EDEKA AND WWF – A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

PROGRESS REPORT 2022

WWF | STARKE PARTNER GEMEINSAM FÜR MEHR NACHHALTIGKEIT. | EDEKA

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PREFACE

DEAR READERS,

We are pleased to present to you in this report the milestones that we in our partnership between EDEKA and the WWF have achieved together.

The best news first: In 2022, we once again achieved major milestones on the road to an increasingly sustainable future and extended our partnership for another ten years! Having anchored our cooperation on a new contractual basis that will run until 2032, and by focusing our activities on the current ecological challenges in an even more targeted fashion, we are facing the future in a stronger position to shape and ensure responsible food retailing in Germany. We can therefore present you with a very special report this year. It summarises a decade of work we have done to date; at the same time, it provides an initial outlook on the goals ahead. Our common mission statement remains unchanged: to create a liveable future by operating within the limits set by the resources of our planet.

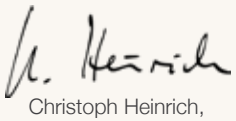
Not least in view of the current humanitarian crises, triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the associated energy policy challenges, flexible, practical and decisive measures in environmental protection are needed today – more than ever. Because for us, there can be no compromise when it comes to sustainability – instead, our response is: “Now more than ever!” Especially as the fight for climate protection, for biodiversity and against the flood of packaging continues to confront humanity with vitally important tasks.

That is why we bring to the table not only the willingness, but also the ability to change, and to further develop our cooperation in a targeted manner. In this way, we keep opening up new opportunities to protect the environment and its natural resources in the long run. Be it through large-scale promotion of renewable energies within the EDEKA Group. Or be it through model programmes such as “Agriculture for Biodiversity” to protect our native flora and fauna. Be it with innovative solutions such as the “Water Risk Tool” designed to accomplish more sustainable water resource management and identify risks to freshwater resources.

We set high standards for our actions. At the same time, we contribute sound experience built up over many years. Time and again, these help resolve the tension between economic, ecological and social objectives by developing creative solutions. Likewise, it is of central importance to us to make our partnership transparent and verifiable for you at all times. Yes, we communicate our success stories – and we do so not without pride. And we openly talk about the obstacles and limits we encounter along our path. Because for EDEKA and WWF, this is also part of the shared understanding of what constitutes a sustainable transformation process – transparency.

Join us on this journey and get to know our partnership better.

WE WISH YOU AN EXCITING VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY AND LOTS OF FUN READING!



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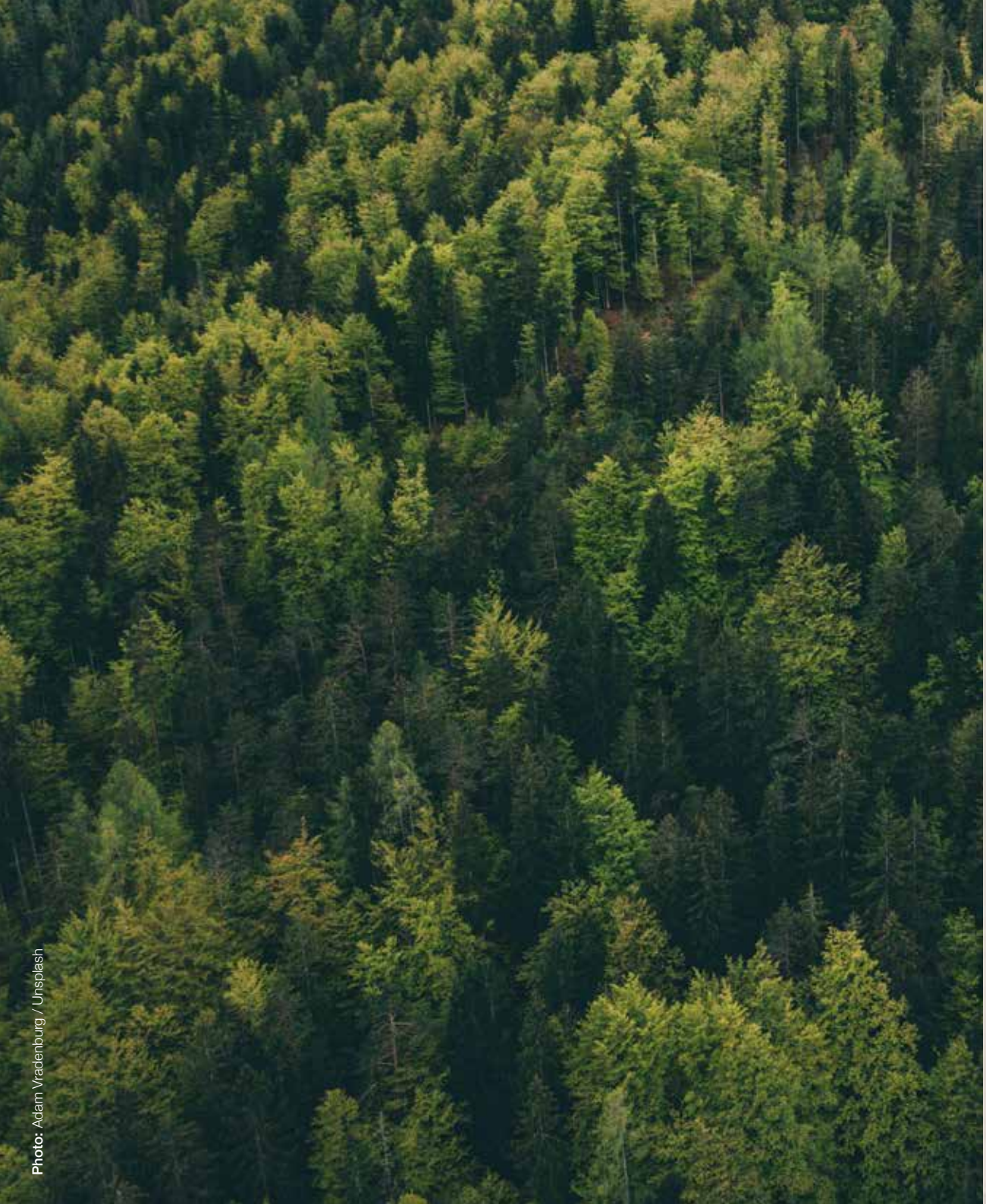
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFI	Accountability Framework Initiative
ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
AWS	Alliance for Water Stewardship
CSI	Climate Supplier Initiative
EMK	Eigenmarkenkatalog (private-label catalogue)
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene
EVG	EDEKA Versorgungsgesellschaft mbH
FONAP	Forum Sustainable Palm Oil
FONEI	Forum More Sustainable Protein Feed
FSA	Farm Sustainability Assessment
FSC®	Forest Stewardship Council
GHB	Großhandelsbetriebe (Wholesale operations)
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
IP	RSPO Supply Chain Model Identity Preserved
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
kWh	Kilowatt hour
LEH	Food retail sector
MB	RSPO Supply Chain Model Mass Balance
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NMD	Netto Marken Discount
PCF	Product Carbon Footprint
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
POIG	Palm Oil Innovation Group
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
PVDC	Polyvinylidene chloride
rPET	Recycled polyethylene terephthalate
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
RTRS	Roundtable on Responsible Soy Association
SAI	Sustainable Agriculture Initiative
SBTI	Science Based Targets Initiative
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEH	Independent retailers
SG	RSPO Supply Chain Model Segregated
VLOG	Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e. V. (GMO-Free Food Association)
WRT	Water Risk Tool
ZALF	Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research e. V.



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THE PARTNER-SHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

1.1 THIRTEEN YEARS OF COOPERATION – TEN YEARS IN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

It has now been ten years since the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and EDEKA ZENTRALE Stiftung & Co. KG (EDEKA) published the first Progress Report on their partnership for sustainability. The goal, then as now, was to transform German food retailing by having one of the world's best-known conservation organisations work with Germany's leading food retailer to reduce EDEKA's ecological footprint. Working as a well-coordinated team, the partners have learnt to trust each other, and at the same time set themselves ambitious targets.

But EDEKA and WWF had already got to know each other quite well even before the partnership was launched: as early as 2009, the topic of "Fish and seafood" was the focus of an initial cooperative venture aimed at making the origin of the goods more sustainable. In doing so, the partners are well aware that an undertaking of this kind requires more than just good will on both sides. The different links in the supply chain must be made to interlock. This calls for transparency. It means being informed about which actors are involved in the different links of the supply chain, in which areas they exert an influence, and where the potentials are to achieve transformative change.

Prerequisites are traceability and transparency in supply chains, but also political support through framework legislation at national or, for example, EU level. Last but not least, targeted financial and organisational incentives and support in the form of advice are also needed – tools and instruments that have already been used in the partnership for many years in the "Agriculture for Biodiversity" programme, for example.

This trusting yet challenging cooperation has already borne fruit in and on many fields. Three projects at the cultivation level – the Citrus Project, the Banana Project and the "Agriculture for Biodiversity" programme – demonstrate how systematic improvements can be made in both conventional and organic farming, leading towards more natural cultivation and the protection of existing ecosystems. Valuable groundwork has also been done in the partnership's subject areas such as "Fish and seafood", "Freshwater" and "Procurement management of critical agricultural commodities". Databases have been created for responsibly sourced fish, for freshwater risks in cultivation, and risks associated with the procurement of critical agricultural commodities. These databases contain a body of knowledge that will reinforce our joint work in the future in terms of sustainability and effectiveness.

EFFECTIVE INTO THE NEXT TEN YEARS OF THE COOPERATION

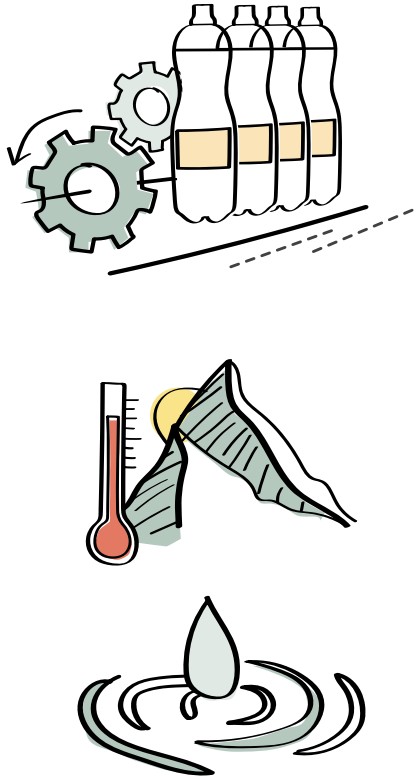
Building on the foundations already laid, WWF and EDEKA will be able to develop even better-tailored measures in the coming years. In addition to working on certification systems and product range design, the partners will also shed more light on the upstream stages of the supply chain. EDEKA and WWF strive for more sustainable procurement and design of products and supply chains as well as preliminary competitive cooperation to achieve market transformation. Such processes of change are not always easy but, given the times we live in, there is simply no alternative. The effects of the climate and biodiversity crises are also increasingly felt in everyday life in Germany. If we want to continue to draw on finite natural resources, we will need to adapt our behaviour. For the partners WWF and EDEKA, the effectiveness of the measures will guide their actions in the future.

To this end, the partners have agreed on common, contractually anchored targets for the coming phase – the targets that will be included in reports from 2025 onwards – in the four overarching subject areas of "Resource and material conservation," "Climate protection," "Freshwater protection" and "Biodiversity conservation." In the future, cooperation will focus even more on achieving the greatest possible impact within the company, along supply chains and in procurement processes. In doing so, the partners will focus on systematically recording and analysing the risks in the product range and developing tailor-made measures with scaling potential to reduce the risks in question. In the long term, not only the product range, but the entire company and its value chains are to be geared to meeting the challenges of the future and become more resilient.

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND A SHARED COMMITMENT

The year 2022 is on record as having been one of the driest throughout Europe. In many regions of Europe and also in Germany, forests burned, the ongoing drought took its toll and left lakes, rivers and fields drying up – the consequences of climate change. The year 2022 showed all too clearly how great the need for action is, and how important it is to take concerted action. The complex challenges of our time call for immense staying power. The WWF and EDEKA have affirmed their partnership. The decision and commitment to extend the partnership for another ten years is our response to the dramatic recent developments.

This final report briefly summarises the targets and achievements of the cooperation between the WWF and EDEKA for the period from 2012 to 2022, and it provides a brief outlook on the future of our cooperation. The next Progress Report will be published in 2025 and will cover the first two years of the new phase.



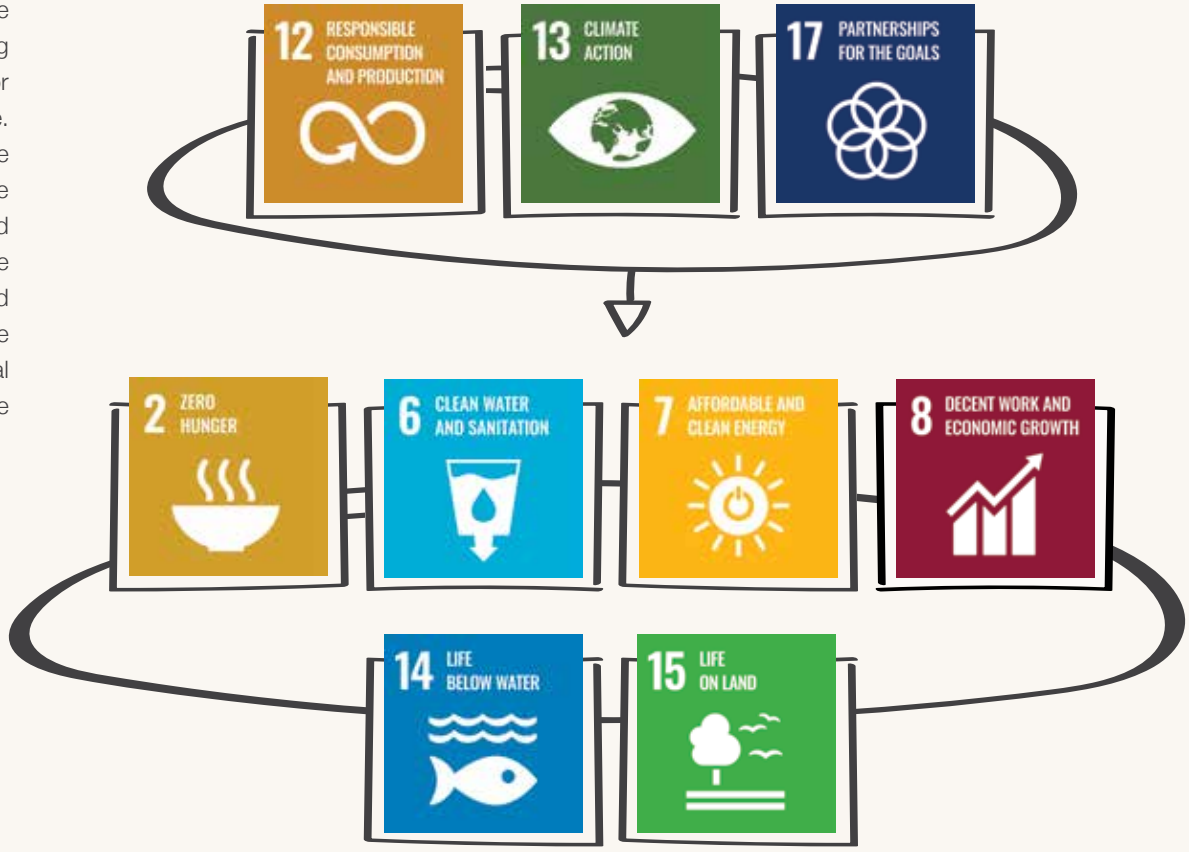
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EDEKA AND THE WWF AT:

www.edeka.de/wwf
www.wwf.de/edeka

Photo: Denis Ünver / WWF: Banana farm in Colombia

1.2 THE PARTNERSHIP, AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Partnership for Sustainability between the WWF and EDEKA takes the Sustainability Goals of the United Nations as its starting point. The overarching framework is constituted by the SDGs 17 Global Partnerships/Multi-Actor Partnerships, 12 Consumption and Production as well as 13 Climate Change. They cover the economic and ecological dimensions of sustainability. However, the endeavours of this cooperation are also intended to have a positive impact on the SDGs 6 Water, 14 Oceans, 15 Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2 Food Security and Agriculture, 7 Energy Security, and 8 Growth and Development. It should be noted that there are interactive relationships between these individual goals – and thus also between the subject areas pursued within our partnership. Decisions made in the subject area of packaging, for example, also have an impact on the ecological footprint of entire product ranges. Throughout this report, the relevant SDGs are cited in the introduction to the individual chapters.



1.3 PRINCIPLES OF PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Ever since the strategic partnership was entered into in 2012, the status of the implementation has been documented in an annual monitoring system, with 30 June serving as the cut-off date. Unlike the situation in previous years, however, this final report does not primarily consider the implementation status of the previous year (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022). Instead, the aim is to enable readers to look back over the entire ten years of our cooperation. To this end, the goals are clearly documented, including their baseline and target achievement data, and presented at the beginning of the corresponding sub-chapter. The degree of target achievement was determined in 2022 for the respective subject areas of the partnership through monitoring, and then validated in terms of its quantitative results by an independent auditor in the following subject areas:

- Fish and Seafood
- Palm oil
- Packaging
- Soy / More sustainable livestock feed (only the new targets in the meat/cold cuts segments)
- Freshwater

In addition, the data for the subject area Product-related communication has been approved by the auditor. These include all EDEKA private-label products that meet a sustainability standard recognised by the WWF.[1] The WWF logo indicates certification by an independent testing organisation.

[1] These include the EU Organic Regulation, Naturland, Bioland and similar organic food associations, MSC, FSC®, Blauer Engel and NATRUE.

Photo: Kristiaps Ungurs / Unsplash

For the subject areas Wood and Paper as well as for the earlier targets for Soy/Sustainable livestock feed, the data used is from the 2021 monitoring (cf. notes in the respective chapters).

In addition to the status table, a status text groups the results according to achievements, challenges and special features and provides a brief outlook. The status text is supplemented by data tables and graphics that illustrate the results, making them easier to grasp.

The key indicators chosen for the monitoring show the degree to which the private-label product range has been converted to more sustainable alternatives. The monitoring is based on the private-label catalogue for the year in which progress was measured. In each case, the relevant private-label catalogue is identified in the data tables and graphs.

In the subject area Freshwater, the monitoring is based on the turnover quantities of the suppliers. What is measured here is firstly the proportion of suppliers who provided information (risk transparency), and secondly, how many of these have already been implementing risk reduction measures.
In the subject area of Climate, an externally validated carbon footprint provides the basis for measuring progress. In addition, there is additional, internally collected data on energy efficiency measures and on the optimisation of logistics processes, among other things.

An independent auditor verifies selected quantitative data. The auditor's responsibility is to plan and carry out the audit in such a manner that following a critical assessment, it can it be ruled out with a limited degree of certainty that in material aspects the selected quantitative disclosures were not prepared in accordance with the selected GRI criteria of accuracy, balance, comprehensibility, comparability, reliability and timeliness.[2]

1.4 METHODOLOGY USED IN THE ASSESSMENT

The Progress and Final Report presents the individual subtargets and the progress towards target achievement in each of them by the 30 June cut-off date. The following assessment categories were available:

- Target achieved
- Significant degree of target achievement[3]
- Average to high degree of target achievement[4]
- Target not achieved

[3] If the degree of target achievement is more than 95 per cent or the degree of target achievement falls less than 5 percentage points short of the target achievement value.
[4] If the target achievement is between 60 and 90 per cent.

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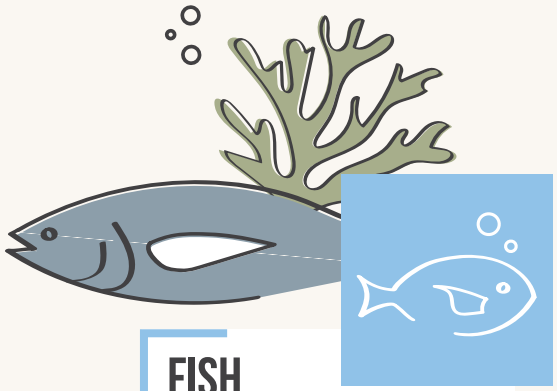
[2] Based on the Sustainability Reporting Standards laid down by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

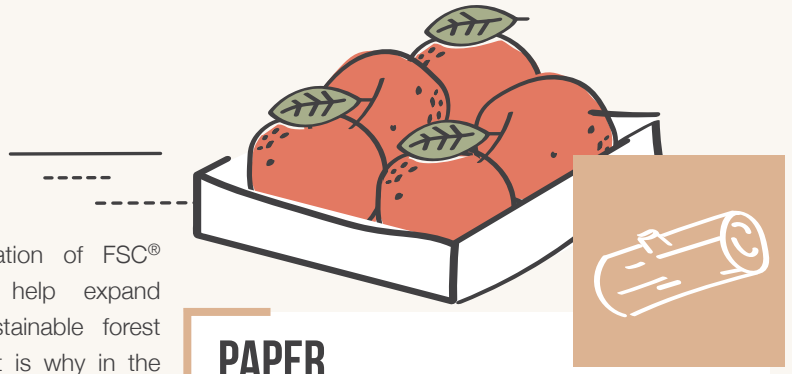
1.5 OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES



FISH

Today, 89 per cent of the fish product range has been switched to certified sources or sources rated as “Good Choice” by the WWF.

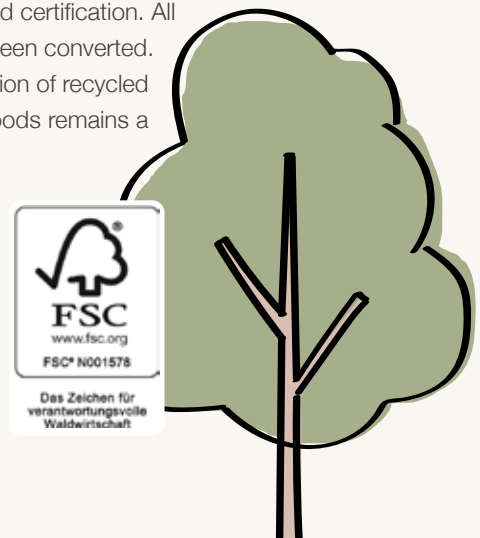
For more than ten years now, EDEKA and the WWF have been working on the **Fish and seafood product range** to convert to more sustainable sources and in the process promote regulated fishing methods that protect ecosystems and reduce unwanted bycatch. The development of the WWF fish database is one of the milestones of the joint work on the product range. The database allows the different origins of fish species to be compared and additional environmental aspects to be taken into account when making purchasing decisions. Today, 89 per cent of the fish product range has been switched to certified sources or sources rated as “Good Choice” by the WWF. At the same time, the German market is now the front-runner in offering MSC-certified products. EDEKA already implemented further important steps when the cooperation was launched by, for example, delisting fish species acutely threatened with extinction, such as the eel and many species of shark, rays and wild sturgeon. There have been challenges in coming to a decision regarding a joint project sponsorship or aquaculture project. Although these could not be overcome before the end of this phase of the partnership, the partners were able to jointly solve a key challenge resulting from the way the Group is structured: together with the WWF, EDEKA developed a fish procurement policy that applies to the entire Group.



PAPER

Even in the year 2022, this comprehensive switch to FSC® and Blauer-Engel certified goods is unique in the food retail sector.

Consistent application of FSC® certification can help expand and reinforce sustainable forest management. That is why in the subject area of **Wood, paper and tissue** the partners have agreed to strive for a Group-wide changeover to at least FSC®mix-certified material. This goal was already reached to a high degree in the first year of the partnership, making EDEKA an early pioneer in this field. Even in 2022, this comprehensive switch to FSC® and Blauer-Engel certified goods is unique in the food retail sector. Over the years, new targets were added, such as the conversion of both product and transport packaging. Meanwhile, almost the entire relevant private-label product range has been switched over to either FSC® Mix or FSC® Recycled. The high levels of target achievement were also maintained over the years with regard to internal consumables: almost all paper products used in internal consumption are at least FSC® Mix certified, and of these, 80.41 per cent have Blauer Engel or FSC® Recycled certification. All EDEKA Media GmbH products, such as “YUMMI”, have been converted. The recycling rate here is around 93 per cent. The proportion of recycled material in the procurement of wood, paper and tissue goods remains a challenge that will require additional work in the future.



