management, to facilitate the involvement of new stakeholders for considerable up-scaling, and to consolidate market growth.

In the second phase, the activities of the competence centre will accordingly shift from “preparing the ground” to “consolidation, up-scaling and transferring the know-how to other commodities and players”. The following focus areas will be pursued:

- Knowledge generation and management: development and transfer of know-how (on project design, production systems, internal control and quality management systems, value chain management etc.) to organizers and value chain actors of new and existing OFTC value chains;
- Value chain and market development: facilitating the development of new OFTC value chains (particularly cocoa), coordinating stakeholders along new and existing value chains (links between production, processing, trade, and retail; facilitating access to finance), and developing new markets for OFTC;
- Sensitizing stakeholders and aligning initiatives: promoting the OFTC approach and coordination with related initiatives.

The “value added” of the competence centre is that it offers the necessary concepts and know-how to reduce market entry costs for new players and thus can substantially contribute to the consolidation and up-scaling of the successful approach of stakeholders along a value chain who have similar interests.

2 Development of the context

The year 2008 was coined by a particularly rapid expansion of organic cotton production and, to a somewhat lesser extent, of demand. Whereas worldwide production rose from approximately 58'000 tons in season 2006/07, the production was estimated to be 145'900 tons in season 2007/08, representing an increase of 152%. Organic Exchange estimates that globally around 217'000 farmers are involved in producing organic cotton. India, Syria, Turkey, China, and Tanzania are the top five organic cotton producing countries in order by rank of volumes. The growth in production is projected to continue at least another 50% in the season 2008/09. As the growth in demand has not been able to keep pace with the expansion of organic cotton production, there are substantial volumes of organic cotton that remained without a buyer so far. Even in the projects supported by Helvetas, with an estimated production of about 1'800 tons of fibre in 2008/09, purchase confirmation from buyers was still pending for about 30% of the production by the end of 2008.

Economic difficulties of some companies like Marks & Spencer, the crisis in the finance sector and an expected slow-down of the economy in 2009 aggravate the situation. It is therefore advisable for 2009 to revise expansion plans and to focus on consolidation, diversification and market development.

Besides the financial crisis, which coined the second half of 2008, the first half of the year was severely impacted by a sharp increase in commodity prices. Riots of hungry urban citizens shook governments in poorer countries. Thus not only experts, but also to the public recognized, that the global agriculture will not be able to produce food, fodder for livestock to fulfil rapidly increasing meat demands and plant based fuels. The resulting discussions increase the interest to consider organic agriculture as suitable solution to become less dependent on conventional farming inputs and their prices.

Production of and demand for other organic and fair-trade commodities has also been increasing, especially for tropical fruits/fruit products and for cocoa. As supplies of organic cocoa are presently far below demand, some large chocolate manufacturers are showing interest to partner with organic cocoa production initiatives.

3 Project Progress

3.1 Achieved impact

With its activities and services, the competence centre continued to contribute to the growth and consolidation of the organic and fairtrade cotton sector (supply and demand side). Compared to the previous year, alone the number of producers participating in OFT cotton projects facilitated by Helvetas in Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Senegal and Kyrgyzstan doubled, reaching almost 15'000 farm households in total. New donors joined into the funding of the OFT cotton projects (AFD, Region of Bretagne, Transfair Germany, EU-Commission, GTZ), thus leveraging the funds invested by SECO.

Although strong competition from India made it more difficult to sell the cotton in 2008/09, new companies became commercial partners of the organic cotton producer organisations (Manor, Armor Lux, Ingalam, Papili, Canoram), and further ones indicated interest to join. For the first time, substantial volumes of crops associated to cotton could be produced and sold in the organic market, especially shea nuts (500 tons) and sesame (350 tons), thus adding to farmers' incomes. The total trade volume of products emerging from the ten projects directly supported by the OFTCC in 2008 is estimated at CHF 6-7 Mio.

In order to systematically assess the impact of organic cotton projects on the farmers' livelihoods and incomes, two studies on the projects in Burkina Faso and Kyrgyzstan have been assigned to the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Berne, to be finalized in 2009.

