

Press release

First organic cocoa butter “made in Switzerland”

100% traceable fair trade product for environmentally-aware cosmetics consumers

Winterthur, December 2022 – The family-owned Swiss company PRONATEC is launching the first organic cocoa butter made in Switzerland. Since summer 2022, PRONATEC has been producing cocoa butter from fairly traded organic cocoa beans at its newly opened PRONATEC Swiss Cocoa Production site near Schaffhausen. This pure cocoa butter is ideal for making premium-quality natural cosmetics and is aimed particularly at manufacturers of sustainable cosmetics and beauty products, for whom it is a priority to use fairly and transparently produced ingredients that contain no harmful substances. The cocoa beans that are used can be traced all the way back to the smallholders who produce them; no child labour is used at any stage of the supply chain.

Honest, traceable ingredients

“More and more consumers are looking for beauty products that are not only sustainably but also transparently produced. Our 100% traceable, certified cocoa butter is our response to that trend,” says David Yersin, CEO of PRONATEC Swiss Cocoa Production and an organic and Fairtrade pioneer in Switzerland. Having its own cocoa-processing plant means that, from procuring the beans from small-scale farmers, through fermentation and export to processing and sale of the finished product, all stages of the value-added chain are now in PRONATEC’s hands. Thanks to its unique direct-sourcing system, every product can be traced back to the cocoa-growing smallholder.

Organic cocoa butter chimes with the latest beauty trends

Yersin declares: “The growing popularity of local produce, and trends like petrochemical-free formulas, ‘clean beauty’ and skin minimalism are driving demand for natural, high-quality ingredients. Demand from the market is also confirming the trend towards stricter labels such as Demeter and FLO Fairtrade with physical traceability. Our products help to meet that need”. Thanks to careful deodorising without the use of pressure or additives, this food-quality product has low FFA values (free fatty acids) which means it can be stored for a long time and remains stable.

More information can be found at: www.pronatec.com/cocoa-processing



A small-scale cocoa farmer in the Dominican Republic harvests a fresh organic cocoa pod. (Photo: © PRONATEC AG)



In the butter press, the freshly processed organic cocoa mass is carefully pressed to separate the liquid cocoa butter from the solid press cake from which cocoa powder is made. (Photo: © PRONATEC AG)

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About PRONATEC

PRONATEC has been a pioneer in the global organic and fair trade movement and supplies its international customers in the food and cosmetics industries with premium-quality, certified ingredients. These include safe, traceable cocoa products, sugar, vanilla and spices that all meet the highest standards. This owner-run Swiss family company maintains long-standing partnerships with cooperatives in the countries of origin and makes a tangible contribution to improving the lives of smallholders and their families. Now, as of 2022, the company is processing organic cocoa beans into cocoa mass, cocoa butter and cocoa powder at its own Swiss cocoa-processing plant, PRONATEC Swiss Cocoa Production. From procuring the beans from small-scale farmers, through fermentation and export to processing and sale of the finished product, all stages of the process are in PRONATEC's own hands. Since it was first founded in 1976, PRONATEC has grown along with its customers and smallholders and in 2021 its turnover reached CHF 78 million. Now, in 2022, the company employs around 60 people at its headquarters in Winterthur and about 30 at the production site near the Rhine Falls in the canton of Schaffhausen.

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