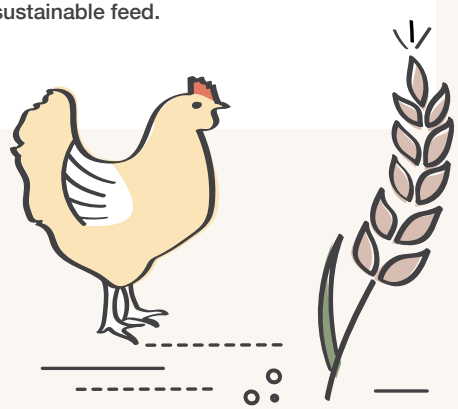
Cooperation in the subject area of **Palm oil** focuses on ensuring the consistent use of certified palm oil components according to the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) in order to contribute to a more sustainable development of the palm oil industry as well as more socially and ecologically compatible cultivation of oil palms. Among other requirements, the RSPO stipulates the elimination of highly hazardous pesticides, the reduction of greenhouse gases and the prohibition of slash-and-burn agriculture. In the case of palm (kernel) oil as well as the derivatives and fractions derived from it that are used in EDEKA's private-labels, the changeover to the targeted supply chain models meeting the RSPO standard has since reached a very high level across the board. Immense progress has been made here in recent years. In the calendar year 2021, more than 95 per cent of the palm (kernel) oil components used in private-label products were certified according to the targeted supply chain model. The switch to verified palm (kernel) oil from the Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG) remains challenging. Unfortunately, this goal could not be achieved by the end of this partnership phase. Obstacles such as the absence of, or lack of information about, a segregated supply chain of POIG palm (kernel) oil to Germany, but also the problem that communication activities are reserved for POIG members, play a role here. Last but not least, EDEKA defined sustainability requirements for the substitution of palm oil for the first time in 2021 and ensured minimum requirements for substitutes such as rapeseed, sunflower, soya and coconut across the board. Still pending is a comprehensive assessment of the substitution carried out and the implementation of these minimum sustainability requirements. This also includes the development of a holistic strategy.

PALM OIL

Over 95 per cent of the palm oil components used are certified in accordance with the targeted supply chain model.

SOYA

98 per cent of GUT&GÜNSTIG eggs come from hens kept on sustainable feed.



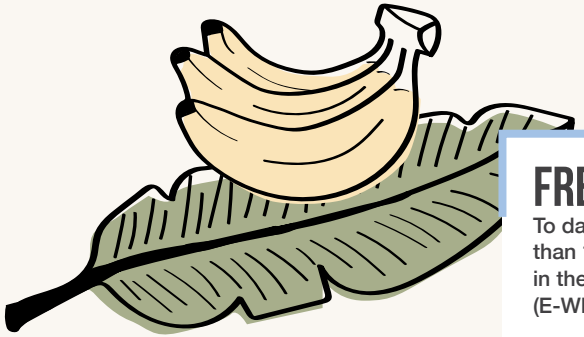
In the subject area of **Soya,** the complex and difficult-to-trace structures of supply chains for animal products have proved to be the biggest hurdle to achieving the targets. It was only possible to change over to more sustainable feed within the scope of projects such as the Hofglück programme run in cooperation with the Region Southwest, the Gutfleisch programme in the Region North, the start-up projects for frozen broilers, the national hay milk and barn-laid eggs. Today, 98 per cent of the GUT&GÜNSTIG eggs come from hens kept on sustainable feed. EDEKA and the WWF consider a changeover in the feed as having been accomplished if it is regionally sourced, preferably GMO-free feed from European cultivation, consisting of soya or alternative protein crops such as peas, field beans or lupins. In soya cultivation, certifications such as ProTerra, Donau Soya and the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS), as well as GMO-free sustainable farming practices that benefit people and the environment all form part of the targeted feed strategy.

This report also provides information about the outcomes in relation to new targets for the meat and sausage segment agreed in 2020. These new targets include an agreement to increase the number of certified organic and GMO-free products and of vegan/vegetarian substitutes in this segment. Among the achievements was the target for vegan and vegetarian substitute products: the number of vegan/vegetarian substitute products (such as tofu, vegan cold cuts or vegan mince) was successfully increased by just over 33 per cent compared to the previous year (2021). The number of certified organic meat and sausage products also increased by 21 per cent. The target of boosting the number of GMO-free poultry sausage products was missed, however. In the future, it will be a matter of going beyond the political demand to implement transparent supply chains that are free of deforestation or forest conversion, by engaging all the way down to the level of animal feed.

Increased energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energies make an important contribution to global **Climate protection**. EDEKA is therefore working on making its EDEKA logistics and supply chains more climate-friendly, so as to significantly reduce direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions. Initial results are shown in the climate balances for the years 2017, 2019 and 2020: total absolute greenhouse gas emissions Scope 1 + 2 declined by more than 37 per cent between 2017 and 2020. This means that the interim target for 2025 was already reached in 2020. An important next step will be for EDEKA HQ together with Netto-Marken-Discount and budni to join the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and, in doing so, committing to the requirements of the net zero targets. In addition, EDEKA has identified hotspots on the basis of the 2017, 2019 and 2020 climate balances and presented an overarching climate strategy that has been approved by the Executive Board.

CLIMATE

An important next step has been for EDEKA Zentrale (HQ) together with Netto-Marken-Discount and budni to join the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), with the commitment to meeting the requirements of the SBTi's net zero targets standard.



FRESHWATER

To date, the data for a total of more than 15,800 farms has been recorded in the EDEKA Water Risk Tool (E-WRT).

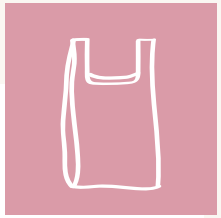
In the subject area **Freshwater,** the partners have been working with the Water Stewardship method for many years. This approach contributes to the protection and restoration of water-based ecosystems and helps improve water quality, reduce water consumption, ensure the supply of drinking water and the provision of sanitation, and to reinforcing more sustainable water resource management practices in river basins. In recent years, EDEKA and the WWF have worked consistently on the task of identifying freshwater risks. The progress is also reflected in the key indicators obtained through the monitoring exercise: to date, the data for a total of more than 15,800 farms has been recorded in the EDEKA Water Risk Tool (E-WRT). Risk transparency was boosted successfully from about 79 per cent (2021) to almost 84 per cent (2022). This means that more than four-fifths of the total sales volumes (in kg) of EDEKA's private-label suppliers of fruit and vegetables from water-risk countries are included in the E-WRT. Risk countries are those with a rating greater than 3.0 on a scale ranging from 1 (low risk) to 5 (very high risk). They include Italy, Spain and Peru, for instance. Complete verification is already available for about 29 per cent of the sales volumes (in kg). This means that suppliers and producers have met the appropriate risk reduction certifications in full. A cooperative venture with the WWF biodiversity programme is to be planned for the future. By extending the E-WRT to include other suppliers and by adding biodiversity criteria, the aim is to survey the freshwater and biodiversity risks and opportunities in their product ranges. Further Water Stewardship projects are also planned in water risk hotspot regions, and EDEKA intends to maintain its position as market leader in the organic food segment.

ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

In 2015, the partnership was extended to include the topic of **Packaging**. In this context, EDEKA and the WWF are engaged in an effort to significantly reduce the amount of packaging. Where the total elimination of packaging is not possible, the amount of packaging should be reduced, and reusable alternatives and the use of recycled material (promoted where appropriate) and recyclability should be ensured. Over the past seven years, the partners have focused on targets for the use of recycled materials in certain article groups, the reduction of environmentally harmful materials, the reduction in the number of knot bags and disposable carrier bags, and the optimisation of packaging in the fruit and vegetable segment. EDEKA was able to achieve or in some cases exceed some of these targets, such as the significant increase in the proportion of PET recycled material in the drug store/detergent, cleaning and cleansing products segment and in beverage bottles. Here, the share of the total amount of material used in 2022 is over 64 per cent. The target of reducing knot bag consumption per square metre of retail space by at least 30 per cent was also significantly exceeded, with an actual decrease of around 49 per cent compared to the base year 2017. Other success stories in the subject area of packaging include not only that many fruit and vegetables are now being sold without packaging, but also the introduction of a reusable container concept at the fresh food counters, and the provision of waste separation information on products. While in the past the focus tended to be on individual topics and measures, in future a systematic approach across the entire product range will be on the agenda, so that the concept of a circular economy can be addressed in a holistic manner. Transparency in relation to relevant packaging data forms the basis for the development of targets and measures.

PACKAGING

The target of reducing knot bag consumption per square metre of retail space by at least 30 per cent was significantly exceeded, with an actual decrease of around 49.25 per cent compared to the base year 2017.



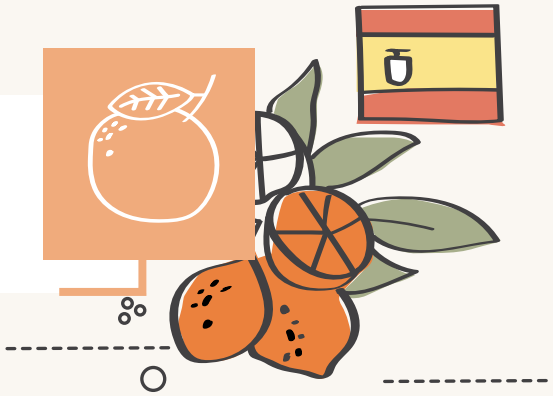
PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT

The methodology of environmental cost analysis that has been the mainstay throughout has contributed significantly towards the development of the target agreements for the new partnership phase and of the activities derived from them.

Making sustainable sourcing and procurement decisions is part of responsible business practice and contributes to sustainable agricultural production. For this reason, the partners decided in 2017 to include the strategically oriented subject area of **Procurement management of critical agricultural commodities** in the portfolio. In this area, EDEKA is working towards ensuring that the farms of its suppliers change their operations over to sustainable water management, better working conditions, lower greenhouse gas emissions, greater biodiversity and optimised soil management. Of key importance to the work in this subject area was the development of a web-based tool known as the EDEKA Supply Risk Tool. The tool went live in 2020 and is based on almost 240 risk analyses that were prepared and extensively updated by the WWF on behalf of EDEKA. It lets users view and compare the environmental and social procurement risks associated with 32 raw materials sourced from 72 countries, and it provides basic suggestions for risk reduction strategies. However, of particular importance for the new partnership phase will be the analytical methodology applied in the field projects involving conventional cultivation in order to determine the actual environmental costs incurred. These analyses provided valuable insights for procurement and project decisions. Moreover, the methodology of environmental cost analysis has contributed significantly towards the development of the target agreements for the new partnership phase and of the activities derived from them.

CITRUS PROJECT

The project now operates in all three of Spain's main citrus-growing regions.

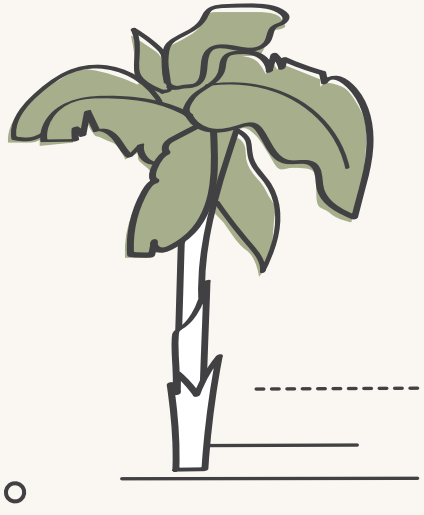


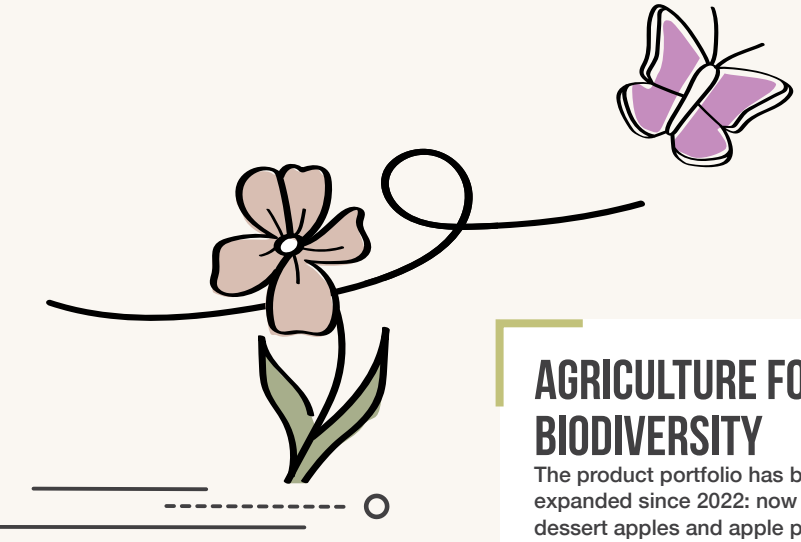
These cultivation projects also made progress in both conventional and organic farming: In order to minimise the ecological impact of conventional cultivation of oranges and mandarins, the **Citrus Project,** launched in Spain in 2015, focuses on measures that by 2021 had been implemented on 19 farms covering a total area of over 1,522 hectares. In their endeavour to expand the range of more sustainably grown oranges and mandarins from conventional cultivation, the partners were able to recruit five additional suppliers for the Citrus Project. As a result, the project is now operating in three regions, with the focus on four key issues: water, pesticides, biodiversity and good agricultural practices. The measures implemented to date have saved 1,668 million litres of water and prevented the use of 10,600 kilograms or litres of pesticides on the project farms. The reduced toxic load combined with biodiversity measures also promote the presence of beneficial insects such as ladybird beetles, and has led to the reintroduction of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.

In the **Banana Project,** the second project phase was successfully completed, and all project parties agreed to continue the joint work to make conventional banana cultivation more sustainable. The project thus entered its third phase in January 2022 and has been extended for another five years. A number of positive outcomes were already achieved during the second phase. For instance, the protection zones between cultivated areas and surrounding ecosystems were expanded and now cover an area of over 85 hectares. On average, this amounts to 4.5 hectares per project farm, and indigenous plants are growing again, and animal species whose habitat had been severely reduced by forest clearing are returning to these areas. Within the cultivated areas, dense plant cover along the water channels also protects the groundwater and soils from contamination by agrochemicals. In addition, with the completion of the second phase of the project, water treatment plants for water use in post-harvest treatment will be deployed on all project farms. This measure reduced water consumption at the packing stations by up to around 82 per cent. By the end of 2021, all farms in the project had been certified according to the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS). The project farms are the first farms in the banana cultivation sector to achieve AWS certification and are thus considered industry pioneers in dealing with sustainable water management. In the future, the work will be further extended beyond the actual farm areas to the enterprise and landscape level.

BANANA PROJECT

On average, on 4.5 hectares per project farm native plants are growing once again, and animal species whose habitat had been severely reduced by forest clearing are returning to these areas.





AGRICULTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY

The product portfolio has been significantly expanded since 2022: now cereal products, dessert apples and apple purée are also part of the range.

In the **Agriculture for Biodiversity** programme, not only do the participating organic farms manage without synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, as is customary in organic farming, they also adapt their method of cultivating arable land and grassland to the needs of the native flora and fauna. Food sources for animals and plants are preserved, and habitats can recover. Through targeted nature conservation measures, the programme makes a special contribution to the protection of biodiversity in the agricultural landscape. This is all the more true as new operations were added again last year. The product portfolio was also significantly expanded in 2022 and, in addition to cereal products, it now includes dessert apples and apple purée from a newly launched initiative as part of the nature conservation programme. The monitoring programme for the region of southern Germany, which has now been completed, delivered remarkable results, especially on unmown meadow strips. At least eight times as many insects were counted there compared to the mown strips on the same farm. This is the highest success factor recorded for any conservation measure under the Agriculture For Biodiversity programme. The successful programme will be continued by the partners in the future. Ever since its inception, the Partnership For Sustainability has also made a visible impact on the products themselves:

EDEKA private-label products that meet environmental standards recognised by WWF are permitted to bear the WWF Panda logo. Through this **product-related communication,** referred to as **co-branding,** EDEKA and the WWF aim to provide customers with guidance in relation to the product range, and in this way make it easier for customers to make more responsible buying decisions right at the supermarket shelf. Making such decisions has become somewhat easier since 2012, as the number of co-branded products has increased overall. Back in 2013, the monitoring recorded 213 products with co-branding; by 2022 this number had already risen to 511. The range of environmentally friendly private-label products has been expanded and now includes various product range segments such as natural cosmetics (“BLÜTEZEIT”) and detergents (“RESPEKT”).

CO-BRANDING

In 2013, the monitoring recorded 213 products with co-branding; by 2022 this number had already risen to 511.

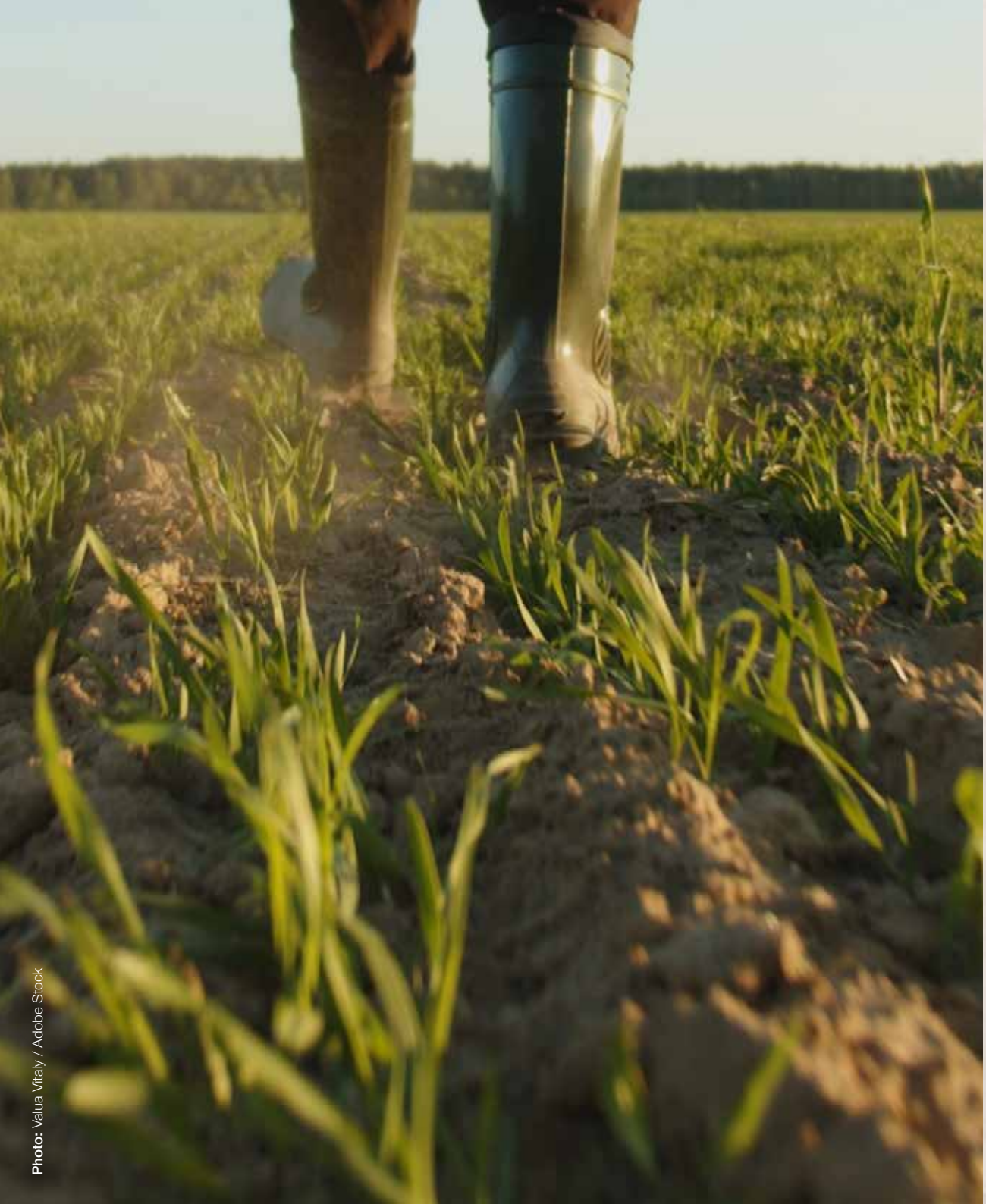


Photo: Valua Vitaly / Adobe Stock

2

PROGRESS IN THE SUBJECT AREAS

Photo: Mikhail Preobrazhenskiy / Unsplash

2.1

FISH AND SEAFOOD

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	BASELINE	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
CHANGEOVER OF PRIVATE-LABEL PRODUCT RANGE TO MORE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS BY 30 JUNE 2022			
100% of EDEKA private-labels have been converted to sustainable goods.	62% Good Choice 38 % Second Choice 0% Preferably Not (March 2012)	89% Good Choice products, 10% Second Choice, 1% Preferably Not. Large parts of the product range have been converted to sustainable sources. However, there is still a need to catch up in some segments in the product range.	→
of which wild fish (71%)	80% of products MSC or sustainable fisheries (status as of 30 June 2014)	91% Good Choice products, 7% Second Choice, 2% Preferably Not. Certifications have been largely implemented, especially in high-sales product ranges.	→
of which aquaculture (29%)	40% of the products ASC or organic (Status as of 30 June 2014)	83% of products Good Choice, 17% Preferably Not. Significant improvement compared to baseline. Numerous new listings of yellow products (especially farmed salmon) prevented a better outcome.	→
100% of pet food private-labels have been converted to sustainable goods.	12% Good Choice; 71% Second Choice; 18% Preferably Not (Status as of 30 June 2015)	37% Good Choice products, 23% Second Choice, 40% Preferably Not. A change in how progress is measured in 2018 led to downgrading of many products containing fish meal or fish oil of unaccounted origin. Many products that contain one type of fish as a main ingredient have meanwhile been converted.	✗
The critically endangered species eel, ray, wild sturgeon and shark have been permanently removed from the product range.	5 Reports of improper action (Status as of 30 June 2013)	Delisting was maintained. There continue to be isolated reports of improper action at individual stores. Compliance with the delisting decision should continue to be monitored.	✓
100% of the EDEKA private-label Cash & Carry (C&C) converted to sustainable sources.	100% (2 products) MSC (Status as of 30 June 2014)	100% (2 products) MSC	✓
TARGETS OUTSIDE THE PRODUCT RANGE			
Projects to make improvements in aquaculture		The partners failed to reach an agreement on a project.	✗
Improving traceability and transparency along the supply chain		Significant coverage of the product range through certifications leads to improved traceability. Expansion of the QR code on packaging lets customers obtain information about the origin of an article.	↗
Sponsoring in the segment fisheries/aquaculture projects		The partners failed to reach an agreement on a project.	✗
Improvements to the product range and to information displayed at the service counters		Before the coronavirus pandemic, regular monitoring was carried out at the stores regarding the implementation of the targets.	→

Table 1: Overview of the baseline and the level of target achievement in the subject area Fish and Seafood by 30 June 2022.

WHY DO WWF AND EDEKA WORK TOGETHER ON THE TOPIC OF FISHERIES?

Over a third of the world's fish stocks are overfished. Climate change will not make it easier to reverse this trend, as the biomass is expected to decline for most fish stocks. If a stock is overfished to the point of collapse, it does not necessarily mean that the fish species will become extinct. However, herring, cod and other species fulfil important functions in the ecosystem because they eat other plants and animals and in turn serve as food for other animals. Due to the great complexity of these interrelationships, the consequences are difficult to predict, and they may be irreversible. In addition to the pressures on fauna and flora, this also has serious consequences for the people whose livelihood depends on fishing. Some fish species are indeed acutely threatened with extinction, or are at least very vulnerable due to overfishing. These include the eel, many species of shark, rays and wild sturgeon. EDEKA already delisted these products when the cooperation with the WWF was first launched.