The OFT value chain approach has been successfully promoted among key development actors and companies and is used for developing new initiatives. The concepts and tools, especially the revised Internal Control System (ICS) and the new organic cotton producer guide help improve quality, increase efficiency and thus reduce costs. The transfer to cocoa has been initiated with the launch of the organic cocoa programme that is to start in 2009. Consultancy missions and support to projects in China (cotton), Laos (rice) and Ghana (cocoa) already contributed to improved incomes among the involved farmers. The CC further facilitated that OFT cotton and the initiatives supported by SECO and Helvetas received wide attention in the Swiss media.

3.2 Results versus expected outputs

The following table provides an overview of the main results achieved in 2008 in relation to the expected outputs planned in the project document. They are discussed in the next chapter. Complementary to this, Annex 1 provides an overview of the main activities and events implemented in 2008.

Table 1: Expected outputs and results achieved by the competence centre in 2008.

Objectives	Expected outputs (for phase II)	Results achieved in 2008
1) Knowledge and information management	1.1 Information on key issues related to OFTC gathered and disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key documents on OC compiled, library consolidated. • Concept for literature database on web platform developed. • Photo archive completed; new filing system in development.
	1.2 Efficient organic management systems identified and documented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach for cost integration refined. • Tool for extension workers «Guide de production du coton bio-équitable » finalized and distributed. • Extension tool for farmers "calendrier bio" developed. • Review of internal control system and development of operating manual consolidated (writeshop in Zurich and review workshop in Mali). • Concept for database tool developed (Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Burkina Faso), implementation started.
	1.3 Information and guidance provided to OFTC initiatives (on request)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing general information to numerous (?) requests. • Mid-term evaluation of organic rice project in Laos (internal consultancy mandate). • Pre-feasibility study on organic cotton production and processing in Laos. • ICCO advised for implementing OFTC project "Biotrade" in Mali. • HEKS advised on organic shea initiative. • Sector monitoring mission Tajikistan (internal consultancy mandate). • Three missions to organic cotton project in Jiangxi and Xinjiang Province, China (consultancy mandate). • Planning of organic value chain project Mali (internal consultancy mandate).
	1.4 Updated data on OFTC production, stakeholders and markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current data and figures on production (volumes, producers), sales (quantities, qualities, price and markets) and certification (FT-premium) gathered and disseminated to media, consumers and partners. • Database on stakeholders updated.
	1.5 Community of Practice for organic/FT-cotton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community of Practice on organic cotton developed (launch in 2009). • Concept introduced to stakeholders (OE meeting in Porto,

	developed	<p>Helvetas stakeholder meeting in Ouagadougou).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial contribution by ICCO ensured for 2008/09.
	1.6 Information exchange with and between OFTC projects ensured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-day exchange workshop for West-African projects conducted in Burkina Faso. • Information exchange and coordination with Organic Exchange and ICCO. • Preparations for an exchange workshop on OFT value chains in Benin in 2009.
	1.7 Independent web site developed in collaboration with other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an independent, joint (OE, ICCO, H) web platform www.organiccotton.org, which also serves as base for the CoP (launch in 2009). • Financial contribution by ICCO ensured for 2008/09.
	1.8 Monitoring system for the organic textile share in Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring system developed, survey conducted; quantity as percentage of Swiss cotton flow defined.
2) Value chain and market development	2.1 Coordination of organic/FT value chains and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two stakeholder meetings conducted (Zurich and Burkina Faso), including West-African projects and local stakeholders; agreement on cotton price achieved. • 3-party MoUs signed with some ? of the commercial partners. • Price structure calculation tool for cotton fibre refined and discussed with stakeholders. • Credit options for trade finance explored.
	2.2 Strategies for new OFTC value chains developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with potential stakeholders of organic cocoa programme (Ritter, Coop/Halba, Rabobank Foundation). • Platform proposal ("temple") for cocoa programme covering several countries and embracing activities developed. • Feasibility studies for organic cocoa in Vietnam, Ivory Coast (paid mandate) and Ghana. • Organic cocoa project documents developed for Vietnam and Honduras. • Donor support for organic cocoa projects in Vietnam, Honduras and Ghana ensured (Rabobank Foundation, Coop, GTT Ghana, Ford Foundation). Value of contributions amount to more than 500'000 CHF with a further option by Rabobank Foundation to another 200'000 CHF. Supporting funds for Indonesia and Ivory Coast are likely. • Concepts for mitigate of and adaptation to climate change via OFTC value chains drafted and discussed with INFRAS and FiBL.
	2.3 New stakeholders (processing, trade) mobilized for OFTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green public procurement options defined with BAFU (to be implemented in 08/09) and other players in the corporate fashion sector (SBB, Swisspost, Swissolympics). • New commercial partners associated in the organic cotton

