

The UTZ Certified Code of Conduct

Summary



Introduction

The Code of Conduct sets out the requirements that are at the heart of what we do at UTZ Certified. It focuses on good agricultural practices, enabling farmers to strengthen their productivity – producing a higher yield of a better quality, more efficiently. At the same time, social and environmental requirements contribute to better lives for farmers, their families and workers, and the protection of the earth's natural resources. In other words, the Code of Conduct is about better farming, for a better future. If producers or members of a producer group implement the requirements of the Code of Conduct, and have a successful audit carried out by an approved certification body, they can sell their products as UTZ certified. For buyers, this provides independent assurance of sustainable production.

The Requirements

The Core Code of Conduct includes the requirements applicable to all farms in the UTZ program. There are different versions tailored specifically to the needs of large individual farms and groups of smaller farms. A continuous improvement model means that there are certain requirements that must be fulfilled from year one, with further points added in subsequent years. Farmers also need to follow the requirements in the relevant product specific module.

The Core Code of Conduct

Farm Management

- Measures to optimize the yield
- An Internal Management System for groups, with responsibilities including:
 - Transparency on the premium and how it is divided
 - Ensuring group members have access to inputs such as training and materials
 - Arranging annual internal inspections
- Record keeping
- Risk assessments
- Training and awareness raising
- Recording of volumes in the UTZ Certified traceability system

Farming Practices

- Choice of suitable planting variety
- Farm maintenance
- Soil fertility management
- Diversification of production, to support ecological diversity and economic resilience
- Integrated pest management
- Responsible and appropriate choice and use of pesticides and fertilizers, and records of application
- Irrigation
- Product handling during and after the harvest

Social and Living Conditions

- Application of national laws and ILO conventions regarding wages and working hours, including the living wage concept for individual farms



- No forced labor or child labor
- Freedom of association and collective bargaining
- Safe and healthy working conditions, including:
 - Protective clothing for work with chemicals
 - Safety training of workers in their own language
- Gender equality
- No discrimination
- Freedom of cultural expression
- Access to education for children
- Access to decent housing, clean drinking water and health care for workers and their families

Environment

- Efficient use of water and energy
- Waste management
- Promotion of ecological diversity
- Protection of nature
- No deforestation of primary forests
- Respect for protected areas
- Protection of endangered species
- Reduction and prevention of soil erosion
- Measures to adapt to climate change

The Product Specific Modules

Coffee

- Correct fermentation and handling of coffee after harvest
- Treatment of wastewater from processing

Cocoa

- Use of shade trees
- Correct drying and fermentation

Tea

- Harvest carried out at the appropriate time
- Correct handling of harvested leaves
- Quality control
- Energy and wastewater management

Rooibos

- Crop rotation
- Harvest carried out at the appropriate time
- Correct post-harvest handling
- Bush fire prevention
- Identification and protection of wild rooibos areas

