

UEBT MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT 2021

Part 4

Conclusions and recommendations for the period 2020



UNION FOR
ETHICAL
BIOTRADE

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SOURCING[®]
WITH RESPECT

Conclusions and recommendations

The M&E report allows for reflection on UEBT's work. Over the years, UEBT has expanded from a small membership organisation to a larger group of committed companies and a larger team running three certification programmes, one of them in collaboration with another global standards organisation (Rainforest Alliance).

The development of responsive and differentiated programmes, the interest from new and existing members (including some large manufacturers and brands who are leaders in their sectors) to engage in these programmes, and the interest from reputable standards organisations with globally recognised labels in creating partnerships with UEBT, are all signs of the ability of UEBT to deliver on its mission and vision.

In addition, several positive effects have been experienced by companies, suppliers and field operators that join UEBT programmes. This emerges from the studies conducted. There have been some perceptions of unintended negative effects of UEBT's work, and these relate to the complexity of implementing the UEBT requirements at different levels of the supply chains.

In the coming years, UEBT will need to balance the attention it places on working with committed companies on their improvements and progress – which is a strong focus of its work – with the attention it places on field operators (farmers, pickers/collectors) and their communities. The review process that brought the new UEBT standard – published in 2020 - has been informed by this desired balance, and resulted in a tool to achieve it. Further guidance will be developed to support the process of compliance with UEBT requirements at different levels of the supply chain.

Members and field operators will be provided with tools and examples on good practices and how to implement them. Furthermore, members shall be supported on how to communicate about UEBT – both internally and externally. It shall become easier to explain what UEBT is and how UEBT helps to foster sustainability. This communication will also make it easier to understand why it is worth undertaking the (sometimes complex) effort of complying with the UEBT standard. Guiding members in the monitoring and evaluation of the actions they take and of their impact is integral part of the UEBT standard 2020 and will also boost their abilities to communicate as well as to adjust actions.

For actions in the field, it will be important to enter, and take a position on, the debate around living income to understand what this means and how it can be interpreted in the types of companies UEBT works with. On regenerative practices, UEBT will need to share approaches and guidance that make the concept of promoting biodiversity understandable and workable in different contexts. This guidance will be developed without being prescriptive, allowing for 'bottom up' actions by local people, but also ensuring that it does 'guide' the actions so they are most likely to have a positive impact.





UEBT is a non-profit association that promotes sourcing with respect. Its mission is to regenerate nature and secure a better future for people through ethical sourcing of ingredients from biodiversity.

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