Since 2009, the WWF and EDEKA have had the common goal of making fish products within EDEKA's private-label brands more sustainable. At that time, certification schemes such as MSC or organic had a niche existence in the fish segment. In 2008, before the cooperation began, only one in ten respondents even knew about the MSC label, whereas in 2018 around 70 per cent of respondents were familiar with it. Today, Germany is one of the markets with the highest proportion of certified fish products. The WWF Fish Database represents another cornerstone in the work on the product range. The database makes it possible to compare the different origins of fish species and to take environmental aspects into account when making buying decisions. EDEKA supports the database together with many other partners in the WWF network. It now includes over 3,800 ratings for a wide range of fish and seafood origins.

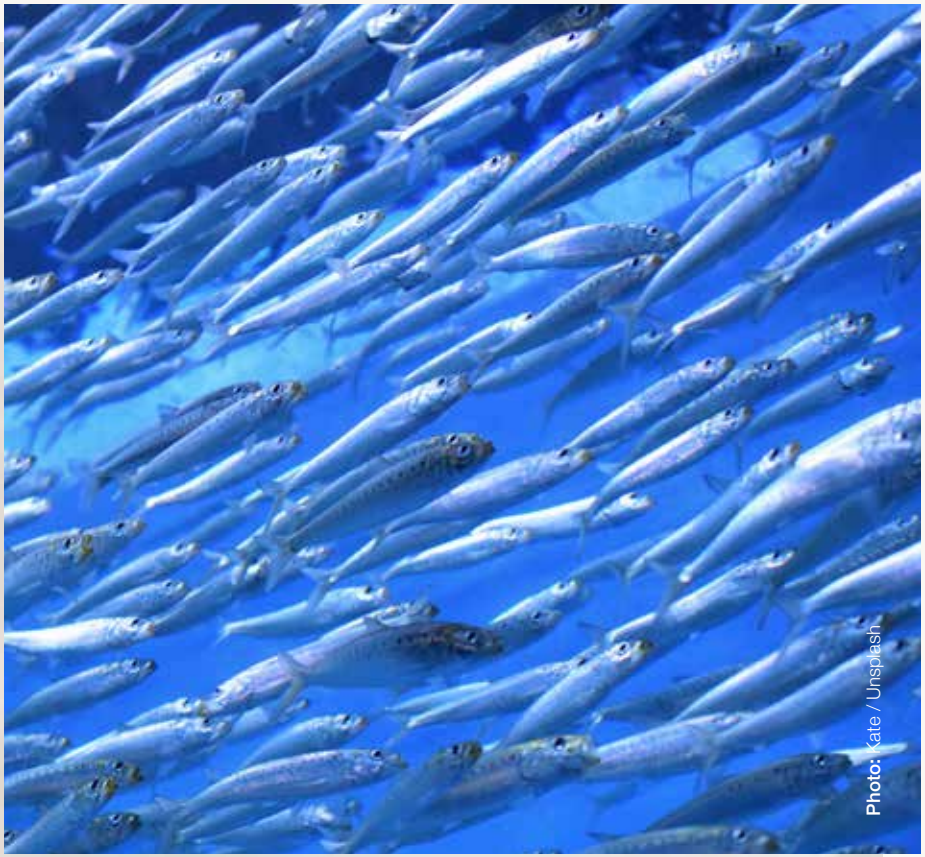


Photo: Kate / Unsplash

STATUS SURVEY

The fish and seafood range includes all products featuring the word fish or the name of a fish species in their trade name, as well as all products containing at least 15% fish. This regulation applies to all products (excluding pet food) that were in the product range on the 30 June 2022 cut-off date. It also applies to promotional items that have been in the product range temporarily since 1 July 2021.

WWF arranges for non-certified fisheries to be assessed by independent experts using such criteria as stock status, stock management and ecological impact. The assessments are collected in the WWF Fish Database – at wwf.de/fischratgeber – along with explanations for the most important fish species.

Products are rated Good Choice (green) if they are certified according to an environmental standard recognised by WWF (MSC for wild fish, ASC, EU organic or Naturland for farmed fish), or if they are rated 1 + 2 in the WWF Fish Database. Score 3 is equivalent to a Second Choice rating (yellow), and the scores 4 + 5 are labelled as Preferably Not (red).

Products from different suppliers but sold under the same name and in identical packaging are given the respective lower rating in the monitoring if their fish ingredients are given a different rating.

CHALLENGES

The partners were hoping to achieve improvements in fisheries or fish farming in segments where sustainable alternatives are not yet available through the implementation of targeted projects. However, the ideas and wishes of the two partners in selecting such a project differed considerably, and this prevented them from reaching an agreement. The decentralised structure of the EDEKA Group, which consists of seven regional cooperatives and around 3,500 independent retailers who operate the stores, yields advantages in many areas. It does present a challenge in the fish counter segment, however, in that sustainability requirements can only be centrally controlled and tracked to a limited extent. EDEKA has put structures in place to address this issue, and together with WWF, has developed a fish procurement policy that applies to the entire Group.

SPECIAL FEATURES

There are many cases where the environmental problems associated with fish products cannot be solved simply by arriving at different procurement decisions. Especially if the problem is caused by lack of regulation (for example catch quotas) or monitoring, political engagement may be the better strategy. In recent years WWF and EDEKA, often acting in concert with other organisations, have therefore also been politically engaged on numerous occasions, for example at the EU level in the regional tuna management organisations, or in the context of seeking improvements to the processes of the certification systems.

Photo: Max Larochelle / Unsplash

Photo: Krystian Tambur / Unsplash

DEVELOPMENT TREND FOR THE EDEKA FISH AND SEAFOOD PRODUCT RANGE

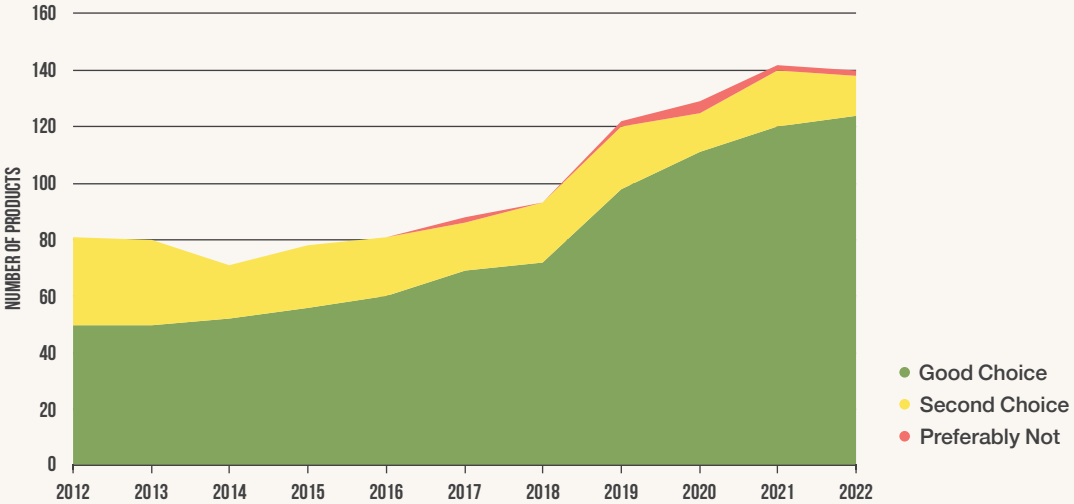
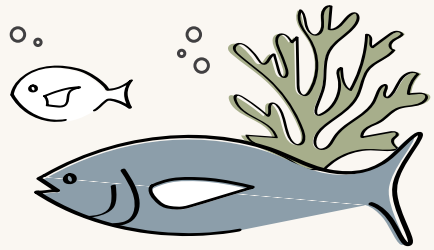


Fig. 1: Development trend for the EDEKA private-label product range (wild fish and aquaculture) in the subject area Fish and Seafood, from 2012 until the most recent survey in 2022 (for information about the methodology used, see “Status survey”). The sub-segment of pet food is not listed. See “Status survey” for the definitions of the categories “Good Choice”, “Second Choice” and “Preferably Not”.

DEVELOPMENT TREND FOR THE EDEKA PRIVATE-LABEL FISH AND SEAFOOD PRODUCT RANGE

PRODUCT LINE EDEKA PRIVATE-LABEL		TOTAL NUMBER OF PRODUCTS	ASC	BIO (ORGANIC)	MSC	SCORE 1	SCORE 2	SCORE 3	SCORE 4	SCORE 5
Baseline 2012	Products	81	0	2	45	0	3	31	0	0
	Percentage	100%	0%	2%	56%	0%	4%	38%	0%	0%
Survey 2013	Products	80	1	5	42	1	1	30	0	0
	Percentage	100%	1%	6%	53%	1%	1%	38%	0%	0%
Survey 2014	Products	71	2	4	44	0	2	19	0	0
	Percentage	100%	3%	6%	62%	0%	3%	27%	0%	0%
Survey 2015	Products	78	1	3	49	0	3	22	0	0
	Percentage	100%	1%	4%	63%	0%	4%	28%	0%	0%
Survey 2016	Products	81	4	3	52	0	1	21	0	0
	Percentage	100%	1%	4%	63%	0%	4%	28%	0%	0%
Survey 2017	Products	88	12	3	52	0	2	17	2	0
	Percentage	100%	14%	3%	59%	0%	2%	19%	2%	0%
Survey 2018	Products	93	10	3	58	0	1	21	0	0
	Percentage	100%	11%	3%	62%	0%	1%	23%	0%	0%
Survey 2019	Products	122	19	3	74	0	2	22	0	2
	Percentage	100%	16%	2%	61%	0%	2%	18%	0%	2%
Survey 2020	Products	129	24	4	79	3	1	14	0	4
	Percentage	100%	19%	3%	61%	2%	1%	11%	0%	3%
Survey 2021	Products	145	25	5	87	3	3	20	0	2
	Percentage	100%	17%	3%	60%	2%	2%	14%	0%	1%
Survey 2022	Products	147	**27**	**7**	**89**	**3**	**4**	**15**	**0**	**2**
	Percentage	100%	**19%**	**5%**	**60%**	**2%**	**3%**	**10%**	**0%**	**1%**



- Good Choice
- Second Choice
- Preferably Not

Table 2: Development trend for the EDEKA private-label product range (wild fish and aquaculture) in the subject area Fish and Seafood, from 2012 until the most recent survey in 2022. Products with certifications in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation and Naturland are grouped together in the category “Organic”. (For information about the methodology used, see “Status survey”). Percentages are rounded and will therefore not always add up to exactly 100 per cent.

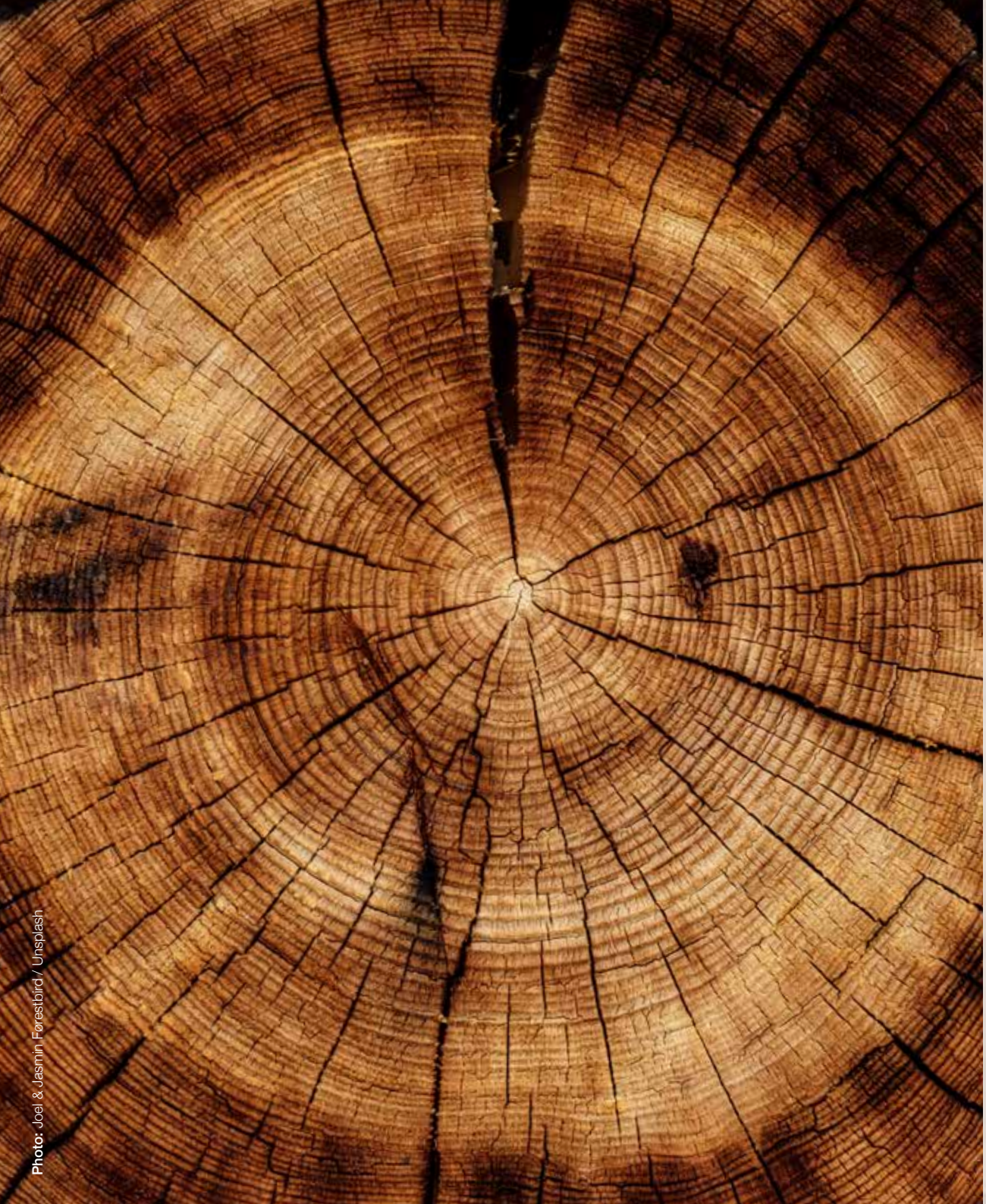


Photo: Joel & Jasmin Førestbird / Unsplash

2.2

WOOD, PAPER, TISSUE

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	BASELINE	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2021[5]	
CHANGEOVER TO FSC® RECYCLED PRODUCTS – 100% CONVERSION TO PREFERABLY RECYCLED MATERIAL WITH THE BLAUER ENGEL OR FSC® RECYCLED SEAL, CHANGEOVER TO FSC® MIX AS MINIMUM			
Disposable tableware	100% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2013)	100% of the disposable tableware is at least FSC® Mix certified. 0% carries Blauer Engel or FSC® certification.	✓
Barbecue charcoal	83% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2013)	100% of the barbecue charcoal in the private-label product range is at least FSC® Mix certified.	✓
Tissue products	83% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2013)	100% carry Blauer Engel or FSC® certification. The proportion of recycled material is just under 12%.	✓
Wood and paper products	96% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2013)	100% is at least FSC® Mix certified. The proportion of recycled material is low at just over 3%.	✓
Paper, office and stationery products	57% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2013)	100% carry Blauer-Engel or FSC® certification. Slightly more than half of the products (around 57%) have recycled material certification.	✓
CHANGEOVER TO FSC®/RECYCLED PACKAGING – 100% CONVERSION TO PREFERABLY RECYCLED MATERIAL WITH THE BLAUER ENGEL OR FSC® RECYCLED SEAL, CHANGEOVER TO FSC® MIX AS MINIMUM			
100% Changeover for beverage cartons	100% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2013)	100% of the beverage cartons are FSC® certified.	✓
100% conversion for end-user packaging in the supply chain	93% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2017)	In 94% of the random samples of end-consumer packaging (folding carton packaging), there is a contractual obligation to convert the packaging to at least FSC® certified packaging material.	→
100% conversion for end-user packaging at the Fruchtkontor	21% conversion based on contractual obligation (status as of 30 June 2019)	In 71% of the random samples (n = 69), suppliers were contractually obliged to switch to FSC® certified packaging material.	→
100% conversion for labels to at least FSC® Mix	81% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2020)	For 100% of the random samples (n = 29), there is a contractual obligation on the part of the supplier to use labels made from FSC® certified materials.	✓
Operating instructions – Changeover to recycled material	no baseline	There is a contractual obligation to use recycled material for operating instructions. No statement can be made about the degree of changeover.	✓
Filling materials, wooden handles, bottle corks	100% changeover based on contractual obligation (Status as of 30 June 2021)	For 100% of the random samples (n = 121), there is a contractual obligation on the part of the supplier to use FSC® certified materials.	✓
Transport and cardboard outer packaging made from recycled material	96% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2019)	For 100% of the random samples (n = 16), there is a contractual obligation on the part of the supplier to use FSC® certified materials.	✓

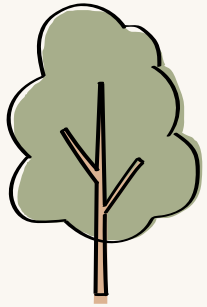


Table 3: Overview of the baseline and the level of target achievement in the subject area of Wood, Paper, Tissue by 30 June 2022.

[5] The data is derived from the calendar year 2020 (Progress Report 2021). As a high conversion rate and the targets have largely already been achieved, no new data were collected for 2022. Furthermore, there is a contractual basis for the certification of articles from HPT, so it can be assumed that the level of results achieved will remain constant.

WOOD – AN IMPORTANT ASSET WORTH PROTECTING

The subject area of Wood, Paper and Tissue had played an important role ever since the partnership was launched. Accordingly, important and ambitious goals were already set in 2013, and these have been gradually upgraded over recent years. From the very beginning, the focus of the joint cooperation between the WWF and EDEKA was to increase the proportion of FSC® or Blauer Engel certified products in the private-label product range as well as in materials for internal consumption and for beverage cartons. In almost all of these categories, the former – i.e. the switch to at least FSC® Mix certified material – was already achieved to a high degree in the first year of the partnership. This made EDEKA a pioneer in this field. Yet again in 2022, this comprehensive switch to FSC® and Blauer-Engel certified goods was unique in the food retail sector. No other food retailer relies exclusively on the FSC® or Blauer Engel seal for its wood and paper products. In addition to FSC® or Blauer Engel, all other competitors also make use of alternative forest or product certification systems which, from the WWF's point of view, are not sufficiently trustworthy.

UPGRADING TARGETS AND ASSOCIATED CHALLENGES

In 2015, the existing targets were expanded to include fibre-based primary end-user and transport packaging. The aim was to change all transport packaging to 100 per cent FSC® certified recycled material over the next two years and all primary end consumer packaging (except for the fruit and vegetable range at that time) to at least FSC® Mix material. Due to the sheer quantities involved – several thousand products – and the complexity of the changeover process (such as very time-consuming communications with suppliers), some initial obstacles had to be overcome, and the level of target achievement was delayed somewhat. However, since then almost the entire relevant product range has been changed over to either FSC® Mix or FSC® Recycled material.

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	BASELINE	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2021	
CHANGEOVER TO FSC®/RECYCLED MATERIALS – INTERNAL CONSUMPTION 100% CHANGEOVER TO PREFERABLY RECYCLED MATERIAL WITH THE BLAUER ENGEL OR FSC® RECYCLED SEAL, CHANGEOVER TO FSC® MIX AS MINIMUM			
Paper products for internal consumption	75% FSC® certified (Status as of 30 June 2013)	Almost 100% of the paper products for internal consumption are at least FSC Mix certified. Of these, about 80% have Blauer Engel or FSC® Recycled certification.	✓
Cost items	89% FSC® certified (Status 30/06/2013)	99.85% have Blauer Engel/FSC® certification. The proportion of recycled material is over 90%.	✓
Publishing operation	100% FSC® certified (Status 30/06/2018)	100 % of the publishing products, e.g. the "YUMMI" magazine, have been changed over. Of these, just under 93% have Blauer Engel or FSC® Recycled certification.	✓

Table 3: Overview of the baseline and the level of target achievement in the subject area Wood, Paper, Tissue by 30 June 2022.

Since 2017, the target has included the aim to also change over to FSC® Mix certified packaging materials in the fruit and vegetables sector. The changeover began in 2018 with the organic products. Since 2019, an overall assessment of the product range has been carried out.
Finally, as a new target agreement, in 2017 the scope of primary packaging was extended to include packaging and packaging components such as folding carton packaging, adhesive labels, filling materials such as corrugated cardboard, wooden handles (in food), bottle corks and filter papers, in order to also cover these last remaining components made of wood. Today, suppliers are contractually obliged to use components with at least FSC® Mix certification.

Photo: Stanislav Churikov / Unsplash

OUTLOOK: RECYCLED FIBRES ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION

The demand for wood as a raw material has increased significantly in the years since 2013. As wood is generally perceived as a sustainable raw material, it is now also in demand by a wide range of sectors, not only for the production of packaging, furniture or hygiene paper products, but also for the production of textiles or energy from biomass. This has led to a tremendous increase in pressure on wood as a resource in recent years. To counter this trend, the WWF's advice has been to use paper products made from recycled fibres instead of virgin fibres ever since 2013. Using recycled fibres not only helps conserve the resource wood, it also results in savings in energy and water consumption during production when compared to the use of fresh fibres. Accordingly, giving preference to recycled material ahead of FSC® certified virgin fibre material became the partnership's guiding principle for the subject areas Wood, Paper and Tissue. Especially in the segment covering internal consumption, cost items and transport packaging, this has resulted in a steady increase in the changeover to recycled material, so that paper and packaging in this segment now consists largely or entirely of recycled material.
Lagging somewhat behind has been the increase in the proportion of recycled material in the product category tissue papers and in consumer packaging. Even ten years after the start of the partnership, the use of recycled fibres is still much too low here. The already low conversion rate has been compounded in recent years by the limited availability of recycled material on the market. Nevertheless, the aim remains for a further expansion in this area in the future.

EDEKA PRIVATE-LABEL PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING MADE OF WOOD, PAPER AND TISSUE

	NUMBER OF ARTICLES	OF WHICH CONVERTED (FSC® 100%, FSC® Mix, FSC® Recycled or Blauer Engel)	OF WHICH RECYCLED (Blauer Engel or FSC® Recycled)
EDEKA PRIVATE-LABEL PRODUCTS			
Disposable tableware, incl. paper plates	12	100.00%	0.00%
Barbecue charcoal	11	100.00%	0.00%
Tissue	120	100.00%	11.67%
Wood and paper articles	65	100.00%	3.08%
Paper and stationery products	44	100.00%	56.82%
EDEKA PRIVATE-LABEL PACKAGING			
End consumer packaging	2025	93.73%	0.15%

Table 4: Conversion of EDEKA private-label products and packaging to recycled material/ FSC®/Blauer Engel. All articles forming part of the product range according to the 2020/21 private-label catalogue were included in the monitoring. Article groups where a 100 per cent changeover had already been achieved in the past were not included in the survey again (see Table 3).

CONVERSION RATE FOR PRODUCTS MADE OF WOOD, PAPER AND TISSUE

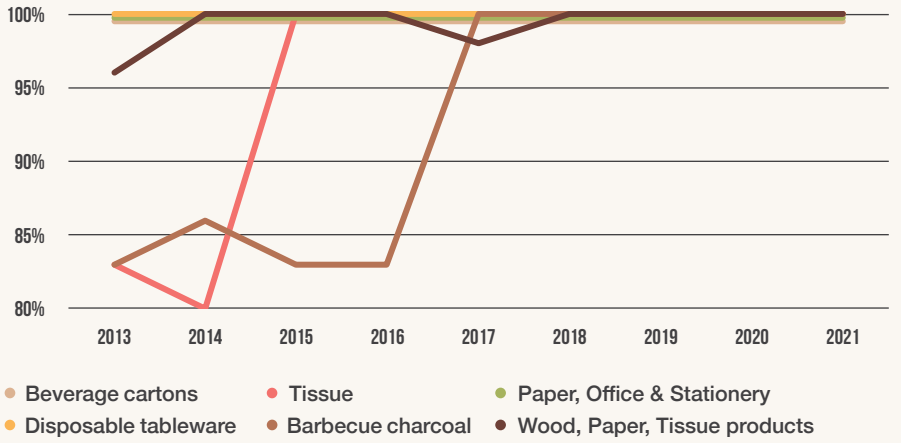


Fig. 2: Changeover of EDEKA's private-label products to at least FSC® Mix certification. The changeover was recorded starting from the 2013 Progress monitoring for the respective preceding calendar year.