		<p>programmes: Manor, Armor Lux, Ingalam, Papili, Canoram. Further companies are interested (e.g. Mammut, Leclerc, Commazo).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies interested in partnering in the organic cocoa programme identified (Ritter, Coop/Halba). • Fair Football launched at Euro-Cup 08. • Exploration of the potential to produce organic extra long staple cotton in Tajikistan.
	2.4 Market intelligence and know-how to potential buyers of OFTC provided (as per demand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPP, hospitals... (RD) • Report on final test results of the organic police shirt of the City of Zurich (consultancy mandate). • Context analysis of cocoa producing countries (country fact sheets and report), for Coop/Halba (consultancy mandate). • Buyers for in-conversion cotton researched (no confirmation reached yet).
	2.5 Markets and value chains for OFTCs developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buyers for organic shea, sesame, mango, hibiscus and pulses researched. • Collaboration with organic raw material broker established (tested in Kyrgyzstan). • Participation of producer organisations from W-Africa at the European Fair Trade Fair in Lyon facilitated. • Biofach 2009 participation of producer organisations from Laos and Mali organized (in collaboration with SIPPO).
3) Sensitizing stakeholders and aligning initiatives	3.1 Events in order to promote OFTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops within the European Fair Trade Fair. • Organic cotton textile seminar (Modena). • KM-workshop at OE annual meeting (Porto). • Concept for World Organic Cotton Congress (Interlaken Sept. 2009) developed and discussed with stakeholders; preparations started.
	3.2 Approach and achievements communicated (media work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media journey of Leclerc to the organic cotton project in Mali. • Contribution to / mention in various? newspaper articles, radio broadcasts and TV reports. • Concept for media campaign on organic cotton developed (launch in April 2009); partners identified and co-funding by private sector secured; preparations started.
	3.3 Approach promoted in meetings, workshops and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OFTC promoted at: SDC workshop "Markets for the poor", Public Eye Award ceremony (Davos), FAIR2008 (Dortmund), NATUR (Basel), SDC JPO course "Poverty alleviation" (paid mandate), NADEL and UNITE workshops on sustainable livelihoods (paid mandates), SOLA (Zurich), IFOAM 2009, Forum Genforschung (paid mandate), ICCO-Helvetas value chain workshop, ICAC annual meeting, OE annual meeting. • OFTC value chain approach published in organic textile seminar in Modena (paper).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential of organic farming to mitigate climate change was presented at the IFOAM 2009 workshop organized by FAO.
	3.4 Coordination with other networks and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic cotton aspects fed into the results of the SEEP panel of the ICAC (presented at Annual meeting in Burkina Faso). • Participation in the working group on the revision of public procurement regulations; statement to public consultation. • Consolidation and distribution of a paper to communicate the synergies between OC / FTC / BCI. • Participation in IMO Steering Committee; audit (paid mandate).
4) Management	4.1 Business strategy for the Competence Centre developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine-tuning of the concept and strategy of the OFTCC, in collaboration with SECO. • Mandate from SECO consolidated; contract signed. • Conditions for contributions from leverage fund elaborated. • Vision for ensuring long-term sustainability of the CC further developed.
	4.2 Planning, monitoring and steering optimized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log-frame refined, with measurable indicators; action plan and outputs defined. • Detailed activity plan and budget for 2008 developed. • Steering committee for the OFTCC initiated, ToR defined.
	4.3 Proactive marketing of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of mandates from private sector (Cilander, Swiss Olympics etc.) and from development agencies (ICCO, AFD) with a total volume of approx. 50'000 CHF in 2007 and approx. 100'000 CHF in 2008. • Acquisition of several mandates to be implemented in 2009.

