

Impact and Lessons from a Decade of Transforming Agricultural Commodities

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For more information see: www.greencommodities.org

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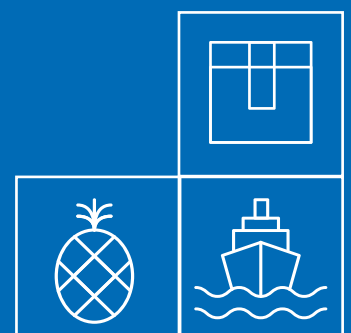
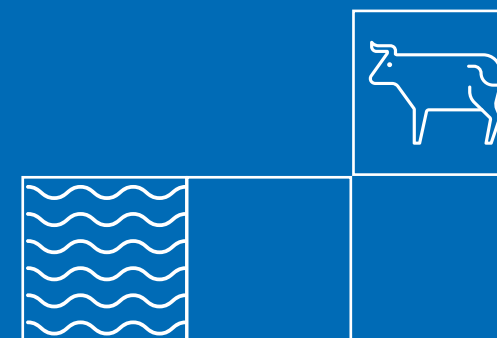
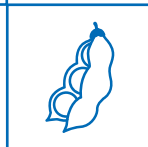




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ABOUT THIS



REPORT

This report offers a concise overview of what has been learned and achieved in ten years of transforming commodities by UNDP's Green Commodities Programme. As the world seeks to build forward better from the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for highly-traded commodities is expected to soar and the need for sustainable commodity supply chains is greater than ever.

Economic imperatives will combine with pressure of demand to make the Green Commodities Programme's mission – to transform the economic, social, and environmental performance of agricultural commodity sectors, improving the lives of farmers and their communities while protecting high conservation value forest and important vulnerable ecosystems – more urgent and more vital to the health of our planet.

Photo: © Mades





FOREWORD

by Haoliang Xu

Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator
and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme
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*In the past ten years
GCP has developed
a suite of processes
and techniques which
bring the whole system
together to decide on a
way forward.*

Ten years ago, our understanding of sustainable agricultural commodity production was starkly different than that of today.

The warning signals of environmental stress and depletion were multiplying, and there was a growing understanding of the need to move from individual, piecemeal efforts to a whole systems approach to agricultural viability. Further, it was becoming increasingly clear that the world needed to understand the biggest levers of climate change in order to mitigate, if not reverse, its effects. It was at this point that a small team at UNDP started to join up the dots between the effects of agricultural commodity production – the main driver of deforestation – and climate change. They believed that changing the way that palm oil, soy, beef, and other commodities are produced could bring major benefits to the environment. But because these commodities are central to the economy of the countries that grow them, it was essential to improve the income from them, especially for smallholder farmers, if their economies were to continue to grow.

This was the start of the UNDP Green Commodities Programme (GCP), with its twin objectives of improving the lives of commodity producers and their communities, while protecting important vulnerable ecosystems. In the past 10 years GCP has developed a suite of processes and techniques which bring the whole system together to decide on a way forward. Alongside this overall philosophy of breaking down silos, innovative tools have been produced to tackle the specific challenges of transforming commodity systems. The skills of multi-stakeholder collaboration for systemic change are increasingly vital as the problems we face become more difficult. As UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said in a 2021 TED Talk, “Systems don’t change systems, people do”, and the

GCP is at the centre of transforming people and systems simultaneously.

Supporting national governments and transforming enabling environments is at the heart of GCP’s impact. Examples include the Indonesian government bringing 14 Ministries into alignment around the Sustainable Palm Oil Initiative, Liberian stakeholders achieving a customised National Interpretation of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil standard for their local context, and the impact of our work in coffee in Peru leading the government to request UNDP’s help in cocoa and palm oil as well.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has given us a preview of what the impacts of catastrophic climate change might look like. The origins of this coronavirus are in forest loss and economic pressures, which will only be increased by ill-considered attempts to recover from its effects. We must reshape food systems and do more to make food production and consumption aligned to sustainable development. With this in mind, UNDP has for the first time consolidated its Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems (FACS) support and vision into one strategy and is bringing an integrated approach to the issues. The FACS Practice builds on 10 years of GCP expertise, and covers a portfolio of \$1.2B of technical assistance in more than 100 countries and close to 400 landscapes.

If we are to achieve the SDGs and build a better future after COVID-19 we must work together. UNDP’s expertise in food and agricultural commodity systems will be central in bringing systemic collaboration to the position it deserves at the heart of our global solution.

NATURE, CLIMATE



AND ENERGY:

ITS PLACE IN UNDP

By Pradeep Kurukulasuriya

Director of UNDP's Nature, Climate and Energy Practice

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UNDP's Green Commodities Programme (GCP) is a flagship within UNDP's range of approaches to Nature, Climate and Energy. As our Administrator Achim Steiner said,

"Our economies, our societies, our communities have to rediscover how to live with nature. And how they do that in the coming years will in large part determine whether the magnitude of pandemics, natural disasters, crises become more and more intense, or whether we can reestablish a degree of coexistence with nature that actually stabilizes our communities, our societies, our economies, and therefore becomes a way of thinking about the future of development with different parameters."

The combination of COVID-19 and the dual nature and climate crises dramatically multiplies the risks to vulnerable communities. Environmental degradation and climate change could make these outbreaks [more frequent](#). UNDP's interventions are geared towards helping governments to find solutions so that the recovery can be environmentally sustainable, climate-sensitive, energy efficient, and long lasting. This will allow for more strengthened livelihoods, resilient rural-urban planning, climate-friendly technologies, and environmental sustainability.

Biodiversity friendly, low carbon, green growth is possible. UNDP will help to ensure that economic and social post-COVID recovery efforts will embed measures to accelerate nature and climate actions. We will help countries and communities to "build back better" by investing in systemic changes needed to accelerate SDG progress. Integrated inclusive green economy approaches can yield a significant

amount of sustainable jobs and enterprises, while also ensuring that our growth stays within planetary boundaries. UNDP will also ensure climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable health care systems including medical waste management and water and sanitation.

GCP's work over the last ten years has laid the foundations for these approaches and developed a wide portfolio of tools and interventions. Now is the time to use that experience to scale up our impact.

Integrated inclusive green economy approaches can yield a significant amount of sustainable jobs and enterprises, while also ensuring that our growth stays within planetary boundaries.



AT A GLANCE





Photo: © Conservation International



OUR MISSION



We help address the sustainability challenges of highly-traded commodities. We support governments to take the lead in creating national environments where sustainable commodity sectors can grow. This means facilitating neutral spaces where stakeholders can collaborate on a shared vision and agenda for action. It means building public-private partnerships. And, it means sharing what we learn through a growing community of practitioners.

The UNDP Green Commodities Programme acts as a catalyst of mid to long-term national, structural and systemic commodity sector changes in support of sustainable agriculture.

To achieve this, we:

Strengthen stakeholder collaboration towards a shared vision and collective action.

Seek to change mindsets, behaviours, regulations and practices, improving the enabling environment that will allow sustainable

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_11452



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