END CONSUMER PACKAGING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

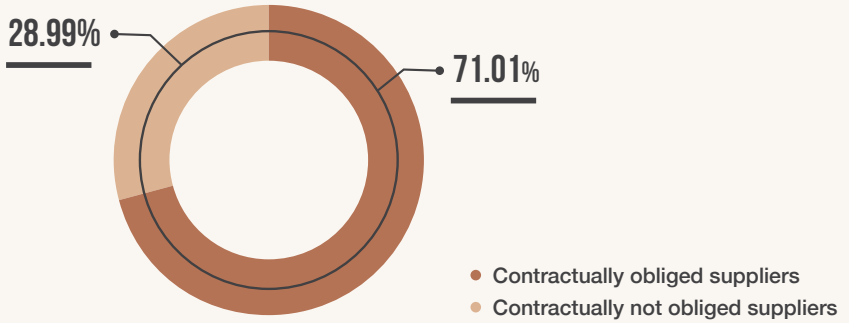


Fig. 3: Proportion of private-label suppliers in the calendar year 2020 that were verifiably contractually obliged to use at least FSC® Mix certified material in fruit and vegetable packaging.

DEGREE OF CONVERSION OF END CONSUMER PACKAGING

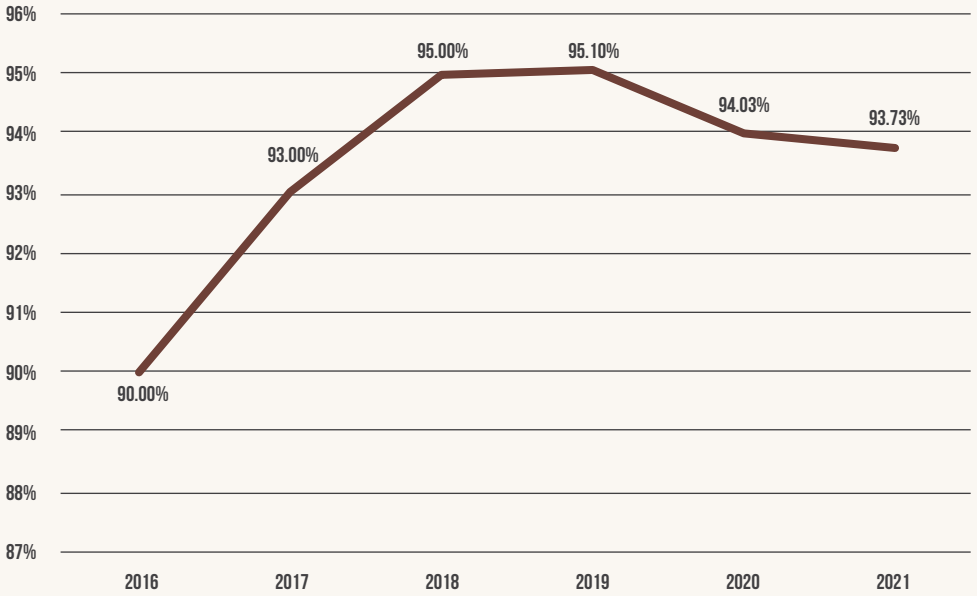


Fig. 4: Conversion of EDEKA's private-label packaging to at least FSC® Mix certification. The conversion rate of end consumer packaging was only recorded starting from the 2016 Progress monitoring for the 2015 calendar year. The results were validated for the first time in the 2017 Progress Report.

CONVERSION OF LABELS AND TRANSPORT AND OUTER PACKAGING

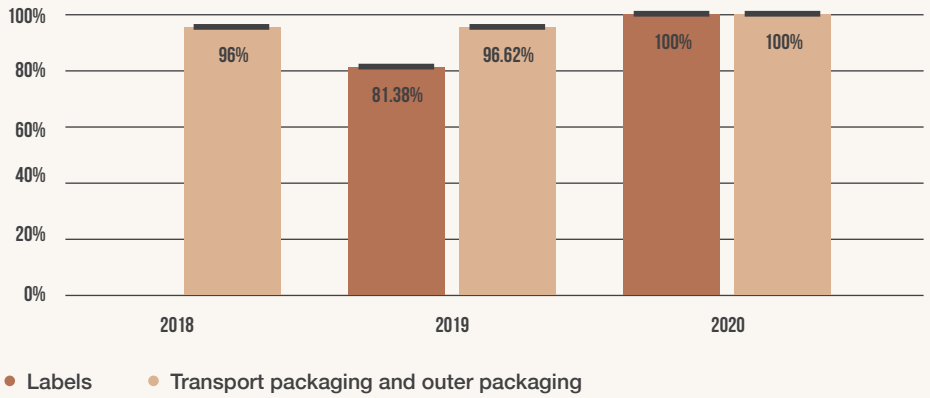


Fig. 5: Changeover of labels and transport and outer packaging in the EDEKA private-label product range. The conversion rate for labels was only recorded starting from the 2020 Progress monitoring for the 2019 calendar year.

Photo: Dorelys Smits / Unsplash

CHANGEOVER TO FSC®/RECYCLED MATERIALS – INTERNAL CONSUMPTION

	TONNES	OF WHICH CONVERTED (FSC® 100%, FSC®Mix, FSC® Recycled or Blauer Engel)	OF WHICH RECYCLED (Blauer Engel or FSC® Recycled)	WITHOUT CERTIFICATION
Materials for internal consumption[6]	65.29	99.99%	80.41%	0.01%
Cost items	152,442.33	99.85%	90.22%	0.15%
Publishing operation	3,265.41	100.00%	92.99%	0.00%

Table 5: Changeover of internal consumption (EDEKA HQ) to FSC®/Recycled (during the 2020 calendar year).

[6] Articles procured by EDEKA HQ for internal consumption, e.g., printing paper, hygiene paper, catering articles. A small proportion (<1%) of articles is ordered in a decentralised manner at EDEKA HQ and can therefore not be assessed. For the printing centre, the quantities for all EDEKA-owned premises were included; for catering and cleaning the EDEKA City Nord location was included. Due to the lack of data regarding printing paper in 2020, the previous year's data were used instead.

Photo: Joel Jasmin Forestbird / Unsplash

Photo: Somprasong / Adobe Stock

2.3

PALM OIL

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	BASELINE	AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
CHANGEOVER FOR PALM OIL PROCESSED FOR USE IN THE PRIVATE-LABEL PRODUCT RANGE TO 100% CERTIFIED, MORE SUSTAINABLE SOURCES, BY 2022			
100% of the articles containing pure palm oil have been converted to at least RSPO SG.	92% converted to SG 6% converted to MB 2% not converted (Status as of 30 June 2016)	0.89% converted to IP 94.22% converted to SG 3.56% converted to MB 1.33% not converted Overall, 95.11% have been converted to the targeted supply chain model.	↗
100% of the articles containing palm kernel oil have been converted to at least RSPO SG.	17% converted to SG 83% converted to MB (Status as of 30 June 2016)	100% converted to SG Overall, 100% have been converted to the targeted supply chain model.	✓
100% of the articles containing derivatives/fractions made from palm (kernel) oil converted to at least RSPO MB.	6% converted to SG 36% converted to MB 58% converted to B&C < 1% not converted (Status as of 30 June 2016)	19.85% converted to SG 75.14% converted to MB 5.01% converted to B&C Overall, 94.99% have been converted to the targeted supply chain model.	→
COMMITMENT TO THE INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CRITERIA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PALM OIL INDUSTRY			
Membership of RSPO and FONAP		EDEKA continues to be a member of the RSPO and FONAP.	✓
Smallholder project for additional FONAP criteria		EDEKA is a sponsor of the FONAP project, accompanied by FORTABSI "From Sustainable Palm Oil to Sustainable Landscape; Next Level for Production, Protection and Inclusion" in Jambi, Indonesia, from March 2022 to February 2023.	✓
Proportion of palm (kernel) oil according to POIG criteria		The target of switching to 30% POIG-verified palm (kernel) oil was not achieved. Obstacles such as the absence of, or lack of information about, a segregated supply chain of POIG palm (kernel) oil to Germany, but also the problem that communication activities are reserved for POIG members, play a role here.	✗
VEGETABLE OIL SUBSTITUTION IN PRIVATE-LABEL PRODUCTS CONTAINING PALM OIL			
Vegetable oil substitution strategy		Since May 2021, minimum sustainability requirements for substitutes such as rapeseed, sunflower, soya and coconut have applied to the substitution of palm oil for EDEKA goods. A comprehensive analysis of substitution and the implementation of minimum sustainability requirements as well as the development of a holistic strategy is still pending.	✗

Table 6: Overview of the baseline and the level of target achievement in the subject area Palm Oil by 30 June 2022.

CERTIFIED PALM OIL AS A STRATEGY

Palm oil is the most important and highest-yielding vegetable oil worldwide. It makes a key contribution to meeting the global demand for vegetable oils and to the efficient use of land. However, oil palm cultivation is associated with decades of rainforest deforestation and other negative ecological consequences, as well as social grievances such as human rights violations. For this reason, the sourcing of certified palm (kernel) oil and its components represents an important step in the mitigation of negative environmental and social consequences.

Since 2016, the changeover of palm (kernel) oil and its derivatives and fractions used in EDEKA's private-labels to the targeted supply chain models meeting the RSPO standard has advanced steadily, with conversion rates currently standing at between just under 95 to 100 per cent. Immense progress has been made especially in the area of palm kernel oil and its derivatives and fractions. The conversion level for pure palm oil, which was already high at the outset, was also boosted further. In the calendar year 2021, more than 95 per cent of the palm (kernel) oil components used in private-label products were certified according to the targeted supply chain model.

CATEGORIES	of which changed over								NOT CHANGED OVER		CHANGEOVER TO TARGETED SUPPLY CHAIN MODEL
	IDENTITY PRESERVED		SEGREGATED		MASS BALANCE		BOOK & CLAIM				
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Articles containing pure palm oil	2	0.89	212	94.22	8	3.56	0	0.00	3	1.33	95.11%
Articles containing palm kernel oil	0	0.00	55	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	100.00%
Articles containing derivatives/fractions of palm (kernel) oil	0	0.00	103	19.85	390	75.14	26	5.01	0	0.00	94.99%

Table 7: Changeover of palm oil components in EDEKA private-labels in accordance with the RSPO supply chain model. Percentages are rounded and will therefore not always add up to exactly 100 per cent. Note: The monitoring covers all articles forming part of the product range according to the 2021/22 EDEKA private-label catalogue. A single article may contain multiple palm oil components. In 2021, 680 articles contained 799 components of palm oil, palm kernel oil or derivatives and fractions.

CHALLENGES

Due to the constant adjustments to the private-label product range and the associated change of suppliers, there are repeated delays in the certification of new suppliers. This is why the conversion target of 100 per cent to the targeted RSPO supply chain models could not be achieved in full, despite a high conversion rate.

The cultivation criteria of the Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG) go beyond the criteria of the RSPO. The conversion of 30 per cent of the palm (kernel) oil used to POIG-verified goods was not achieved. Obstacles such as the absence of, or lack of information about, a segregated supply chain of POIG palm (kernel) oil to Germany, but also the problem that communication activities are reserved for POIG members, play a role here. To be in a position to discuss these obstacles, joining the POIG as a member is still being considered by EDEKA. POIG builds on the RSPO standard and imposes additional social and environmental requirements.

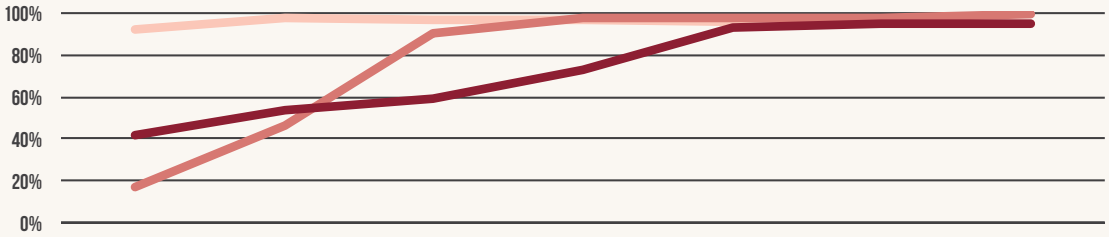
INITIATING CHANGE

As a member of FONAP, EDEKA participates in the initiative's working groups and, together with other members, was involved in the consolidation of the RSPO standard in 2018, which led to a revision of the criteria and an improvement of the standard.

In order to counteract an increase in the ecological footprint that could result from substituting other, lower-yielding and non-certified oil plants, minimum sustainability requirements for substitutes were defined in May 2021, and these must be taken into account in the case of palm (kernel) oil substitution.

Due to the negative perception in society and the media, palm (kernel) oil has often been substituted by other vegetable oils in recent years. This can lead to an increase in the ecological footprint, especially in (sub)tropical regions, due to the fact that more land is required for cultivation, and due to a lack of sustainability requirements. This has led to the need to assess any substitutes in terms of their sustainability compared to RSPO-certified palm (kernel) oil.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVERSION OF PALM OIL COMPONENTS ACCORDING TO THE TARGETED SUPPLY CHAIN MODEL (2015-2021)



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Palm Oil	92.00%	98.00%	97.42%	96.85%	96.31%	95.67%	95.11%
Palm kernel oil	17.00%	46.00%	90.48%	97.73%	97.62%	98.28%	100.00%
Derivatives/fractions	42.00%	54.00%	59.04%	73.11%	93.50%	95.03%	94.99%

Fig. 6: Development in the changeover of palm oil components in EDEKA private-labels in accordance with the RSPO supply chain model since 2015. The yearly figures shown here are based on the private-label catalogue 2015/16 – 2021/22. Note: Monitoring of palm oil began as far back as the year 2013. However, a data comparison has only been possible since 2015, due to an adjustment made the year before.

OUTLOOK

Further mitigation of the social and ecological impacts of the cultivation and support for sustainable development of the palm oil sector will remain relevant issues in the future due to projected growth in demand for palm (kernel) oil and the associated demand for additional land.

Photo: laffpixture / Adobe Stock

QUANTITY PROCESSED ACCORDING TO RSPO TRADING MODEL (IN TONNES)

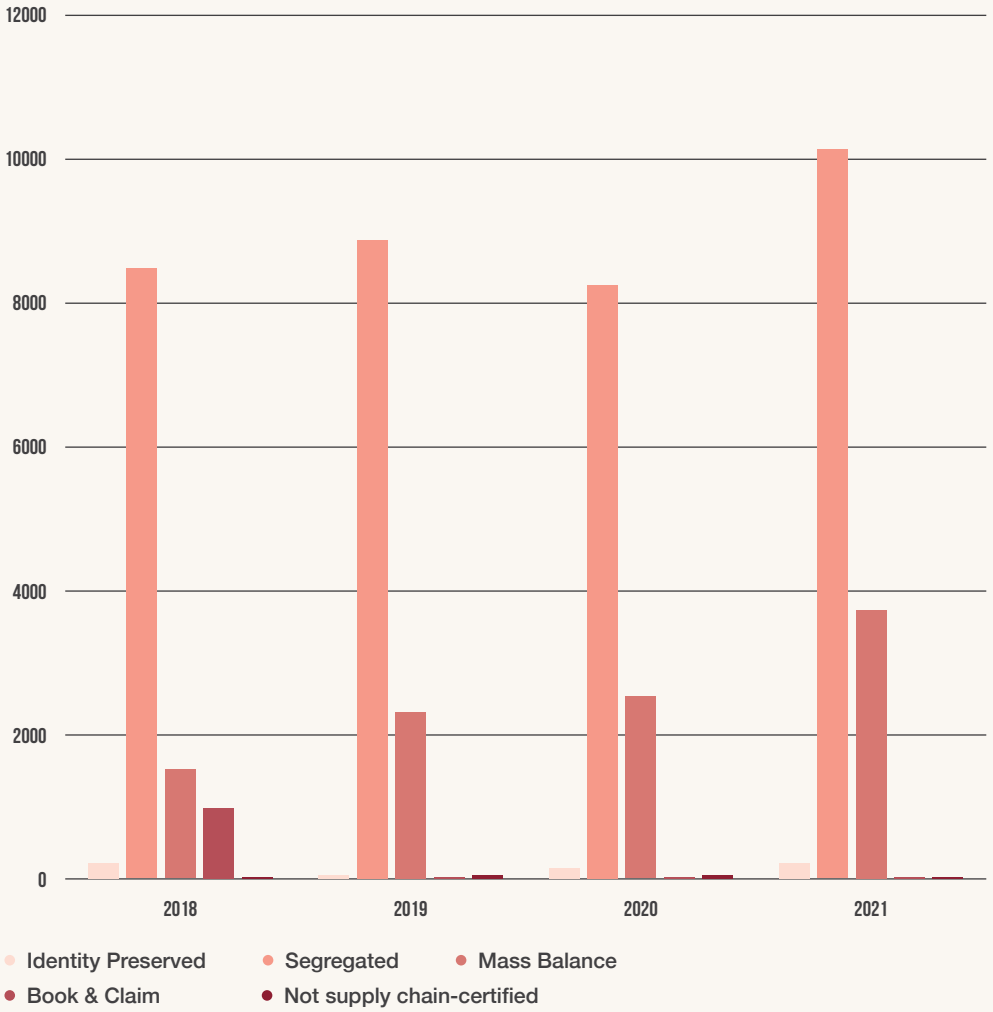


Fig. 7: The quantity of palm (kernel) oil, including derivatives and fractions, in accordance with the RSPO supply chain model processed in the EDEKA private-label product range, in tonnes, since 2018.

Photo: jandenouden / pixabay

2.4

SOY / MORE SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK FEED

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

CHANGEOVER TO CERTIFIED, MORE SUSTAINABLE GMO-FREE FEED	BASELINE	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022[7]	
WHITE LINE SEGMENT			
40% of the article volume of the year 2012 has been converted to more sustainable or domestic feed.[8]	no changeover (Status as of 30 June 2020)	The changeover to certified sustainable feeding constantly remained challenging. Certified more sustainable or domestically-sourced feeding practices were not identified for any product by the 30 June 2021 cut-off date. A survey of the product areas has shown that no changeover has been achieved since then either.	✗
50% of butter comes from GMO-free feed.	1 supplier delivers GMO-free butter (Status as of 30 June 2021)	Around 22% of the butter products came from GMO-free feeding in the calendar year 2021. All articles with VLOG or organic certification are included in the count. In the previous reporting period, only one supplier provided converted butter (VLOG-certified); in 2021 there were already two suppliers.	✗
70% of the article volume of the year 2012 came from GMO-free feed.	65% (Status as of 30 June 2020)	To date, 64% of the article volume of the year 2012 was proved to have been converted to GMO-free feed by the 30 June 2021 cut-off date.	→
YELLOW LINE SEGMENT			
75% of the article volume of the year 2012 has been converted to more sustainable or domestic feed.[8]	no changeover (Status as of 30 June 2020)	The changeover to certified more sustainable feed constantly remained challenging. Certified more sustainable or domestically-sourced feeding practices were not identified for any product until 2021. For approximately 92% of the article volume of the year 2012, EDEKA achieved a changeover to GMO-free feed in the year 2020/2021.	✗
MEAT/COLD CUTS SEGMENT			
Development of a concept for the conversion to more sustainable feed		In June 2021, the partners reached a consensus on targets for the meat/cold cuts segment. However, there is as yet no agreement about a concept for the changeover to more sustainable feed in this segment.	✗
Projects at the regional level	Hofglück programme	The Hofglück programme operated together with the EDEKA Region Southwest will be continued and expanded. Poultry products were added starting in 2021. Under the programme, broilers and pigs receive, among other things, more room to move in the barn, outdoor exercise and genetically unmodified feed.	✓
	Gutfleisch programme	The EDEKA Gutfleisch programme operates with a regional transparent value chain and meets stricter criteria for animal husbandry. As part of the partnership, the programme has been further developed and is now also gradually switching to more sustainable feeding. As of the 30 June 2022 cut-off date, ten farms were converted to more sustainable feeding; two of these are combined farms that also feed the sows and piglets accordingly.	✓
Start-up project Netto:		The target of achieving certified, more sustainable feed has been reached. Confirmation was received from the suppliers.	✓

[7] In the subject area of Soya, data were only collected for the new targets in the meat and sausage segment in 2022. A survey was conducted for the calendar years 2020 and 2021. As changes in the achievement levels for the targets in the White and Yellow Line segments were not anticipated, no data collection was carried out.
[8] In accordance with the target agreement, the reference basis used for calculating the percentage shares is the full product range for the year 2012.
[9] In accordance with the target agreement, the reference basis used for calculating the percentage shares is the full product range for the year 2012. In accordance with the target agreement, these figures refer to the DACH region, i.e. the target currently applies only to suppliers and dairies processing milk obtained predominantly from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Table 8: Overview of the baselines and the levels of target achievement in the subject area Soya / More sustainable livestock feed by 30 June 2022.

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	BASELINE	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
VEGAN | VEGETARIAN | ORGANIC | GMO-FREE			
Increase in the number of vegan/vegetarian meat and cold cuts substitutes by 10%	9 vegan/vegetarian articles (calendar year 2020)	The number of vegan/vegetarian meat and cold cuts alternatives in the private-label catalogue 2020/2021 rose by around 33% to twelve products in the private-label catalogue 2021/2022.	✓
Increase in the number of certified organic products in the meat/cold cuts sector by 10%	19 certified organic products (calendar year 2020)	Compared to the private-label catalogue 2020/2021, the number of certified organic products rose by four products from 19 to 23 products in the private-label catalogue 2021/2022.	✓
25% increase in the number of poultry cold cuts products from GMO-free feed the meat/cold cuts sector	6 articles from GMO-free feed (calendar year 2020)	The number of poultry cold cuts products from GMO-free feed in the private-label catalogue 2020/2021 dropped by one product to five products in the private-label catalogue 2021/2022.	✗
START-UP PROJECTS			
Barn-laid eggs GUT&GÜNSTIG		98% of barn-laid eggs come from certified, more sustainable feed. The staged changeover to VLOG GMO-free certification has resulted in some success.	✓
Hay or pasture milk		Start-up project for nationally conceived hay milk in existence since 2014. The term hay milk designates milk produced using natural feed consisting of roughage, the bulk of which is hay (instead of maize silage, for example).	✓
Frozen chicken GUT&GÜNSTIG		In the start-up project frozen chicken, EDEKA was able to maintain the level of 100% sustainable feed for its private-label GUT&GÜNSTIG.	✓
FEEDING STUDIES			
Feeding studies on laying hens at pilot enterprises		A planned study involving laying-hen farmers could not be carried out due the coronavirus pandemic. Nor was it possible to conduct a pilot project with one supplier.	✗
Broiler chickens		The study on the use of domestic grain legumes for broiler chicken has been completed.	✓

Table 8: Overview of the baselines and the levels of target achievement in the subject area of Soya / More sustainable livestock feed by 30 June 2022.