4 Analysis of results and challenges to be addressed

In the following sections, selected results of 2008 are briefly discussed and challenges to be addressed in 2009 are identified. A detailed plan of activity for 2009 is given in Annex 2.

4.1 Developing efficient management systems and business models

One of the core activities of the CC is to develop concepts and tools for setting up and running OFTC projects. Although conditions may vary considerably between different countries and commodities, there are many common challenges and tasks to be addressed. In order to achieve tools that are really adapted to the field reality, each of them is developed in close collaboration with a project team in the producing countries and reviewed by other stakeholders.

In 2008, the CC finalized an organic cotton production guide for West-Africa¹ which is used to train extension workers and serves them as a reference book. At farmer level, an “organic calendar” complements this guide by covering 12 selected topics with simple texts (translated in local languages) and illustrations. The price structure calculation tool that allows cost integration has been further developed, also for the Kyrgyz context, and cost calculation issues related to the new fairtrade prices for cotton have been clarified with FLO. An operating manual for OFT cotton production in West-Africa has been drafted, and a complete set of simplified forms and documents of an internal control system have been developed in collaboration with the projects in Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Benin and Kyrgyzstan. The tools will be finalized in 2009, and made available as general templates in French and English. A database tool for West-African producer organisations is presently under construction, with support from an external consultant, and will be finalized and introduced in 2009. Concepts and tools developed so far will be shared and further developed in an exchange and training workshop that will be conducted in Benin in April 2009. The workshop will also serve to discuss a draft of an organic and fairtrade value chain guide that will be developed in 2009 in collaboration with ICCO and ITC.

As in previous years, the CC continued being an important contact point to provide information and advice on organic and fairtrade commodity value chains for a wide range of interested public: media, consumers, schools, research institutions, GOs and NGOs, as well as for the private sector (particularly textile and food processing industry). The following consultancy missions were conducted (mostly paid mandates, either from third parties or Helvetas internal consultancies):

- Feasibility study and planning missions on organic cotton production in Jiangxi province (China)
- ProRice mid-term review (Laos)
- Organic cotton feasibility study (Laos)
- Feasibility studies on organic cocoa (Vietnam, Ivory Coast and Ghana)
- Cotton sector monitoring and feasibility study (Tajikistan)
- Organic value chain programme planning (Mali)

In 2009, consultancy missions are planned to Vietnam, Indonesia and Ghana (cocoa), China (cotton), Benin (pineapple) and Nepal (coffee). In addition, the CC will strive to acquire at least one new consultancy mandate from another development cooperation agency.

4.2 Community of Practice on organic cotton and knowledge sharing platform

In 2008 the project to build a Community of Practice for the Organic cotton sector, the so-called “Global Organic Cotton Community Platform”, was gradually taking shape. In the beginning of the year the concept was fine tuned by the members of the steering committee. Using exchange via a virtual group hub (installed by Historic Futures) and a face-to-face meeting in Amsterdam (ICCO, Organic Exchange, Historic Futures and Helvetas), ideas and specifications for the website concept were brought together. Thereby the main focus was on linkages with already existing and relevant websites and databases.

