

# Ethical Risks in the Value Chain of Cocoa

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The era-paper Cocoa (era = Ethical Risk Assessment), recently published by the Hamburg Foundation for Business Ethics, sheds light on the value chain of cocoa including all its socio-ethic and ecological shortcomings, and discusses the numerous initiatives which try to minimize those risks. While the motivations behind the action of members of the civil society, industry and politics differ, there is a joint goal to become a sustainable cocoa sector.

The authors conducted a policy analysis and summarise collective-action initiatives with the potential to make significant changes in the sector. They also outline potential challenges to this action, including power asymmetries between the actors, missing transparency regarding financing and the impact of projects and differing expectations of responsibility and accountability.

The paper concludes that to make initiatives for positive changes in the cocoa sector a success and to prevent potential pitfalls, there is the need for clear assignment of roles, and a consensus of common goals should not preclude critical discussion.

Download the era-paper Cocoa (German):

<http://www.stiftung-wirtschaftsethik.de/en/projects/economy-responsibility/era-cocoa.html>

Ethical Risk Assessment Cocoa:

<http://www.stiftung-wirtschaftsethik.de/en/ethical-risk-assessment-era/kakao.html>