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
DEFORESTATION AND FOREST CONVERSION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS		
Pilot project for the establishment of transparent supply chains from the supplier to the feed manufacturer in the meat/cold cuts sector of EDEKA's private-labels	The traceability of a regional supply chain for the product "Hofglück Schweine-Schnitzel" (pork schnitzel) was successfully tested. However, there has been no success in implementing the pilot project with larger-scale suppliers with longer supply chains.	→
Co-funding of a ProTerra project for the further development of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system	Joint project by EDEKA and ProTerra to promote deforestation-free Brazilian soya was carried out. Backed by EDEKA funding, ProTerra has started working with farmers in Brazil to help them achieve deforestation-free soya production for export to the EU and to reintegrate farms into the exporters' supply chain as deforestation-free farms. Resources to be deployed include supplier screening, reintegration of non-compliant suppliers, sustainability training, and technical and legal assistance to suppliers of non-compliant operations.	✓
EDEKA and the WWF are developing a strategy in keeping with the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI) for deforestation and forest transformation-free supply chains for all raw materials involving risks.	The target had not been achieved by 30 June 2022 due to insufficient capacities of the partners. However, the work will continue and the first results are expected to be published by the end of 2022.	✗
ACTIVITIES NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE PRODUCT RANGE		
Information and awareness-raising	EDEKA continues its work in the Sustainable Protein Feed Forum.	✓

Table 8: Overview of the baselines and the levels of target achievement in the subject area of Soya / More sustainable livestock feed by 30 June 2022.

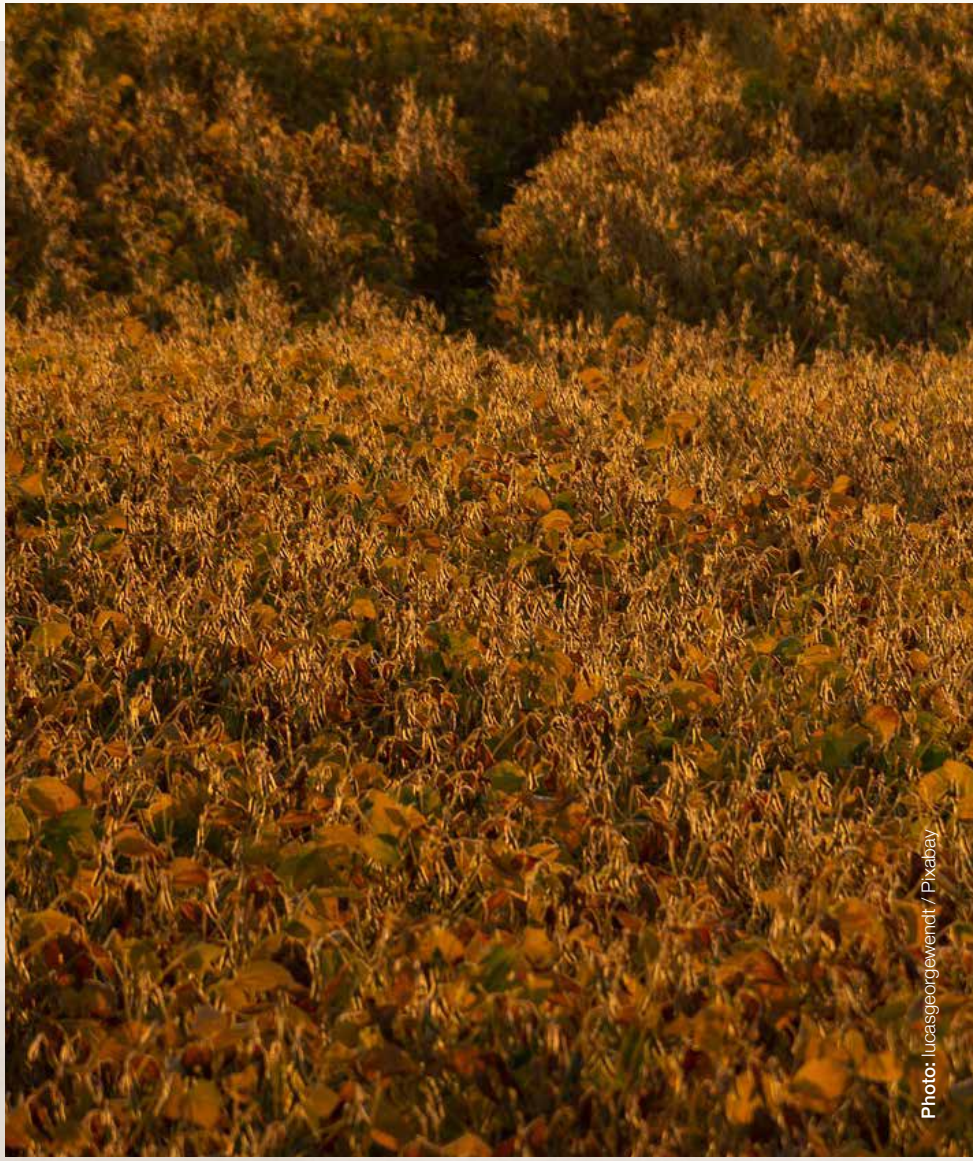


Photo: lucasgeorgewendt / Pixabay

COMMITMENT TO VARIETY AT HOME INSTEAD OF IMPORTS FROM MONOCULTURES

Every year, more than 33 million tonnes of soya are imported into the EU as beans or meal[10] – mainly from the Amazon and Cerrado regions of South America, where there is unparalleled biodiversity. In the Cerrado, about 110,000 hectares were sacrificed to make room for soya cultivation in 2020.[11] To this end, forests are clear-felled, valuable ecosystems are destroyed and small farming communities displaced. Soils are impoverished by monocultures and the extensive use of environmentally harmful fertilisers. EDEKA and WWF therefore promote the increased use of feed sourced in Germany or in Europe, and of certified soya from sustainable, GMO-free cultivation. By adopting the standards of the RTRS and GMO-free, the ProTerra Foundation, the brands Donau Soya or Europe Soya, EDEKA supports deforestation-free and socially compatible cultivation practices.

WHITE LINE

TREND REGARDING CONVERTED QUANTITIES IN THE WHITE LINE SEGMENT

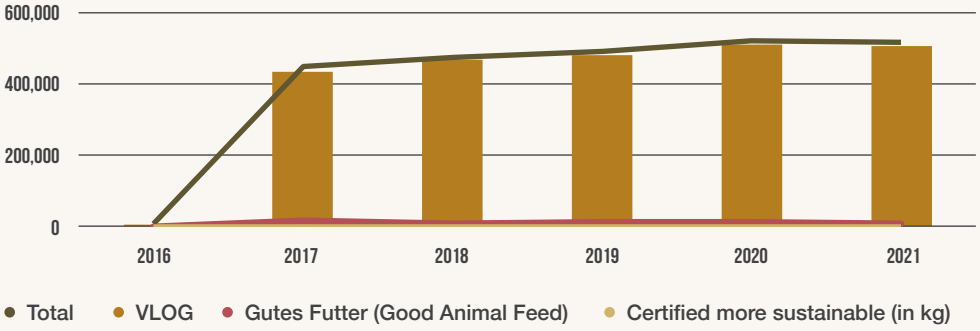


Fig. 8: Received quantities in EDEKA private-label products in the White Line segment changed over to certified more sustainable feed, VLOG and Gutes Futter, in tonnes, between 2016 and 2021.

Photo: CJ / Pixabay

[10] In 2020, 33.9 million tonnes of soya were imported into the EU (plus UK). Source: Link
[11] Source: Chain Reaction Research

CHALLENGES IN THE CHANGEOVER IN THE SEGMENTS

The subject area Soya has proved to be a challenge in the past. Although target agreements for the transition to GMO-free feed in the Yellow and White Line segments were achieved or only just missed, no changeover occurred in the area of more sustainable feed. Even the agreed target of converting 50 per cent of all butter products to GMO-free feed was missed, reaching only about 22 per cent. The challenges in the shift to more sustainable feed were mainly due to a lack of traceability and transparency in the highly complex supply chains, as it has not yet become standard practice in the market to disclose information on sustainability in the supply chain. Another key challenge was the cost of certification. Current market conditions are dominated by strong price pressures.

YELLOW LINE

TREND REGARDING QUANTITIES CHANGED OVER IN THE YELLOW LINE SEGMENT

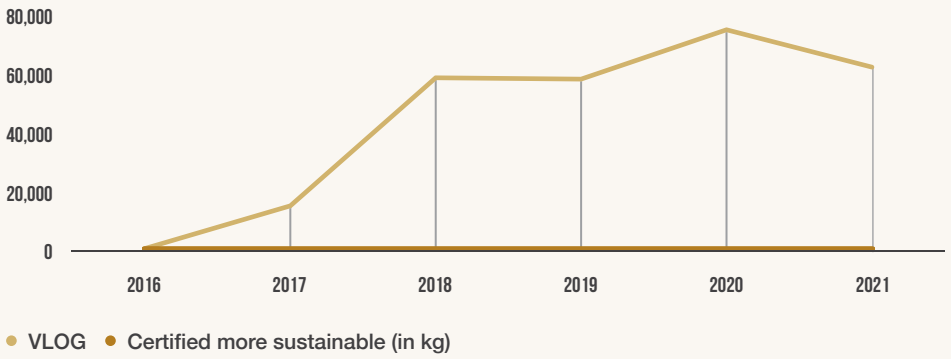
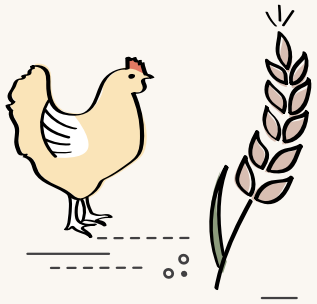


Fig. 9: Received quantities in EDEKA private-labels in the Yellow Line segment changed over to certified more sustainable feed and VLOG, in tonnes. The monitoring period for 2021 ran from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Photo: Merve Aydin / Unsplash



FIRST PILOT PROJECT TO BUILD TRANSPARENT SUPPLY CHAINS

The first step in being able to source soy from deforestation-free sources is to find out where the feed currently comes from. During the reporting period, EDEKA began to review data via fTRACE in an effort to trace EDEKA's supply chains. The criteria requested include the origin and certification of the raw materials.
The traceability of a regional supply chain for the product "Hofglück Schweine-Schnitzel" (pork schnitzel) was successfully tested. However, attempts to also implement the pilot project with larger-scale suppliers with longer supply chains remained unsuccessful. An EDEKA strategy for deforestation and forest transformation-free supply chains based on the AFI guidelines failed to be implemented by the target date of the end of June 2022, but the work is in progress and will be published in due course.

DEMONSTRATING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES THROUGH NEW PROJECTS

EDEKA has also taken steps towards more sustainable feeding practices by launching several start-up projects. For example, in the branded meat programme "Hofglück" of the Region Southwest, the animals (pigs and broilers) are fed exclusively with certified more sustainable Donau Soya. The proportion of Hofglück pigs in the total number of all pigs delivered and processed at EDEKA Southwest was 12 per cent in 2021. The number of Hofglück broiler chickens delivered and processed at EDEKA Southwest in 2021 was 3,200 chickens per week. In the reporting period, the EDEKA Gutfleisch **(**Good Meat) programme in the Region North was also further developed. The programme has been applying stricter criteria in animal husbandry since 1989 and works with regional value chains. Within the scope of the partnership, the programme was expanded to include more sustainable feed for pigs. As of the 30 June 2022 cut-off date, ten farms had switched to more sustainable feed.

The products are sold on the market under the name "Strohschwein" (Straw Pig).
Other examples of start-up projects are the "Heumilch" (hay milk) project, which has been using natural roughage feed with hay as the main component (instead of maize silage, for example) since 2014, and the start-up project "Eier aus Bodenhaltung" (barn-laid eggs) in EDEKA's private-label GUT&GÜNSTIG. In the latter project, 98 per cent of the eggs now come from hens kept on sustainable feed. In the start-up project Tiefkühl-Hähnchen (frozen chicken), EDEKA was also able to maintain the level of 100 per cent sustainable feed for its private-label GUT&GÜNSTIG.

LAYING HENS

PHASED CHANGEOVER IN FEED FOR LAYING HENS FOR BARN-LAID EGGS FOR THE EDEKA PRIVATE-LABEL GUT&GÜNSTIG

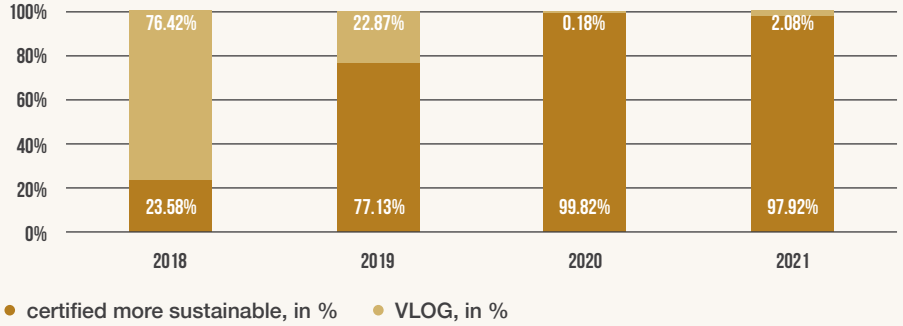


Fig. 10: Phased changeover in feed for laying hens for barn-laid eggs for the EDEKA private-label GUT&GÜNSTIG Evaluation of data for the trend for proportions of VLOG and more sustainable feed 2018-2021.

NEW PATHS – NEW GOALS

As the changeover in feeding practices has proved challenging, alternative targets have been agreed to increase certified organic and GMO-free products as well as vegan/vegetarian substitutes in the meat and cold cuts segment. The aim is to offer customers a wider range of sustainable products. For example, organic farms only purchase feed from GMO-free sources, and meat-free substitute products serve to spare soya resources imported from overseas. Unlike meat products, soya products for direct human consumption are obtained from European sources to avoid the use of GMO soya, among other things. Using this strategy, the target for vegan and vegetarian substitute products was successfully reached: the number of vegan/vegetarian substitute products in the meat/cold cuts segment (e.g. tofu, vegan cold cuts or vegan mince) came to nine articles in 2020, then rose to twelve articles in 2021, which represents an increase of 33 per cent. The target for certified organic products was also achieved, with a 21 per cent increase from 2020 to 2021. Only the target for products from GMO-free feed was not reached; in fact, the number of products actually decreased.

OUTLOOK

In the subject area of Soya, the complex and difficult to trace structures of meat supply chains and the market conditions for animal products dominated by strong price pressure have proved to be the biggest hurdles to achieving the goals. Although most of the regional programmes and start-up projects were successfully implemented, a large proportion of private-label products have still not been changed over. One of the central tasks in the future will, on the one hand, be to go beyond the political demand to implement transparent supply chains that are free of deforestation and forest conversion, and thus to become engaged right down to the level of animal feed production and, on the other, to further increase the vegetarian and vegan range of substitute products.

MEAT / SAUSAGE

TARGETS FOR PRODUCT RANGE

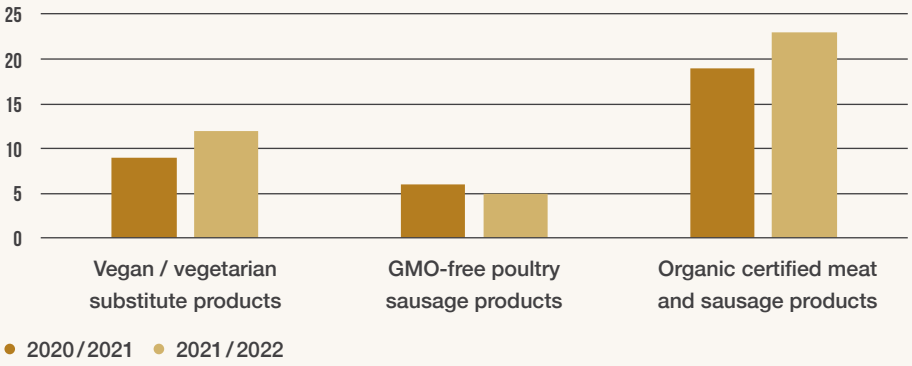


Fig. 11: Number of certified organic meat and sausage products as well as vegetarian and vegan meat/cold cuts substitute products, based on the private-label catalogues for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

Photo: Vesna / Adobe Stock

Photo: Neora Aylon / Unsplash

2.5

CLIMATE PROTECTION

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

	BASELINE	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions Scope 1+2 by 12.6% by the year 2020, and by 36.6% by 2025 compared to the base year 2017	Reduction by 15% (status as of 30 June 2021)	The externally verified climate assessments for 2017, 2019 and 2020 were published. The partners were able to achieve the interim target for 2020 as early as 2019. Total absolute greenhouse gas emissions Scope 1 + 2 declined by around 37% between 2017 and 2020.	✓
CLIMATE PROTECTION IN THE COMPANY: EDEKA HQ			
Preparation of a climate protection action plan and implementation in subsequent years		Hotspots were identified based on the climate impact assessments for 2017, 2019 and 2020. An overarching climate strategy including a preliminary roadmap of measures to be implemented by EDEKA HQ has been prepared and approved by the Executive Board. The EDEKA Group has additionally committed itself to the SBTi targets.	✓
Full-scale conversion to LED lighting and optimised utilisation of lighting		Around 80% of all properties have now been converted to LED lighting and are equipped with building management systems and optimised lighting control.	→
Optimising logistics processes and business trips		Between 2017 and 2020, we succeeded in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from our own logistics operations by almost 12%. In addition, in collaboration with one of our logistics service providers, transport runs from Spain to Germany were shifted to rail. GHG emissions from business travel decreased by approximately 43% between 2017 and 2020.	✓
Derivation of further measures from energy management		About 40% of the properties have an ISO 50001 certified energy management system, and all properties conduct continuous energy monitoring.	→
EDEKA REGIONS			
Interested EDEKA regional companies are to receive support in setting up a climate protection programme and in signing up to the greenhouse gas reduction target of EDEKA HQ.		Five EDEKA regions are using the new software tool in the preparation of their own climate assessments, and they have identified their hotspots in order to adopt additional climate protection measures accordingly. A climate protection manual has been prepared for use by the regions and the EDEKA suppliers to support them in meeting their climate commitment. The manual will be shared with the regions in due course.	✓
CLIMATE PROTECTION IN THE PRODUCT RANGE			
Definition of a binding reduction target for product range-related emissions along the supply chain		As part of the supplier management system, around 400 EDEKA suppliers were canvassed with regard to their climate performance. The database recording the suppliers' climate protection activities is being successively expanded. It serves as the basis for defining a product range-based reduction target.	→
Measures for more climate-friendly product range optimisation and design		By 30 June 2021, EDEKA had compiled about 50 externally verified Product Carbon Footprints (PCFs) for a select range of articles. The plan is to have all private-label products assessed by 2025. As part of the CSI-related work, suppliers have begun to implement energy and environmental management systems (ISO 14001, ISO 50001 and EMAS) and to reduce their emissions further. A hotspot analysis was also carried out, which allows a more complete overview of the biggest emission drivers in the product range. This analysis is intended to form the basis for more climate-friendly product range design activities.	→
Establishment of a Climate Supplier Initiative for joint climate protection measures along the supply chain together with industry players. Preparation of a roadmap by 31 January 2019. Implementation of the roadmap in the following years.		EDEKA and the WWF established the Climate Supplier Initiative (CSI) in May 2021. So far, 19 suppliers have joined the initiative. Suppliers receive a climate handbook as well as free participation in webinars and individual advice as required.	→

Table 9: Overview of the baseline and the level of target achievement in the subject area of Climate Protection by 30 June 2022.

CLIMATE PROTECTION

EDEKA has been working on its climate targets since 2012, starting with energy audits and the preparation and verification of climate impact assessments, and including measures to switch to LED lighting equipment and sustainable refrigerants. In 2017, new targets were agreed for climate protection within the company and the product range. Currently, these targets are being adapted to the requirements of the net zero target of the Science Based Target initiative, which EDEKA HQ joined together with Netto-Marken-Discount and budni at the beginning of 2022.[12] In the new partnership phase, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the company will continue to be prioritised, as will the involvement of suppliers in order to reduce emissions in the product range in the long term.

CLIMATE PROTECTION IN THE COMPANY

By means of the externally verified climate assessments, EDEKA was able to document that the total Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions had declined by 37 per cent in the period from 2017 to 2020. Climate assessments prepared on a regular basis make it easier to compare the data. The annual preparation of a climate impact assessment allows progress to be monitored and shows whether the measures already introduced are effective or whether they need to be adjusted. Particularly large volumes of direct greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1) are produced by burning gas and oil to generate heat and by using diesel fuel to transport goods. The largest emissions driver, electricity, which still accounted for 42 per cent of emissions in the 2017 climate assessment, could be reduced to 24 per cent of total emissions in 2020 through the use of renewable energy sources.

Other measures, such as efficient logistics, modern vehicle fleets, more climate-friendly refrigerants in refrigeration systems, and efficient building management are already contributing towards the achievement of climate targets as well.

[12] The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) supports companies in formulating and validating climate targets that are in line with current climate science findings. The Science-Based Target is a validated climate target that follows the goal of the Paris Climate Agreement to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees, preferably 1.5 degrees.

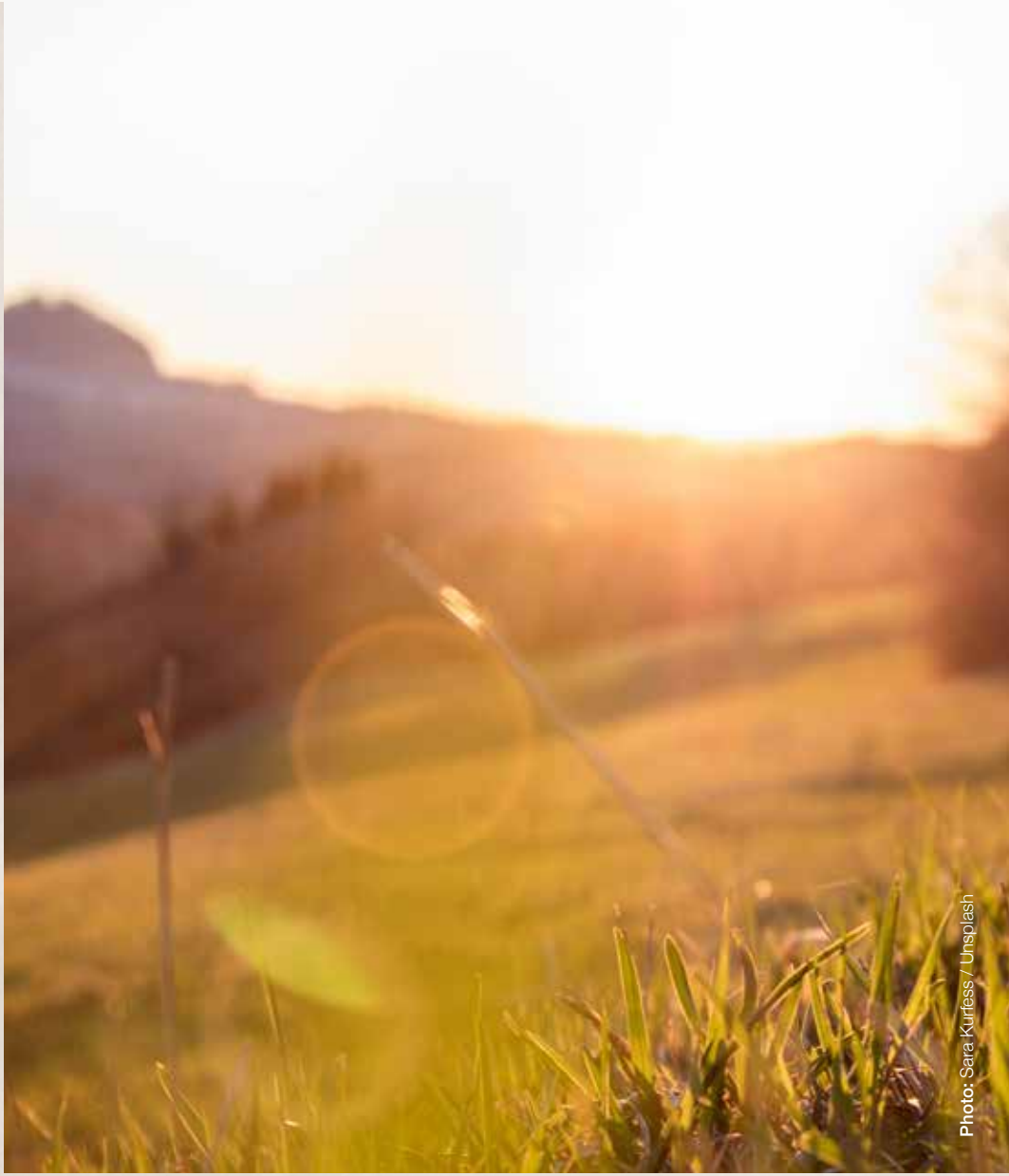
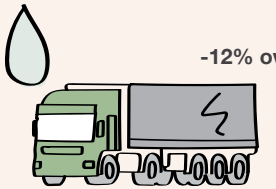


Photo: Sara Kurfeß / Unsplash

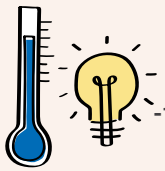
CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS OF EDEKA HQ IN 2017 AND 2020

HOTSPOTS RELATED TO SCOPE 1+2

	2017		2020		CHANGE BETWEEN 2017 AND 2020
SCOPE 1	19,561	55%	15,899	72%	-19%
Heating	11,383	32%	11,114	50%	
Own logistics	3,210	9%	2,832	13%	
Refrigerants	3,536	10%	506	2%	
Vehicle fleet	1,432	4%	1,447	7%	
SCOPE 2	15,873	45%	6,253	28%	-61%
Electricity (market-based)	14,887	42%	5,274	24%	
Externally generated heating	884	2%	887	4%	
Externally generated cooling	102	0%	92	0%	
SCOPE 1+2	35,434	100%	22,152	100%	-37%
	(t in CO_2e)		(t in CO_2e)		



-2% heating
-12% own logistics operations
-86% refrigerants
1% vehicle fleet



-65% electricity (market-based)
0% externally generated heating
-10% externally generated cooling

Fig. 12: Climate assessments of EDEKA HQ 2017 and 2020.