The main task in 2008 was the coding work of the site and the adaptations of several features according to the conceptual needs of the community. In two events the potential community

¹ Guide de production du coton biologique et équitable. Helvetas, 2008.

members were acquainted with new web platform and information on the necessities of the future community members was collected. This was in October in Porto, Portugal, on the occasion of the annual conference of Organic Exchange in terms of a presentation in the plenary session and a workshop afterwards in which first feedback and suggestions for the website and the future online discussions in 2009 were gathered. A second opportunity to incorporate future members' suggestions was given at the stakeholder meeting of the West-African organic cotton value chain partners, which took place in Koubri, Burkina Faso in late November. In both events the initiative for an active knowledge and know-how exchange was highly appreciated and great interest was manifested as well as expectations regarding the new community were expressed.

First facilitated online discussions will start in February 2009 and the official launch of the web site is planned for March, within the frame of the UN Year of Natural Fibres 2009.

4.3 Organic and fairtrade cocoa programme

In order to develop a new major OFT commodity, the potential of OFT cocoa was studied both at production and demand side. Planning studies were conducted in Vietnam and Honduras, and interested buyers were contacted. Several important companies expressed strong interest in entering into a partnership to develop OFT cocoa in Asian, African and Latin American countries.

In order to evaluate the agronomic and technical feasibility of organic cocoa production in West-Africa a mission was carried to Ghana and Ivory Coast. In both countries the old production areas in the East have a good potential to be converted to organic, because extensive mixed cropping systems prevail.

As further development of the organic cotton approach the results of the missions and feasibility studies were compiled into an integrative multi-country and multi-stakeholder programme that allows unfolding cross-country synergies by having concerted capacity building efforts in the south and co-ordinated market development activities in the North.

This concept for a multi-country and multi-stakeholder programme was fully acknowledged by Rabobank Foundation. A first year support of the programme in Vietnam (50,000 EUR) could thus rapidly be confirmed. The Foundation will also take care to motivate other relevant actors like Doenfoundation or commodity traders like Ecom and Cargill to contribute substantially to the programme.

Coop already earmarked internal funds to support the production in Honduras, Ghana and possibly other countries with a prospective amount of more than 500,000 CHF. From these, 150'000 CHF are confirmed as support for the project in Honduras in 2009.

Coop also mandated the OFT CC to carry out a context assessment of cocoa production countries that systematically compares social and environmental risks of cocoa production and delivery. This new form of commodity supply assessment may also be used later on in other relevant raw materials like coffee, orange juice or palm oil.

4.4 Value chain and market development

All the cotton produced in 2007/08 in the different OFT cotton projects supported by Helvetas, SECO, ICCO and other related donors has been sold. For the production of 2008/09, the substantial growth in organic cotton production, the availability of stocks at the level of some processing

companies, and a reduced commitment from Marks & Spencer², required additional efforts to find buyers. Several new partners, particularly from France, were gained for the organic cotton projects in Mali and Burkina Faso, resulting in a more diversified base of commercial partners. In order to manage the risk that eventually not all cotton can be sold at organic-fairtrade prices, the OFTCC assisted producer organisations in cash-flow analysis and in identifying suitable options for obtaining trade finance loans (particularly with Triodos).

Two meetings of stakeholders related to the organic cotton projects were held in 2008. In the first meeting in Zurich in July 2008, production plans, price structures and organisational set-ups of the value chains were discussed. In the second meeting, which took place in November in Ouagadougou, the results of the production season were presented and solutions for the processing and commercialisation of the cotton were discussed.

The OFTCC participated in a task force to promote green public purchase, and assisted the BAFU and other players in the corporate fashion sector (SBB, Swisspost, Swissolympics, City of Zurich) in defining green public procurement options (to be implemented in 08/09).

4.5 Sensitizing stakeholders

The UN Year of Natural Fibres 2009 provides an occasion to promote OFT cotton broadly by means of a big national sensitising campaign and a world congress. Preparations for these major activities started mid 2008:

The national campaign is set-up as a joint initiative between Helvetas and private partners with the aim to increase the consumption of organic and fair trade textiles significantly on the national level. SECO, Coop, Switcher and Max Havelaar committed themselves to be the main partners and sponsors. Together with secondary sponsors, the target budget of 500'000 CHF was achieved. The detailed campaign strategy, slogans and advertising media were worked out in collaboration with a PR agency, the campaign partners and the communication department of Helvetas. The campaign will be launched in April 2009, including billboards (500 to 1000 spots), advertisements in newspapers and magazines, a campaign website with a map-based search tool for stores who offer organic and fair trade cotton articles, and several activities at points of sale.

