



Fact Sheet

Chiquita certifications and standards

February 2008

Our commitment to achieve high standards of environmental, social and ethical performance is rooted in our Core Values, which along with our Code of Conduct guide our long-term strategies and everyday actions. Setting high standards pushes us as a company to continuously test and improve ourselves. In setting our standards and goals we often look for the collaboration of those organisations that can provide us with guidance and advice. The efforts we develop have helped us achieve higher quality and connect us with both our retailers and individual customers, who have demonstrated great interest in knowing more about our projects and progress.

Our Standards

Rainforest Alliance certified – a partnership to transform the sector

In the year 2000, Chiquita reached a very important milestone – 100 percent Rainforest



Alliance certification for company-owned banana farms. This project began in 1992 when Chiquita established a partnership with the Rainforest Alliance to transform its production processes and introduce the organisation's challenging standards. These standards are constantly revised and upgraded and cover a variety of areas, from environmental procedures to social support and labour relations.

The Rainforest Alliance, an international organization that works to protect ecosystems and the people and wildlife that depend on them by transforming land-use practices and consumer behavior, created the certification programme in response to the environmental problems and poor social conditions that have historically affected banana farms.

Following the effort to get all farms certified, Chiquita decided in 2005 to make this better known to its customers and introduced a new label incorporating the Rainforest Alliance certification seal. In order to receive and maintain this seal, the company has to continue pursuing excellent standards for its production processes, which are submitted to thorough annual audits conducted by external independent experts.

More recently, Chiquita also began a project to encourage pineapple suppliers to obtain Rainforest Alliance certification, and by mid-2008 85% of pineapple supplies came from certified farms.

Social Accountability 8000 (SA8000)

Chiquita supports fair labour practices in all its operations. Since 2000, the company has adopted SA8000 as the standard of reference and has incorporated it into its Code of Conduct.

SA8000 is a voluntary standard developed by Social Accountability International, a non-profit organisation devoted to promoting human rights by improving workplace conditions. It is based on the core International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

SA8000 grants certification for a period of three years; however with work on improvement commitments is verified annually by independent auditors.



Ethical trading Initiative (ETI)

The Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) is a UK-based voluntary alliance of companies, non-profit organisations and trade unions working together to promote ethical business practices and fair labour conditions. Members of ETI commit to implementing and promoting the standards of the ETI Base Code, which are based on the ILO conventions (and are very similar to SA8000).



Chiquita has been an ETI member since 2002. The strength and credibility of this initiative is such that it is not unusual for European customers to use ETI as a reference to evaluate their suppliers.

International Framework Agreement (IFA) with trade unions

As part of its commitment to fair labour practices and a sound workplace environment, Chiquita maintains a constant dialogue with both international and local trade unions. In this context, the company was the first in the sector to sign an International Framework Agreement on freedom of association, minimum labour standards and employment in Latin American Banana Operations with IUF (International Union of Food) and COLSIBA (Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Sindicatos Bananeros), in June 2001.

Bandera Ecológica

Together with international certification programmes, Chiquita also tries to participate in local and national initiatives. Chiquita Fruit Ingredients' environmental management system in Costa Rica follows the Costa Rican Ministry of Energy and Environment's Bandera Ecológica (Ecological Flag) programme. This programme, which is similar to ISO



14001, requires the company to comply with environmental and labour legislation and demonstrate its commitment to continuous evaluation and improvement through an



established environmental management system. The attribution of this certification and the rating is determined by a independent auditors together with the national Office of Civil Society.



World Wildlife Fund Agreement

Chiquita has since long devoted real efforts to support environmental conservation. In 2005 it inaugurated, in partnership with the German Development Agency (GTZ) and Swiss retailer Migros, the NOGAL Nature Reserve aimed at preserving biodiversity by engaging local populations in environmental protection. In parallel, in 2005 the company reached a five year agreement with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to jointly undertake efforts to reduce the downstream impacts of bananas and other agricultural products on the Mesoamerican Caribbean Reef, in Honduras and Guatemala.



GlobalGap

Chiquita's banana divisions follow the GlobalGap Reference Standard Fruit and Vegetables. It is a risk-based food safety standard specifically designed for fruits and vegetables to inform and reassure customers and consumers in response to fears raised by food safety scares such as BSE. This standard was developed by the Euro-Retailer Produce Working Group (EurepGap) which in 2007 changed its title to GlobalGap.



Code of Conduct and Core Values

In 2000 Chiquita introduced in all its divisions and operations an official Code of Conduct, based on the company's Core Values. Our Core Values – Integrity, Respect, Opportunity and Responsibility - resulted from interviews and discussions with approximately 1,000 employees worldwide about their personal values and the values they believe Chiquita should stand for. It is clear that these same values we hold dear as employees are also critical to sustaining trusting and successful relationships with our consumers, shareholders, suppliers, host governments and communities.

For more information please contact:

George Jaksch, gjaksch@chiquita.com