ONGOING IMPROVEMENT OF CLIMATE PERFORMANCE

A significant component of the EDEKA climate strategy is the continuous improvement of climate performance: having identified the worst emission drivers, climate mitigation measures can be prioritised, planned and implemented according to their impact. Continuous recalculation over several years and the collection of the results at the properties of EDEKA HQ on a regular basis make it possible to continuously adapt and further develop the climate strategy and the planning for implementation of further climate measures accordingly. A comprehensive system of climate performance indicators is under development.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

About 40 per cent of the properties owned by EDEKA HQ have an ISO 50001-certified energy management system. Around 80 per cent of all properties have now been converted to LED lighting and are equipped with building management systems and optimised lighting control. EDEKA is also gradually switching over to more climate-friendly refrigerants. As a result, refrigerant-related greenhouse gas emissions alone could be reduced by approximately 86 per cent between 2017 and 2020.
The Sonnländer Group accounts for about half of the entire Scope 1+2 emissions of EDEKA HQ. Since 2020, the Group has been switched to the use of green power exclusively, resulting in a significant reduction in emissions. In addition, EDEKA is constantly modernising the technical equipment in its buildings. The operation of lighting, ventilation and air-conditioning is linked to hours of operation.

LOGISTICS

A dense, decentralised logistics network consisting of 50 warehouses ensures a constant supply in line with demand for all EDEKA and Netto stores throughout Germany. Moreover, the Supply Chain departments of the wholesale operations work closely with the teams at EDEKA HQ and the IT subsidiary EDEKA DIGITAL.
The truck fleet of the EDEKA Group is one of the most modern in all of Germany. Every single new vehicle must comply with the current exhaust emission standards without fail. Intelligent route planning systems, telematics units and load consolidation – via a frozen food platform, for example – result in better utilisation of individual truck loads. This lowers diesel consumption and hence CO_2e emissions.
At EDEKA HQ, greenhouse gas emissions from their own.logistics operations declined by 12 per cent between 2017 and 2020. The ongoing modernisation of the vehicle fleet, including the purchase of electric vehicles, and the shift of transport runs to rail have contributed to this success. The recently introduced Fleetboard Management System makes it possible to monitor driving style and fuel consumption. Intelligent detection and tracking systems such as the Smart Box and alternative drive technologies have immense potential to make logistics even more climate-friendly.

REGIONS

The entire EDEKA Group, which includes thousands of independent retailers and SME family businesses, also invests continuously in innovative store concepts as well as resource-saving and energy-efficient technologies.
Five EDEKA regions are now using the new software tool for compiling their own climate assessments. They have identified their hotspots in order to plan and implement further climate mitigation measures on the basis of this validated data.
In addition, a climate handbook was prepared and shared with the regions in due course. The handbook is intended to support them in their commitment to climate protection.

Photo: Dawid Zawiła / Unsplash

CLIMATE PROTECTION IN THE PRODUCT RANGE

In order to make not only internal processes but also the product range more climate-friendly, EDEKA is working in concert with its suppliers. In May 2021, the partners EDEKA and the WWF officially founded the Climate Supplier Initiative (CSI). 19 suppliers have joined so far. The suppliers are provided with support in their effort to assess their greenhouse gas emissions, in setting ambitious climate targets and in implementing climate protection measures. The CSI offers members a free climate handbook as well as webinars, newsletters and individual advice as needed. By becoming members of the CSI, participating companies commit to their responsibility for reducing Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. In addition, they develop and implement programmes and sets of measures for reducing their own Scope 3 emissions. Through cooperation in this initiative, climate protection is systematically embedded along the supply chain: at the farm level, during production, transportation as well as in packaging.

In addition, EDEKA offers more sustainable bananas through the Banana project (see section 3.2). For example, a tool tailored specifically to suit the conditions in the Ecuadorian and Colombian projects was created to record greenhouse gas emissions and develop reduction measures based on this data. In order to establish a baseline using robust data, a number of correction loops had to be implemented, and training needed to be given at the project farms. The next step is to draw up concrete reduction plans and a complete climate assessment that also takes into account the soil as a CO_2 sink.

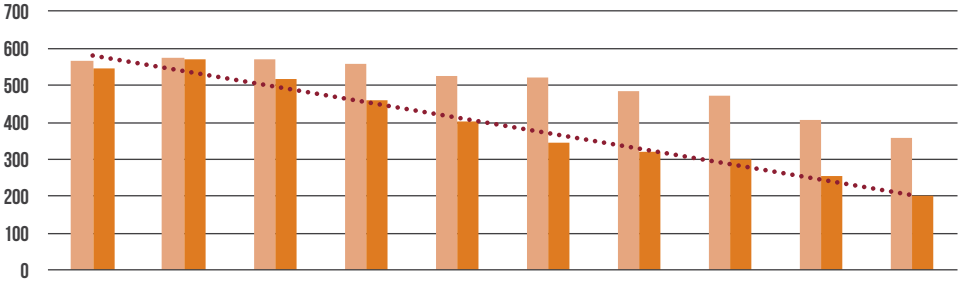
In addition, the Citrus project and the Cocoa for Future project contribute to climate protection in the supply chains by building up biomass and optimising the use of fertilisers.

ELECTRICITY IS GETTING GREENER ALL THE TIME

EDEKA Versorgungsgesellschaft mbH (EVG) supplies large parts of the EDEKA Group and logistics locations with electricity and natural gas.[13] Compared to the rest of Germany, their electricity mix contains a higher proportion of electricity from renewable sources and a lower proportion from fossil fuels and nuclear power. As a result, the specific emission factor is lower than the national average. In the year 2020, the emission factor for Germany's electricity mix stood at 375 grams of CO_2e per kilowatt hour[14] whereas the EVG's supplier-specific emission factor add up to a mere 200 grams of CO_2e per kWh, 46.7 per cent below Germany's national average. Electricity generates a large proportion of the greenhouse gas emissions. Because the CO_2e intensity of the procured product plays a pivotal role in reaching the climate targets, EDEKA and the EVG are planning to further expand the procurement of climate-friendly green energy from renewable sources.

[13] Source: EVG – EDEKA Versorgungsgesellschaft mbH.
[14] Source: German Federal Environment Agency 2021
[15] ibid.

DEVELOPMENT OF GERMANY'S NATIONWIDE AND EVG-SPECIFIC EMISSION FACTORS IN THE ELECTRICITY MIX (GRAMS OF CO_2e PER KWH)



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
German national average	569	574	573	559	528	524	487	473	411	375
Total EVG	544	570	518	458	401	345	319	299	253	200

Fig. 13: Development of nationwide EVG-specific emission factors in the electricity mix (grams of CO^2_e per kWh).[15]

Photo: David Becker / Unsplash

2.6

FRESHWATER

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	BASELINE	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
TRANSPARENCY AND REDUCTION OF WATER RISKS IN RIVER BASINS AND ON FARMS			
Risk transparency Increase in the proportion of sales quantities (kg) recorded in the EDEKA Water Risk Tool (E-WRT) relative to the total sales quantities (kg) at the Fruchtkontor from risk countries	24.65% (Status as of 30 June 2019)	Within the last three years, the risk transparency was successfully increased to almost 84%. This means that about four-fifths of the total sales volumes (in kg) of EDEKA's private-label suppliers of fruit and vegetables from water-risk countries are recorded in the EDEKA Water Risk Tool (E-WRT). Compared to the previous year, risk transparency has been boosted by around 4 percentage points.	→
Risk reduction: Increase in the proportion of the sales volume (kg) recorded in the E-WRT, weighted in accordance with the submission of the complete verification of all the farms of a supplier, in the total sales volume (kg) of the Fruchtkontor's private-label suppliers from risk countries according to the WWF country list.	0.99% (Status as of 30 June 2019)	Within the last three years, it was possible to boost the risk reduction to about 29%, up by about 3% compared to 2021. In particular, suppliers with a medium risk have already been able to reduce their risk through mandatory GlobalG.A.P. certifications. However, more than half of the suppliers included in the E-WRT are rated at a high to very high water risk. For the majority of these farms and suppliers, there was insufficient evidence (e.g. AWS or comparable measures) for risk reduction. For the new partnership phase, the recommended risk reduction measures will be revised.	✗
INTERNAL WATER MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP (AWS)			
Update of the Water Risk Filter		For years, EDEKA has supported regular updates and continuous development of the Water Risk Filter.	✓
Expansion of internal water management to include additional product groups		The expansion is progressing steadily. To date, 14 suppliers of imported canned and dried fruits with 90 farms have been included in the tool.	✓

Table 10: Overview of the baselines and the levels of target achievement in the subject area Freshwater by 30 June 2022.

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
INTERNAL WATER MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP (AWS)		
AWS implementation in pilot regions	All Ecuadorian and Colombian banana project farms are AWS certified.	✓
To support selected suppliers in their efforts to reduce water risks EDEKA, with the support of WWF, is in the process of establishing a special work programme.	The EDEKA Water Partners programme has been fine-tuned and is currently in the implementation phase. Growers for three organic banana suppliers in the Dominican Republic have already completed an AWS training session and received support for the implementation of the AWS standard.	✓
Implementation of an internal water management system at the Fruchtkontor by the end of 2018	The EDEKA Water Risk Tool is completed and tested successfully.	✓
Development of a monitoring structure for the water management system	The monitoring procedure was developed and established in 2018/2019.	✓
AWS implementation with pilot producer in Spain	A pilot producer of citrus fruit in Spain achieved AWS certification with Gold status.	✓
Preparation of a guide "Water Stewardship in the LEH [Food Retail Trade]"	The guide was published in August 2018.	✓
The pilot phase for the internal water management system was completed by the beginning of 2018 (Water Risk Tool)	The EDEKA Water Risk Tool was completed and successfully tested in co-operation with a pilot supplier.	✓
Determination of water risks	The water risks for a majority of all products made for EDEKA around the world were identified at the outset. Almost 80% of the fruit and vegetable suppliers are registered in the EDEKA Water Risk Tool and receive recommendations for risk reduction measures.	✓

Table 10: Overview of the baselines and the levels of target achievement in the subject area Freshwater by 30 June 2022.

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
REDUCTION OF WATER RISKS IN PROJECTS		
Banana project: Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) in Colombia/Ecuador	All twelve farms in Colombia and all seven farms in Ecuador are certified to the AWS standard. The Water Stewardship platform has contributed to the implementation of various projects (including capacity building community leadership, building relationships with indigenous communities in the river basin, and scaling up renaturation in the river basin).	✓
Citrus project: Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) in Spain	EDEKA cooperates with 19 farms working with six suppliers in Andalusia, Catalonia and Valencia. The farms are guided by the criteria of the AWS standard in addition to measures to promote biodiversity, irrigation efficiency and pesticide reduction. A total of 1,668 million litres of water were saved in 2021 compared to the allocated concessions. (For more information on the Citrus project, see section 3.1.)	✓
TRANSFORMATION OF THE GERMAN FOOD MARKET		
Further market transformation (Studies, standards, events)	Efforts should also be made in the future to identify and reduce biodiversity risks in addition to water risks. To this end, EDEKA supports the establishment and development of a Biodiversity Risk Filter, the functions of which are also to be integrated into the E-WRT. In addition, a Biodiversity Stewardship programme is currently being established in line with the Water Stewardship programme. In the past, EDEKA and the WWF have already published three joint publications highlighting topics such as water risks along agricultural supply chains. June 2022 saw the publication of "A Biodiversity Guide for Business" in which the EDEKA Citrus project is used as an example. Moreover, sustainability standards are currently being analysed with regard to their biodiversity and water criteria.	✓

Table 10: Overview of the baselines and the levels of target achievement in the subject area Freshwater by 30 June 2022.

Photo: Artiom Vallat / Unsplash

LEVERAGE THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

Water is the foundation of all life, of our well-being and economic prosperity, and also of the health of our planet. Although only about 2.5 per cent of global freshwater supplies are even accessible to humans,[16] food production is responsible for using about 70 per cent of the available freshwater. EDEKA and the WWF work with suppliers to conserve water, improve its quality, and protect freshwater ecosystems. EDEKA's water management system is based on the concept of Water Stewardship. The Water Stewardship approach contributes to the protection and restoration of water-based ecosystems, to the improvement of water quality and reduction of water consumption; it also ensures the supply of drinking water and the provision of sanitation, and the reinforcement of more sustainable water resource management practices in river basins.

Sustainable water management practices build up resilience to climate change because in addition to using both water resources and pesticides sparingly, the interests, needs, and risks of all parties consuming water within that river basin are also taken into account.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao / Unsplash

[16] Source: Living Planet Report 2022 (WWF)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

Since the completion of the web-based EDEKA Water Risk Tool (E-WRT) in the spring of 2018, water risks in the supply chains have been systematically recorded and countermeasures developed. Since its introduction, more than 73 per cent of all EDEKA fruit and vegetable suppliers have been recorded in the tool. Today, other product suppliers, such as those in the canned and dried fruit segment, are also included in the E-WRT. A total of more than 15,800 farms have already been registered in the E-WRT. Risk transparency was boosted successfully from 79.32 per cent (2021) to 83.57 per cent (2022). This means that more than four-fifths of the total sales volumes of EDEKA's private-label suppliers of fruit and vegetables from water-risk countries are included in the E-WRT. Risk countries are those with a rating greater than 3.0 on a scale ranging from 1 (low risk) to 5 (very high risk). They include Italy, Spain and Peru. Complete verification is already available for about 29 per cent of the sales volumes. This means that suppliers and producers have provided the appropriate risk reduction certifications in full. Measures are recommended based on the risk rating: depending on the overall risk, certain training sessions or certifications must be successfully completed and documented accordingly. Farms with a low to moderate risk require Global G.A.P. certification, which is already mandatory for all EDEKA fruit and vegetable suppliers. However, if the water risk is high to very high, training or certification through the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) is recommended for the respective farms. EDEKA is not only a supporting member of AWS; the company has also been part of a trilateral partnership with WWF since 2016 and is actively engaged in the AWS working group on agricultural supply chains. In the future partnership phase, farms with a high risk will also be able to provide Global G.A.P. SPRING certification. More than 1,400 farms have already been awarded the Global-G.A.P. SPRING supplementary certificate. Farms certified with the Global G.A.P. SPRING add-on are implementing additional measures to optimise irrigation management. However, in contrast to AWS, this certification only takes into account to limited extent the conditions in the respective river basin and cooperation with other stakeholders are taken into account.

Photo: Joshua Fuller / Unsplash

PROJECTS

In addition, two successful field projects have also been running since 2015 and 2014, respectively, and these help reduce water risks, promote biodiversity and soil fertility through more sustainable cultivation of citrus fruits and bananas. Before they can join the project, the farms are assessed for their legal water use to ensure that water risks resulting from illegal water withdrawals are avoided. In addition, agreement is reached on water conservation targets that go beyond government-stipulated irrigation parameters and also take into account the projected decline in water availability due to climate change. In the **Citrus project**, the farms' existing water systems are being made more efficient, for example by installing soil moisture probes and by adapting irrigation methods to the respective soil structure. In the spirit of the Water Stewardship approach, collective actions are carried out, such as workshops and events offering opportunities for dialogue, awareness-raising, knowledge transfer and exchange. (For more information on the Citrus project, see section 3.1.)

The stand-out feature of the **Banana project** is its integrated approach, where the entire ecosystem and the environment surrounding the plantations is assessed and taken into account. In Colombia and Ecuador, a total of 19 farms are certified to the AWS standard for their sustainable water management and commitment to the health of the river basin. Water treatment plants have been installed on all the project farms. This enables the water used to wash the bananas before shipping to be recycled and reused. The result: post-harvest water consumption was reduced on average by 80 per cent. During the reporting period, the area undergoing renaturation in the river basin was expanded from 14.6 hectares to 37.6 hectares. In addition, private landowners have committed to protecting their ecosystems. This means that a further 77.3 hectares are now protected. Furthermore, sector-specific dialogue platforms on the topic of water were introduced to establish relationships between the farms through collective action, and capacities were created in the field of community leadership. To this end, 30 local community leaders were trained in how to employ participatory methods in an effort to reinforce the impact of their work. Last but not least, relationships were established with the indigenous communities in the river basin. Doing so has led to the joint production of bilingual information materials on environmental protection and water conservation in collaboration with the indigenous communities. Previously, there had been no information on these topics available in the indigenous language Kabagga. (For more information on the Banana project project, see section 3.2.)

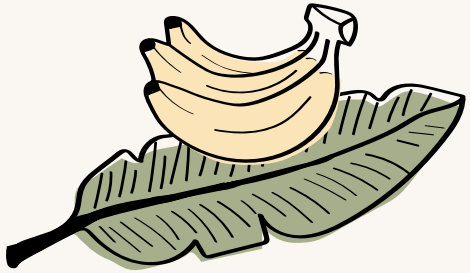


Photo: Linda Xu / Unsplash

OUTLOOK

In line with the Water Stewardship programme, EDEKA is currently establishing a biodiversity programme in cooperation with the WWF. In this context, the aim of the new partnership phase is for EDEKA to assess and understand the potential freshwater and biodiversity risks and opportunities in its product range by gradually extending the use of the E-WRT to include additional suppliers, and in enhancing the tool by adding biodiversity criteria. In addition, EDEKA suppliers are to engage in an ongoing process of implementing the measures recommended based on their overall risk, and this calls for a contractually binding basis to be created. The intention is to also implement further Water Stewardship projects in water risk hotspot regions, and to maintain EDEKA's position as market leader in organic food.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Risk transparency

Proportion of sales quantities (kg) recorded in the E-WRT in relation to total sales quantities (kg) of the private-labels of the Fruchtkontor from critical countries, according to the WWF list of countries (risk transparency)

Risk mitigation

Proportion of the sales volume (kg)) recorded in the EDEKA Water Risk Tool (E-WRT, weighted according to the submission of full verification of all the farms of a supplier, in the total sales volume (kg) of the Fruchtkontor's private-label suppliers from risk countries according to the WWF country list

Proportion of suppliers recorded in relation to the total number of suppliers

Proportion of suppliers included in the E-WRT in relation to the total number of Fruchtkontor private-label suppliers from critical countries according to the WWF list of countries

FRESHWATER MONITORING EDEKA, PERCENTAGES

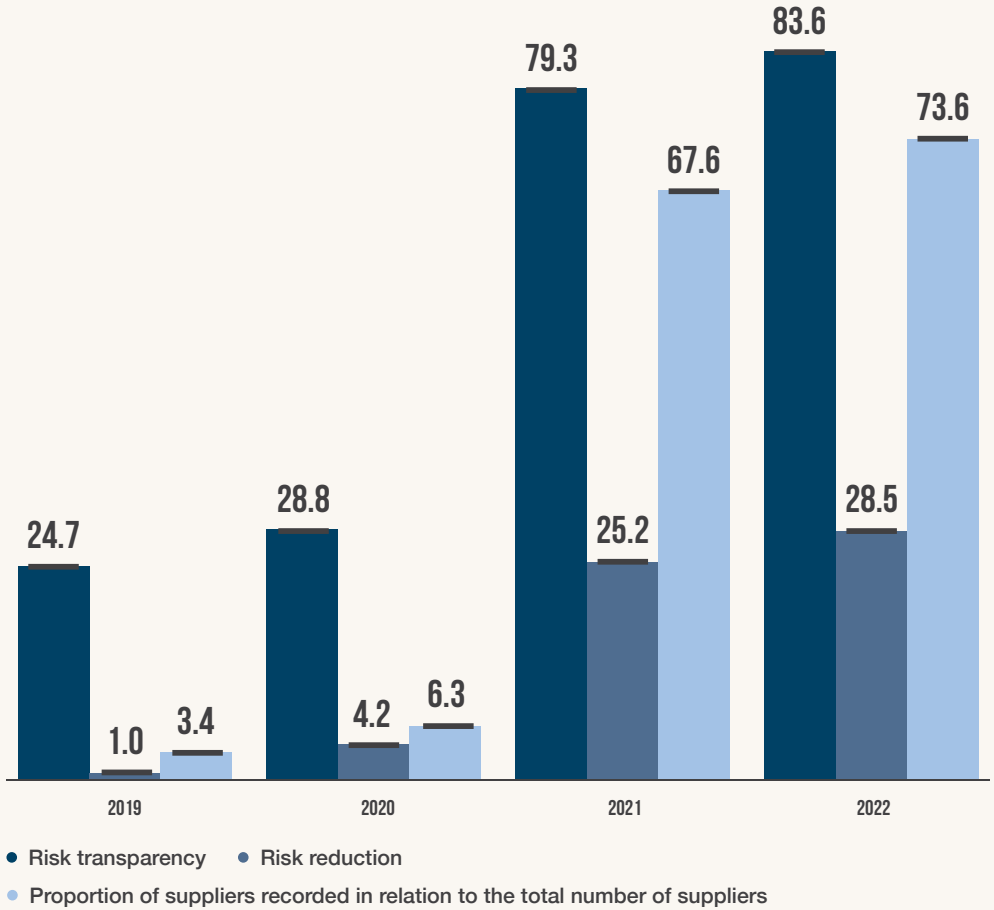


Fig. 14: Results of the freshwater monitoring 2022 compared to the previous years.