400 international stakeholders discussing burning issues and new business models, building new alliances and promoting long-term partnerships in organic and fair trade cotton value chains – these are the main objectives of the World Congress on Organic Cotton which will take place on 21 – 25 September 2009 in Interlaken. As co-organisers, Organic Exchange, Institute for Market Ecology (IMO) and International Trade Center (ITC) were brought on board. All major preparations for the event were initiated: conceptualisation, agenda setting, budgeting (overall budget: ca. 600'000 CHF, mostly covered by participation fees and sponsoring), reservation of the venue, pre-announcement, call for speakers and sponsors. The event will consist of a range of thematic sessions, a permanent market place for companies and NGOs, a fashion show, company visits and a gala dinner.

² As the company is presently facing severe constraints in its overall retail business in the UK, they needed to down-scale their plans to expand consumption of organic and fairtrade cotton.

Annexes

Annex 1: Main activities and events in 2008

Date / period	Activity / event	Comment
January	Revision of concept of the OFTCC; design of leverage fund	With SECO
January	Feasibility study on organic cotton production in Jiangxi province, China.	Consultancy mandate to Highway Strategy Ltd., Hong Kong
January	Participation in SDC-workshop "Markets for the poor"	Nottwil
January	Support of the participation of Hess Natur and UNPBC at the Public Eye Award ceremony, Davos	Enabling of visits of UNPCB at Eichberg Seengen AG, Hess Natur, FAIR2008. PR and media relations work.
February	NATUR, Basel	Guided tour through the cotton exhibition
February/ March	Development of concept for an organic cocoa programme	
February	European Fair Trade Fair, Lyon: Helvetas-stall of producer organisations from West-Africa; workshops on fairtrade cotton and local textile processing	The OFTCC assisted the organizers of the Fair in designing the concept and programme, and in identifying speakers.
February	Consultancy mission to organic rice project "ProRice" in Laos	Mid-term review
February	Feasibility study on organic cotton production and processing in Laos	Together with GTZ and local NGOs, companies and state agencies
March	Input on organic cotton and value chain development in SDC JPO course "Macro and micro perspectives in poverty alleviation"	In collaboration with NADEL; paid mandate.
March	Planning meeting of Steering Committee of the Organic Cotton Community Platform and participation in OE opening in Amsterdam	OE, ICCO, Historic Futures, Helvetas
March	Consultancy mission on organic cocoa in Ivory coast and Ghana	
March	Input on organic cotton and value chain development in the sustainable livelihood seminar of NADEL	Postgraduate course on developing countries at the ETH Zurich; paid mandate.
March + August	Meetings to develop concepts how organic agriculture can contribute to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change	With INFRAS and FiBL
March	Strategy development for organic agriculture in West-Africa	With ICCO
	<i>Partnerschaft</i> articles on the OFTCC and on Swissolympic	
May	SOLA, Zurich	Information on organic cotton