Photo: Christian Schmid / EDEKA

2.7

PACKAGING

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	BASELINE	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
TARGET AGREEMENTS FOR PACKAGING-RELEVANT COMPONENTS AND COST ITEMS			
Use of at least 25% recycled material (rPET) over the entire quantity of material used in the beverage bottle segment (single-use with deposit)	1.48% (Status as of 30 June 2020)	The share of rPET in the total quantity of 15,320.49 tonnes of PET is 24.75% for 81 relevant articles. This needs to be further increased to a reasonable degree in the future.	✓
Use of at least 30% recycled material (rPET) over the entire volume of material used in the drug store/detergent, cleaning and cleansing products segment	0% Share rPET (Status as of 30 June 2019)	The proportion of rPET in the total quantity of 687.79 tonnes of PET is 64.34% for 25 relevant articles. This needs to be further increased to a reasonable degree in the future. The aim is also to increase the proportion of recycled material that comes from the mixed collection of household waste collection, which is currently around 8.5% of total rPET.	✓
Elimination or reduction of aluminium in selected product groups	Beverage cartons 4.74% Chocolate 16.22% Total 5.04% (Status as of 30 June 2019)	The share of aluminium amounts to 4.44% in the packaging for 170 articles and has thus declined by 11.92% compared to the base year.	✓
Elimination of PVC in selected product groups.	237 products (Status as of 30 June 2019)	In 2021, 53 articles containing PVC were recorded in the relevant groups of articles. The consistent avoidance of packaging containing PVC/PVDC should be further promoted.	↗
Reduction targeted in the use of single-use carrier bags by at least 30%	Per square metre of retail space: 15 units of material per m² of retail space: 0.5 kg (calendar year 2017)	Consumption of single-use carrier bags rose by 5.59% year-on-year, but the decline compared to the 2017 baseline year is 17.34%. The total number is 102.70 million bags, with a total raw material consumption of 4,519.76 tonnes. The reduction in knot bag consumption should be further intensified.	✗
Reduction in the use of knot bags by at least 30%	62 knot bags per m² of retail space (calendar year 2017)	Consumption of knot bags per square metre declined by 2.45% year-on-year, and by 49.25% compared to the baseline year 2017. The total number is 256.79 million bags, with a total raw material consumption of 497.83 tonnes. The reduction in carrier bag consumption should be further intensified.	✓
Elimination or optimisation of packaging in the fruit and vegetable segment		The supplier survey revealed that packaging for two products contains PS (polystyrene) , no packaging contains EPS, and packaging for 107 products contains PVC/PVDC.[17] The inclusion of further relevant packaging aspects is recommended.	→

Table 11: Overview of the baselines and the levels of target achievement in the subject area of Packaging by 30/06/2022.

[17] The data was only collected from suppliers who had already reported their use of PS/EPS or PVC/PVDC the previous year. There is a possibility that other suppliers who had not used the materials in 2020 and were therefore not surveyed this time are now using these materials.

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
OPTIMISING PACKAGING		
Assessment of recyclability and ecological benefits prior to launching new or optimised products	Assessments with the corresponding recommendations for action were carried out continuously and as needed.	✓
Certification of raw materials for biopolymers	There is currently no packaging made from biopolymer-based plastics in the private-label product range.	✓
INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING		
Preparation of information on packaging and packaging materials for retailers and end consumers	The materials were produced on an ongoing basis, as needed.	✓

Table 11: Overview of the baselines and the levels of target achievement in the subject area Packaging by 30/06/2022.

Photo: White bear studio / Adobe Stock

APPROACH EMPLOYED IN THE SUBJECT AREA OF PACKAGING

The topic of packaging has been part of the strategic partnership between the WWF and EDEKA since 2015. The goal of eliminating packaging is assigned top priority. Packaging that cannot be eliminated must be used sensibly, reduced in volume, and designed in a resource-saving manner. The use of reusable packaging and packaging systems as well as of recycled materials should be promoted wherever possible and appropriate. In addition, work is to be carried out on achieving recycling-friendly designs for private-labels. In order to approach this complex of topics, the first steps involved the categorisation, classification and subsequent prioritisation of the key issues to be worked on. Concrete target agreements were then agreed upon, among other things with regard to the use of recycled material in certain product groups, the reduction of knot bags and single-use carrier bags, and the optimisation of packaging in the fruit and vegetable sector. At the same time, the development of a knowledge management system was initiated with the aim of gaining an even deeper understanding of the resources used, of packaging design, and of the actual post-use phase of packaging materials. For this purpose, a manual for the ecologically-sound design of private-label packaging was developed, which provides valuable recommendations for action in packaging design. The WWF carried out analyses, assessments and provided advice on packaging-related issues as needed. At the same time, target group-specific information and communication materials were jointly developed and made available to the Fruchtkontor operations, the retailers and the end consumers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Many of the agreed targets were met within the agreed time frame. For example, the proportion of PET recycled material across the total amount of material used in the drug store/detergent, cleaning and cleaning products segment now stands at around 64 per cent. The targeted reduction in knot bag consumption by at least 30 per cent by 2022 was even achieved ahead of schedule. Compared to the baseline year (2017), a reduction by about 49 per cent was achieved. At the same time, some of the agreed targets could not be met or are still being worked on. The targeted reduction in single-use carrier bag consumption by at least 30 per cent by 2022, for example, was not possible to achieve. It only declined by about 17 per cent compared to the baseline year 2017. The reason for this can be found in the increase in the consumption of paper carrier bags. In the fruit and vegetables sector, the partners had initially agreed that private-label packaging should be changed from PVC to PVC-free or PVDC-free alternatives. There are also plans to find substitutes for expanded polystyrene (EPS). From the WWF's point of view, these measures are important but do not go far enough and should be extended in the future.

Photo: timothy / freepik

OTHER THINGS EDEKA HAS SINCE ACHIEVED

Beyond the actual target agreements, measures implemented included the following:

- More than half of the fruit and vegetable range has been available unpackaged for quite some time; in the organic segment, so-called smart branding is also used for this purpose.
- Disposable lids have been eliminated in many private-label dairy products. The use of recycled material was introduced or heavily promoted for certain articles/article groups.
- Work is proceeding on recycling-friendly design for private-label packaging, and on the survey of the recyclability of private-labels.
- The EDEKA reusable container concept rolled out at the fresh food counters promotes the more effective use of packaging materials for as long as possible. Information displayed at the stores explains the locally implemented concept of multiple-use containers and encourages the continued use of these containers.
- The information EDEKA had prepared on how to separate private-label packaging for correct disposal in private households now covers almost the entire product range.
- Retailers and end consumers receive information on the importance and correct use of disposal and recycling systems through various communication channels.

OUTLOOK

We still use too much packaging, and in fact the amount of packaging waste to be disposed of continues to increase. In 2019, a total of 18.91 million tonnes of packaging waste was generated, up by 0.2 percentage points on the previous year.[18] There is an urgent need for a shift in thinking and action so that we can reduce absolute resource consumption and the volume of waste overall. The subject area of Packaging has a key role to play here. It is a complex and dynamic issue, and blanket solutions can often not be found. This makes it all the more important to take a strategic approach that involves setting clear goals, follows basic principles, and derives appropriate measures across the entire product range. The basis for such a strategy is the effort to achieve transparency, by generating and systematically recording relevant packaging data. These steps must be further intensified and expanded.

[18] Source: German Federal Environment Agency

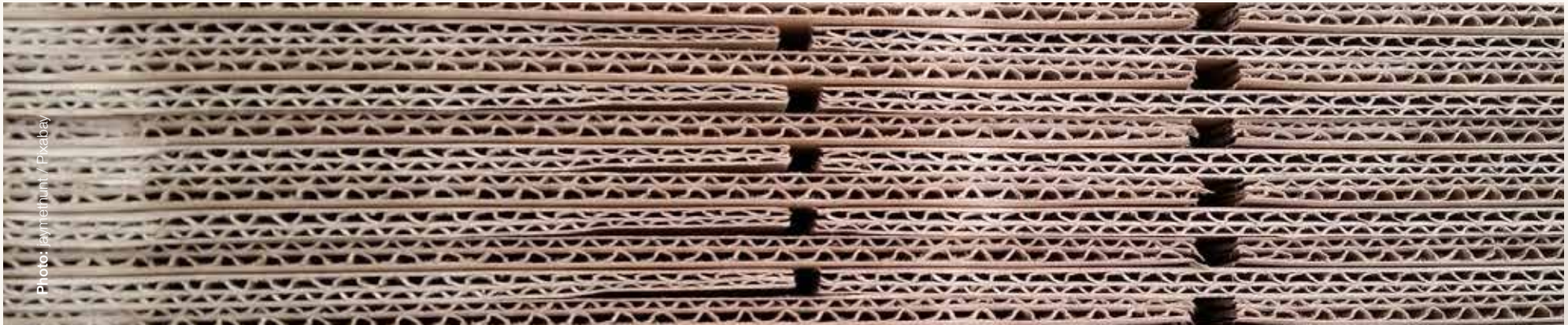


Photo: jaymantri / Pixabay

PET BOTTLES FOR BEVERAGES (SINGLE-USE)

VIRGIN MATERIAL AND RECYCLED PET IN DEPOSIT-BEARING SINGLE-USE BOTTLES

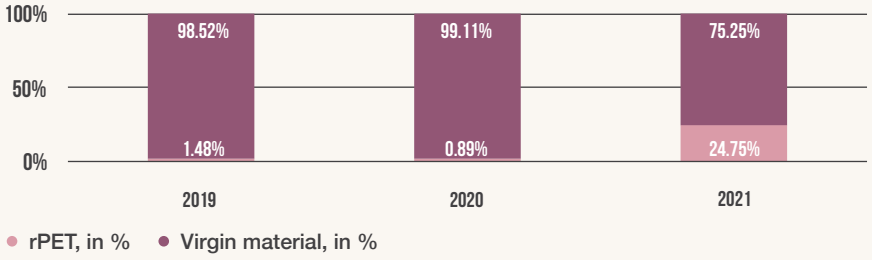


Fig. 15: Proportions of virgin and recycled material in PET bottles for beverages subject to a deposit (single-use) in the private-label product range for the years 2019 to 2021, based on the private-label catalogues 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

PET BOTTLES FOR DETERGENTS AND CLEANING PRODUCTS

VIRGIN AND RECYCLED PET MATERIAL IN PET BOTTLES IN THE DETERGENTS AND CLEANING PRODUCTS RANGE

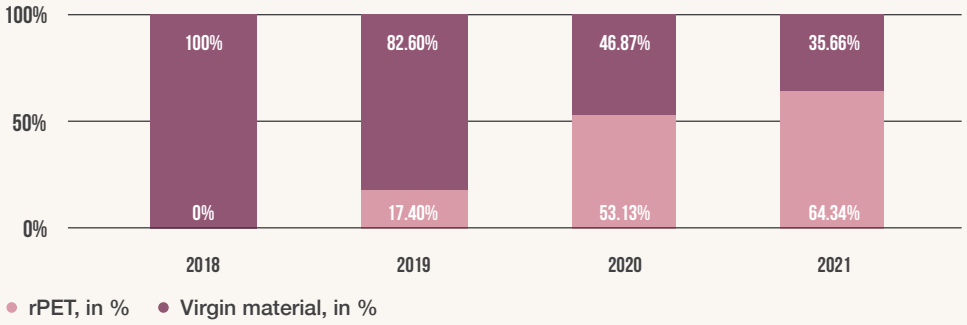


Fig. 16: Proportions of virgin and recycled material in PET bottles in the detergents and cleaning agents private-label product range 2018–2021, relative to the private-label catalogues 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

ALUMINIUM

ALUMINIUM CONTENT, IN PER CENT BY WEIGHT

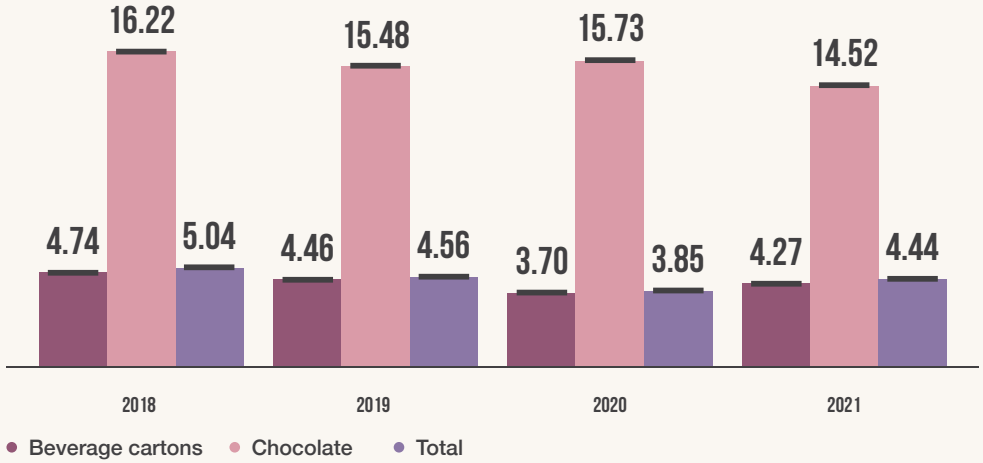


Fig. 17: Percentage share of aluminium in selected article groups 2018–2021, based on the private-label catalogues 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

PVC[19]

NUMBER OF ARTICLES CONTAINING PVC IN SELECTED ARTICLE GROUPS

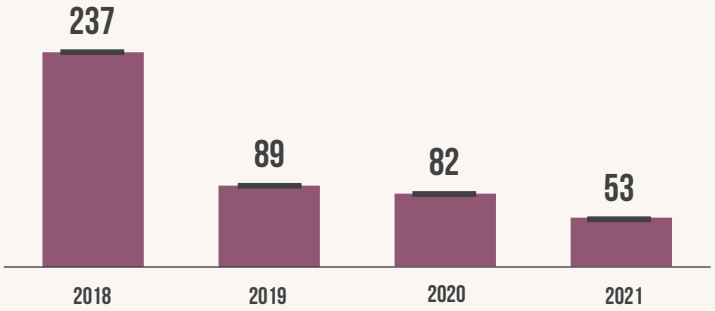


Fig. 18: Number of relevant articles containing PVC, based on the private-label catalogues 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

NUMBER OF ARTICLES CONTAINING PVC, BY MERCHANDISE CATEGORIES

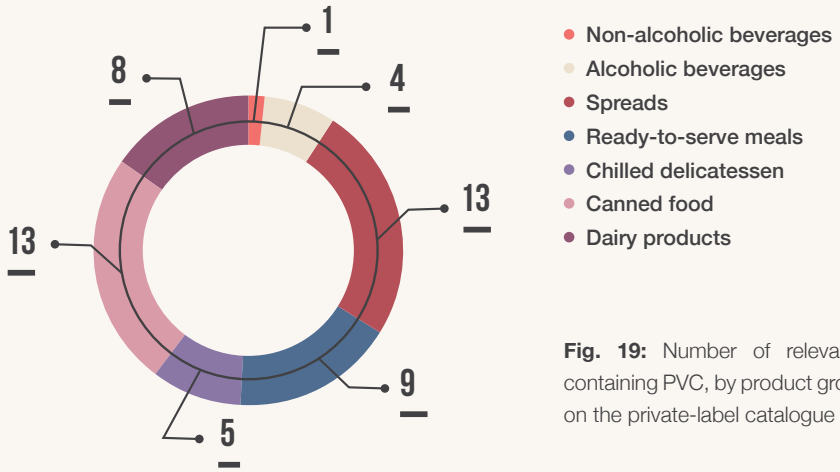


Fig. 19: Number of relevant articles containing PVC, by product group, based on the private-label catalogue 2021/22.

[19] Relevant articles according to the target agreement are: screw caps on glass containers: fish, fish marinades & other fish products, boiled sausage, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pickled products, canned fish, ketchup, seasoning and delicatessen sauces, mayonnaises, remoulades, salad dressings, (coconut) oils, fruit spreads, honey, nut and chocolate spreads, other spreads; shrink capsules: alcoholic beverages in glass bottles (wine, sparkling wine); sleeves (shrink foil): mixed milk beverages, smoothies, yoghurt drinks, fats, dressings, ice tea, green tea.

Photo: White bear studio / Adobe Stock

CARRIER BAGS

NUMBER PER M² OF RETAIL SPACE

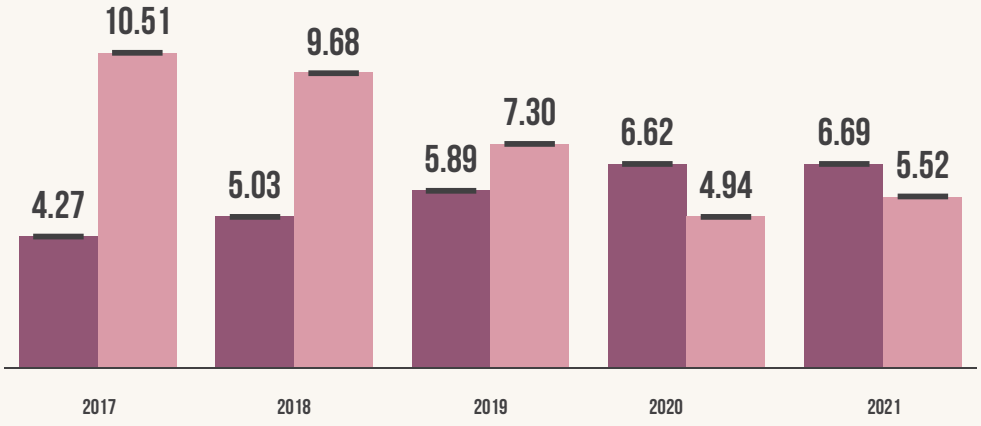


Fig. 20: Number per m² of retail space at EDEKA stores, 2017 to 2021.

VOLUME OF MATERIAL, IN KG, PER M² OF RETAIL SPACE

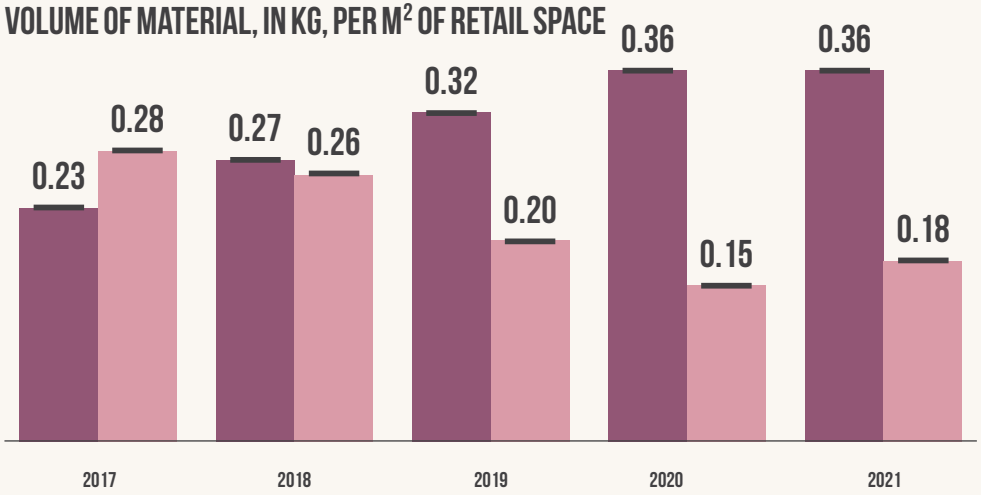


Fig. 21: Volume of material, in kg, per m² of retail space at EDEKA stores, 2017 to 2021.

KNOT BAGS

NUMBER PER M² OF RETAIL SPACE

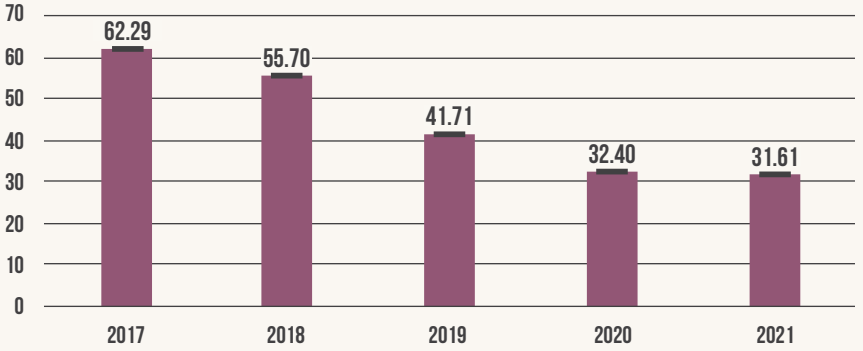


Abbildung 22: Number per m² of retail space at EDEKA stores, 2017 to 2021.

QUANTITY OF MATERIAL, IN KG, PER M² OF RETAIL SPACE

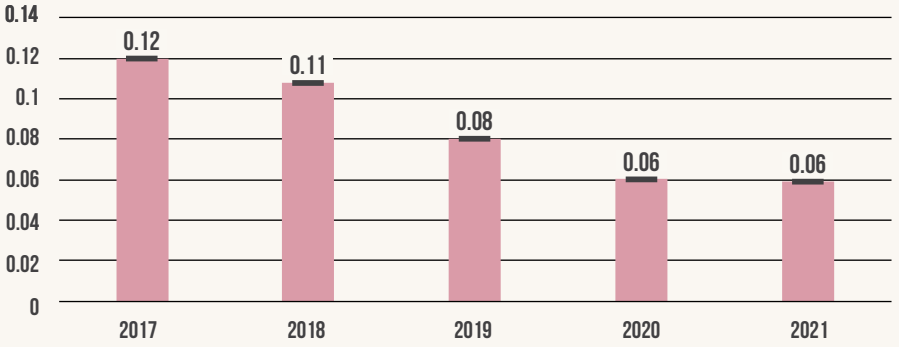


Fig. 23: Quantity of material, in kg, per m² of retail space at EDEKA stores, 2017 to 2021.

Photo: Iwaro / Pixabay

2.8

PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT OF CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
Development of a web tool for identifying and reducing procurement risks in connection with critical agricultural commodities	The development of the EDEKA Supply Risk Tool was completed and the tool went live. The functions "Comparison of countries/commodities," "Commodity profiles" and "Development of commodity risk" can be used to determine procurement risks of agricultural commodities and their respective countries of origin. The tool's modular architecture allows it to be upgraded step-by-step to include additional functions. The planned module "Supplier Assessment Tool" is currently being implemented.	→
DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERAL NEW MODULES FOR THE WEB TOOL		
Pilot group for the development and adaptation of the modules	The members have been appointed and work meetings of all relevant actors set up. The pilot group is working on the content of the web tool modules.	✓
Commodity profiles	Commodity profiles for 32 critical agricultural commodities were compiled and optimised on the basis of feedback from users at EDEKA.	✓
Supplier Assessment Tooll	EDEKA has extended its membership in the sustainability initiative SAI platform. After the successful piloting of the SAI tool FSA (Farm Sustainability Assessment) to assess the sustainability performance of farms, the option of feeding the FSA data into the EDEKA Supply Risk Tool is currently being examined.	→
Comparison of supply chains	This module is partly based on the Supplier Assessment Tool module. As the Farm Sustainability Assessment has not yet been introduced, it was not possible to commence with this work by 30 June 2022.	✗
DETERMINATION OF EDEKA'S ECOLOGICAL IMPACT		
Determination of the ecological impact of EDEKA's fruit and vegetable product range	In the years 2017 and 2018, the ecological impact of EDEKA's fruit and vegetable range was determined by analysing the environmental costs incurred. For the Citrus and Banana projects run jointly with the WWF, the environmental costs determined there in 2018/19 and 2020 were compared with those of organic cultivation, as a means to evaluate the effectiveness of the project measures.	✓
RISK ANALYSES		
Preparation and updating of risk analyses	A total of 234 risk analyses had been prepared by 06/2017. 85 risk analyses from the years 2014–2018 were brought up to date.	✓

Table 12: Overview of degree of target achievement in the subject area Procurement Management For Critical Agricultural Commodities by 30 June 2022.

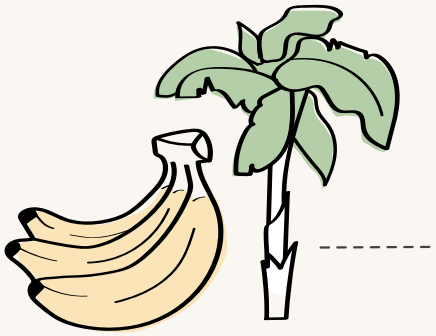
Photo: Sebastian Pena L. / Unsplash

Photo: ceguito / Pixabay

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT – OVERVIEW

SUBTARGET	STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022	
RAPID RESPONSE ANALYSES		
Preparation of rapid response analyses	A total of four rapid response analyses were prepared and handed over to EDEKA.	✓
RISK REDUCTION		
Development of a monitoring system for the reduction of procurement risks and project progress until 2019	In light of the persistently high burden on suppliers, the collection of the first key indicator for measuring progress in combination with freshwater monitoring has not yet been carried out.	✗
Target agreements for reducing existing risks until 2019	Basic data from the monitoring is needed for the decision on target agreements. However, this data was not yet available at the end of the project period.	✗

Table 12: Overview of the level of target achievement in the subject area of Procurement Management For Critical Agricultural Commodities by 30/06/2022.