Date / period	Activity / event	Comment
May	Input on organic cotton and value chain development in the UNITE general assembly	Association of Swiss development cooperation agencies working with volunteers; paid mandate
May	Complete revision and consolidation of ICS in Mali and Burkina Faso	Workshop with regional backstopper
June	Internal discussion of the concept of the organic cocoa programme; decision to start in Vietnam and Honduras	Programme commission meeting
June	Discussion of collaboration with SIPPO	Synergies, division of work
June	Participation in IFOAM conference and organic textile seminar in Modena	Presentations in textile seminar and workshop on climate change
June	Finalization and print of the "Guide de production du coton bio-équitable"	In collaboration with project staff and producer organisations and cotton societies from Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal.
June	Input on organic and GMO cotton in the "Forum Genforschung"	Paid mandate
	Consultancy mission on organic cocoa in Vietnam	
July	Stakeholder meeting in ZH, with preparatory workshop for the partners from the South (SWOT-analysis, price structure discussion) and subsequent visit of Isa Sallmann AG and Manor	Participation of producer organisations, cotton societies, spinners and commercial partners of the West-African OC projects.
	GPP parliamentary motion, launch of working group	
July	Workshop for ICS review and database concept in Kyrgyzstan	
July	Cotton sector monitoring mission in Tajikistan	Including the development of a concept note for an organic cotton project.
	Leclerc media journey to the organic cotton project in Mali	
August	Discussion with ITC on strategic collaboration	Specifically: organic cotton congress, local textile processing, value chain guide
	Visit of parliamentary delegation to organic cotton project in Mali	
September	Exchange workshop on value chain approaches, with participation of Helvetas, OFTCC, ICCO, Agridea, KIT and consultants	In Utrecht
September	Concept and design of feasibility study for organic stevia production in Paraguay, with Rivella	Rivella finally decided not to engage in a project but only to source the product.
September / October / December	Consultancy missions on organic cotton project in China	Design of model farm
September/ October	Discussions to arrange credit and trade finance for organic and fairtrade projects with Triodos and Oikocredit	Pilot collaboration in West-Africa in 2009

Date / period	Activity / event	Comment
October	Kick-off meeting for the preparations of the world organic cotton congress in Interlaken in Sep. 2009	With OFTCC, Organic Exchange and IMO.
October	Preparatory meetings for the organic cotton campaign 2009: concept, budget.	With SECO, Coop, and Switcher as main sponsors.
October - December	Context analysis study of cocoa producing countries	Consultancy mandate for Coop / Halba
	Web site / CoP	
October	Introduction of CoP concept at OE annual conference in Porto (plenary session and workshop)	Feedback of representatives of CoP target group gathered.
October	Consultancy mission on organic value chain project planning in Mali	
November	ICAC meeting, SEEP	
November	Stakeholder meeting in Burkina Faso: review of production season 2008, market analysis, discussion of commercialisation of cotton and CoP concept introduced.	Participation of producer organisations and cotton societies from Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal, and commercial partners from Europe.
November	Exchange workshop West-Africa	Participation of stakeholders of West-African OFT cotton projects.
November	Workshop to review the new ICS system; developing concept of a data base; developing new extension tools (calendar for farmers)	Workshop with participation from Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin, the regional backstopper and a database consultant.
November / December	Impact assessment study on the organic cotton project in Burkina Faso	Implemented by CDE, University of Berne
December	Laboratory assessment of organic cotton yarns for GMO traces	Co-existence between organic cotton and GMO cotton will become a major challenge in Burkina Faso, India, China and other countries. Recent standards to not match this challenge. Helvetas prepares to give advice on standard revision.
December	OFTCC annual review and planning workshop	
December	Constitution of a Steering Committee for the OFTCC	SECO, Helvetas, ICCO, Gebana, HEKS

Annex 2 : Action plan for 2009

Nr	Line of activity	Resp.	Jan - Mar 2009	Apr - Jun 2009	Jul - Sep 2009	Oct - Dec 2009
10	Knowledge management					
11	- Gather and disseminate information	AB	results impact assessment BF communicated (FE)	upload and tagging of images, key documents	results impact assessment KG communicated (FE)	
12	- Efficient management systems	FE	ICS tools, DB tool in English	OM in English, draft OFTVC guide	final OFTVC guide	OFTVC guide printed and distributed
13	- Guidance to OFTC initiatives	AB	according to requirements	according to requirements	according to requirements	according to requirements
14	- Updated data on OFTC	JS	addresses in Lotus up to date; system for updating defined	optimized DB management system (groups defined)		
15	- Monitoring system OC Switzerland	AB	monitoring concept and questionnaire	questionnaire distributed, data collected	report elaborated	questionnaires for 2010 prepared/ adapted
20	CoP & Website					
21	- Develop a CoP	AB	webplatform launched, first discussions facilitated, timetable CoP and web defined	facilitated discussion	facilitated discussion	facilitated discussion; review of functioning of CoP, operational budget for 2010
22	- Ensure information exchange	AB	f2f workshop Benin prepared (FE)	f2f workshop Benin (FE), prepare f2f Interlaken	f2f workshop Interlaken	
23	- Develop independent web site	AB	website online	sponsoring, advertisement in place	website updated	review of website
30	Value chain & market development					
31	- Coordinate OFTC value chains	TM	cotton selling 2008-09 organized; pre-financing for 2008-09 organized (FE)	cotton selling 2009-10 defined (April); optimized cotton selling / finance (FE)	stakeholder meeting 21.9.09	cotton sales contracts and prefinancement 2009-10 fixed
32	- Develop strategies for new VCs	JS	Commodity risk analysis Coop implemented, SME services for organic farming planned (BF, GH)	Climate change strategy cocoa agroforestry elaborated, SME services defined with detailed plan BF, GH	commodity trader solutions developed (Ecom, Cargill)	SME services steps implemented

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33	- Mobilize new stakeholders	JS	ProDoc HON, GH elaborated	cocoa stakeholder meeting NL, kick-off GH, HON; ProDoc INDO elaborated	cocoa: planning INDO Integration of L'Oreal into HON-cocoa	cocoa: education modules for RCI
34	- Market intelligence to buyers	JS	GPP event Olten prepared (RD), research on health sector	GPP event Olten		
35	- Develop markets for OFTC	JS	Biofach 2009 (JS, FE)		interested partners for Biofach 2010 identified, registration facilitated	Coaching partners Biofach 2010,
40 Networking & public relations						
41	- Organize events to promote OFTC	RD	Detailed agenda, launch registration, Organise sponsors for conference	programme and speakers ready	logistics organized, conference implemented	presentations on website, accounts and financial report
42	- Media work, publications	TM	Sponsoring for campaign fixed	Campaign 1st part, ZH Umwelttage; Media presence OC-GMO (JS)	Campaign 2nd part	
43	- Promote the approach in meetings	JS	Textile workshop Biofach (FE)	SEEP climate change and pesticide input	Communicate SEEP results at ICAC in South Africa	
44	- Coordinate with other networks / initiat.	JS/FE/TM	Coordinate with cocoa campaign EvB (JS)	OC climate change calculation harmonized (JS)	contributions to European Fairtrade Fair (RD)	OC climate change results & event (ICLEI), participation in European Fairtrade Fair
50 External mandates						
51	- Private sector consultancy	JS	Climate change calculation GPP, support to China-project (concept, site selection)	education & training China prepared	first training China implemented	second training China implemented
52	- Coaching other initiatives	JS/FE	Contracts AFD programme (FE), Preparations for proposal development PAK	Proposal development and feasibility study PAK, capacity building for associations GH prepared	capacity building for associations GH implemented (with GW?)	Consultancy mandate for other NGO (FE)

Nr	Line of activity	Resp.	Jan - Mar 2009	Apr - Jun 2009	Jul - Sep 2009	Oct - Dec 2009
53	- Mandates	FE		AFD KM mandate West-Africa I (FE)	AFD KM mandate West-Africa II (FE)	Transfer of OC campaign to D with OE (TM)
60	Internal consultancies					
61	- Nepal coffee promotion project	FE		mission OA-sector in Nepal		
62	- Benin pineapple project	RD	mid-term review prepared	mid-term review		
63	- Vietnam cocoa project	JS		kick-off VN	Quality training Ritter supervision	
64	- Tajikistan	JS		GPP support for TAJ implemented (JS)		
70	Management & administration					
71	- Strategic development	FE	first SC meeting		second SC meeting	Strategy for institut./economic sustainability
72	- Administration	FE	Accounts 2008; activity and financial report 2008		mid-term accounts + activity monitoring	Review 2009, Planning 2010
73	- Marketing of CC services	FE	OFTCC Brochure developed	Info for interested organisations (mailing)	OFTCC website online	