NEW CONCEPTS FOR SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT OF COMMODITIES

In relation to the Procurement Management For Critical Agricultural Commodities, which is the most recent subject area in which the partnership has become active, new content has been conceptually developed, tested and implemented in an intensive exchange between the WWF, EDEKA HQ, the EDEKA Fruchtkontor and EDEKA suppliers since the beginning of the project period in 2017. The guiding principle here has been to provide EDEKA with information on procurement risks of critical agricultural commodities and the reduction of these risks in such a way that the information can be systematically incorporated into the procurement decision-making process. A key issue in this context was the development of a web-based tool, the EDEKA Supply Risk Tool, which went live in 2020. Based on just under 240 risk analyses prepared by the WWF for EDEKA and extensively updated since, users can view and compare the ecological and social procurement risks associated with 32 commodities from 72 countries and receive initial suggestions on how to reduce these risks.

FLEXIBILITY AS A MEANS TO ENSURE TARGET ACHIEVEMENT

Given the pilot nature of many of the activities, it was to be expected that targets set in the beginning could not necessarily be achieved in full, or that adapting the targets might prove to be more sensible. For example, in the development of a supplier evaluation module the initial plan was for EDEKA to create its own solution, but the idea was discarded in favour of adopting an existing solution already on the market in order to build on existing know-how and to minimise the additional burden on suppliers. This decision resulted in EDEKA joining the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI Platform) and piloting the SAI Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool with five EDEKA suppliers. However, the planned large-scale supplier evaluation could not be realised within the project duration, due not least to the extraordinary burdens on suppliers during the coronavirus pandemic.

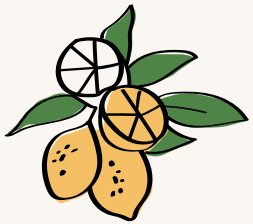
Photo: Delghtin Dee / Unsplash

PIONEERING APPROACH

In relation to the subtarget “Determination of EDEKA’s ecological impact”, a pioneering approach proved successful: the analyses of the environmental costs incurred in the fruit and vegetable range as well as in the field projects on citrus and banana cultivation, which were carried out for the first time, did not only generate valuable findings for EDEKA that will benefit procurement and project decisions. The impact analysis methodology used here also provided valuable input for guiding the WWF and EDEKA activities in the new partnership phase. For these activities to be as effective as possible, they will in future all be assessed and prioritised according to their ecological impact.

OUTLOOK

Achieving the ultimate in efficacy is also a priority in procurement management. In future, the partnership will therefore focus on ensuring that the acquired knowledge about the ecological risks associated with the private-label product range will be used even more systematically in the development of mitigation measures as part of EDEKA’s procurement practices.



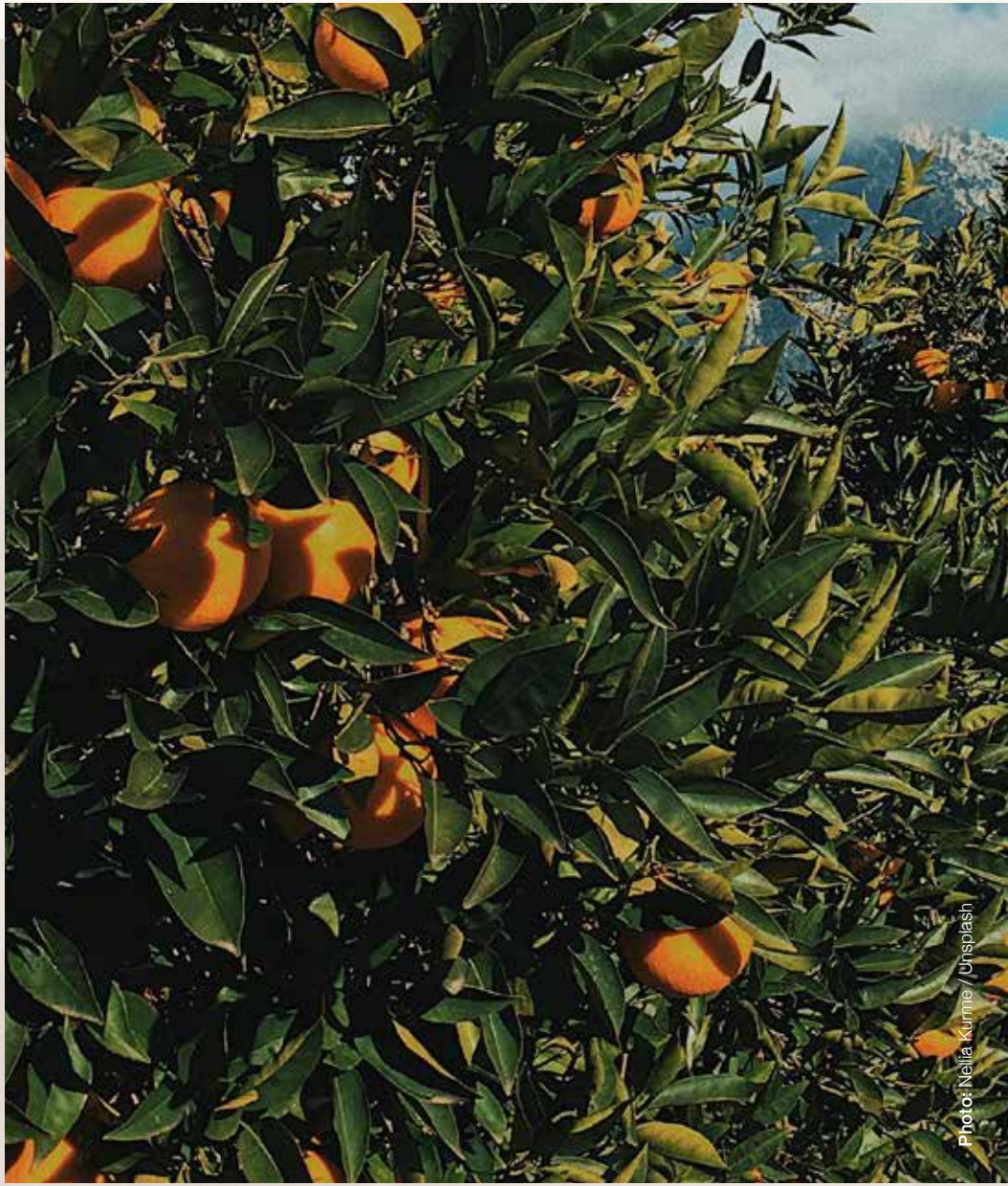


Photo: Nella Kurme / Unsplash

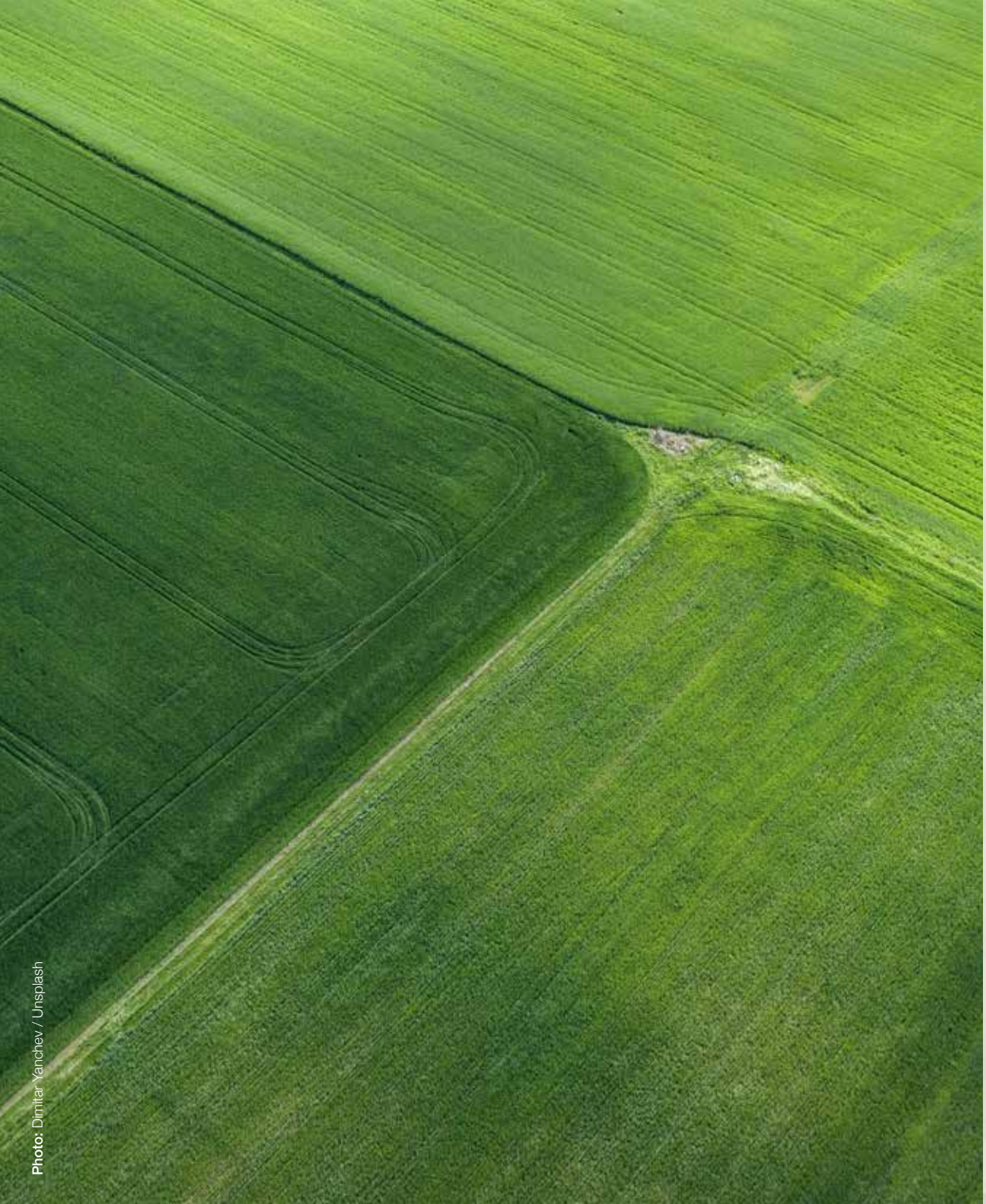


Photo: Dimitar Yanchev / Unsplash

3

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Photo: Jen Gunter / Unsplash

3.1

JOINT PROJECT FOR BETTER ORANGES, MANDARINS AND CLEMENTINES

JOINT PROJECT FOR BETTER ORANGES, MANDARINS AND CLEMENTINES

Growing regions:	Baseline 2016: Andalusia, Spain 2021: Andalusia, Valencia and Catalonia, Spain
Project targets:	Improvement of agricultural practices, with the following focus areas: 1) Responsible water use on the farms and in the river basin 2) Preserving and fostering biological diversity and ecosystems 3) More sustainable crop protection measures 4) Additional measures representing good agricultural practice, in particular more sustainable use of fertilisers and the enhancement of soil fertility
Number of project farms:	Baseline 2016: 1 farm (1 supplier) 2021: 19 farms (6 suppliers)
Total area under cultivation:	Baseline 2016: 167 hectares 2021: 1,522 hectares (of which 965 ha oranges, 557 ha mandarins and clementines)
Marketing:	Regional pilot in the year 2017, since 2018 oranges and mandarins nationwide at EDEKA. In 2021, clementines were also offered for the first time.

Table 13: Project parameters Citrus project.

Oranges, mandarins and clementines from Spain are popular. But their cultivation has a detrimental impact on the surrounding ecosystems and river basins, among other things due to intensive irrigation and the use of pesticides. The aim of the joint project for better oranges, mandarins and clementines is to improve conventional cultivation of the fruit. To this end, irrigation practices are adapted to the already noticeable consequences of climate change on the project areas, the use of agrochemicals is reduced, measures to improve soil fertility are implemented and biodiversity is promoted on the cultivated areas.

ORANGES

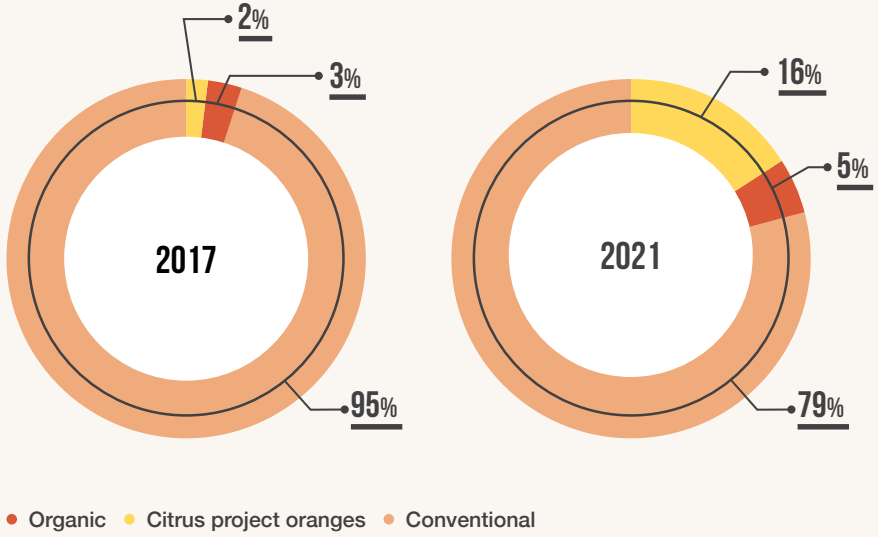


Fig. 24: Proportions of total sales of project fruit, organically-grown fruit and conventionally-grown fruit in EDEKA and Netto markets. Trend from 2017 to 2021 (oranges).

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT

The citrus project aims to improve conventional cultivation methods for oranges, mandarins and clementines on selected farms in Spain. The conventional cultivation of fruit and vegetables is associated with numerous ecological challenges. Cultivation in monocultures and the intensive use of agrochemicals negatively affect flora and fauna and lead to reduced soil fertility. In Spain, the EU's largest exporter of fruit and vegetables, the extensive use of water for irrigating plantations also has a high ecological relevance. Due to intensive land use for agriculture, the scarce resource of water is no longer available to the natural ecosystems, which endangers not only protected areas such as the Doñana National Park.

Starting out with a single pilot farm, work to improve the conventional cultivation of oranges and mandarins has been underway since 2015 in Andalusia's Guadalquivir river basin. Following the successive inclusion of additional farms from the same supplier in Andalusia, the project was successfully expanded in 2021 with the participation of five new suppliers with one farm each in the two regions of Valencia and Catalonia. This has extended the activities of the Citrus Project to include the river basins of the Ebro and the Júcar in Valencia/Catalonia, in addition to the Guadalquivir river basin. The range of citrus fruits was also extended to include clementines. In total, by 2021 the project covered an area of 1,522 hectares, spread over 19 farms, 14 of which are in Andalusia and five in Valencia and Catalonia.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE YEAR 2021

In the expansion to include the new suppliers and project regions in 2021, the focus was on boosting the supply of early-season mandarins and clementines sourced from more sustainable conventional cultivation at EDEKA.

The transfer of the project targets and measures to new suppliers and regions has led to good results, but it has also raised new challenges.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITRUS PROJECT: AREA UNDER CULTIVATION FOR ORANGES AND MANDARINS, NUMBER OF FARMS

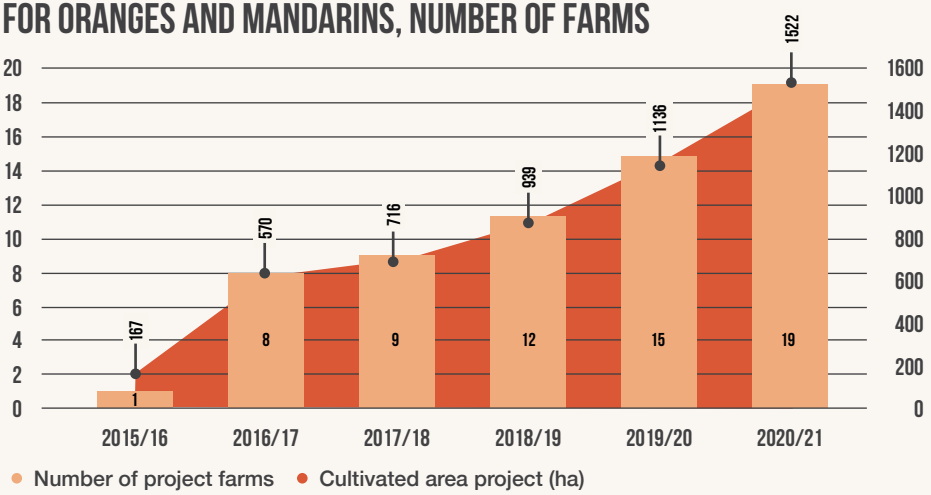


Fig. 25: Development of cultivated area in the project.

Photo: Reuben / Unsplash

WATER USE

Overall, the water-related project measures saved 1,668 million litres of water across all farms compared to the allocated water concessions. This was despite the fact that in 2021 the authorities had already reduced the water allocations across all farms by 1,670 million litres due to the prevailing drought conditions.
The savings were achieved through more efficient irrigation, involving measures such as carrying out regular maintenance work, improving systems and deploying soil moisture probes. Soil analyses and root studies help to adapt irrigation practices to the characteristics of the local soil as well as to the specific needs of the trees and fruit species.

In addition to farm-specific water-related measures, the project is also guided by the Water Stewardship approach. This year, the joint work focused on the theme of solar energy and irrigation. Installing solar panels could enable farmers to irrigate independent of energy prices, and to do so with green electricity generated on site.

While Andalusia is under intense drought conditions and compliance with water concessions and hence the legal use of water already presents a major challenge for farmers, the conditions are different in Valencia and Catalonia. Here, water is also being saved, but due to the local climatic conditions, water availability is less of a critical factor.

WATER SAVED ON THE PROJECT FARMS PER YEAR (IN MILLION LITRES)

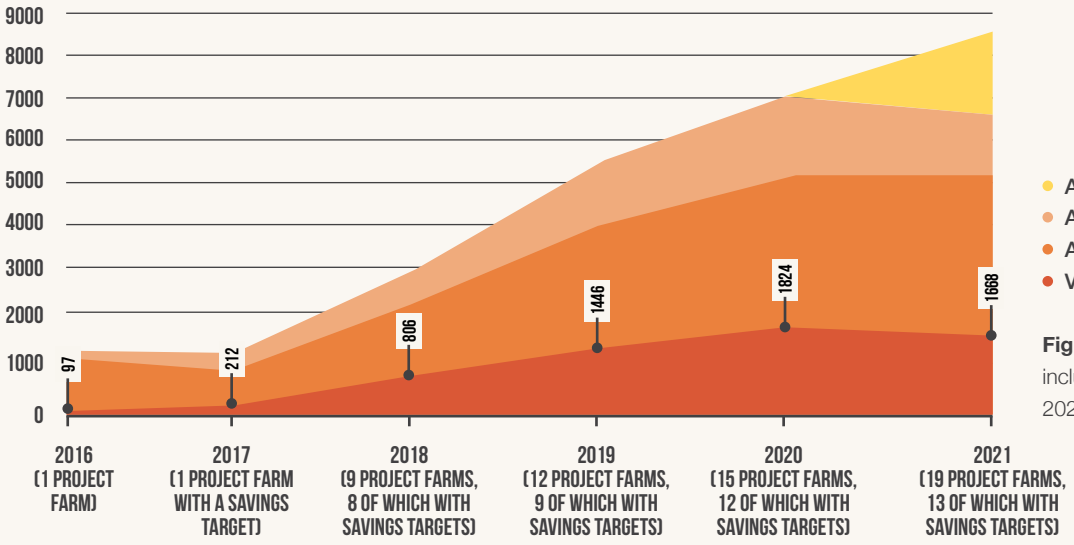


Fig. 26: Water saved over the course of the project, including the reduction in the water concession in 2021.

Photo: Johannes Mandle / Unsplash

PESTICIDES

Following the expansion to include the new project regions, pests previously not seen have also appeared on the project plantations. One of these is the Cotonet de les Valls *(Delott-ococcus aberiae)* – a mealybug previously found mainly in South Africa, where it is kept in check by natural predators. This raises new issues for the producers as well as for the project team. On one affected farm, biological methods of pest control have already been successfully tested with the help of the project experts.

The pesticide plan to be complied with as part of the project aims to replace highly hazardous pesticides wherever possible and to switch to less toxic alternatives. Pesticides are only used when necessary and not, as is still often the case, as a preventive measure. This reduces the total toxic load per hectare. The pesticide plan has also proved to be effective in the new project regions.

The measures prevented the application of 10,600 kilograms or litres of pesticides.

REDUCTION IN THE USE OF PESTICIDES ON PROJECT FARMS, BY CATEGORY, 2016–2021 (QUANTITY OF ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, KG OR L, PER HECTARE), 19 PROJECT FARMS

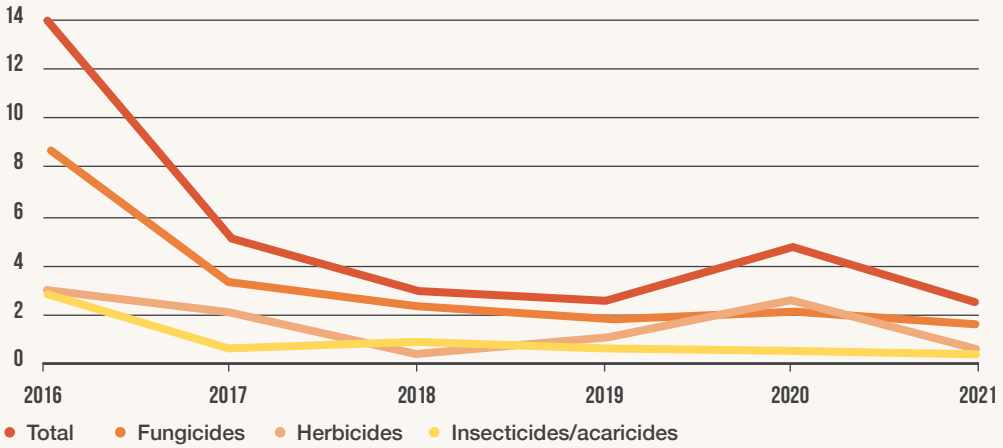


Fig. 27: Pesticides used on the 19 project farms in 2021, by category, (in kg or l per hectare), development over the years.

BIODIVERSITY

The reduction of the total toxic load is one of the most important factors in promoting biodiversity in the project areas. Planting and maintaining hedges, providing vegetation around water dams and increasing plant cover between the rows of trees on the farms also promote beneficial insects such as the ladybird. These beneficial insects contribute to biological pest control, which in turn leads to a reduction in the use of pesticides. More sustainable management of the project farms also brings back birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.

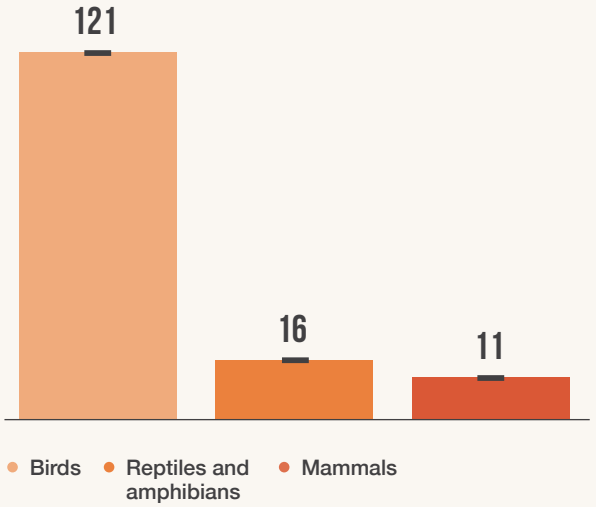
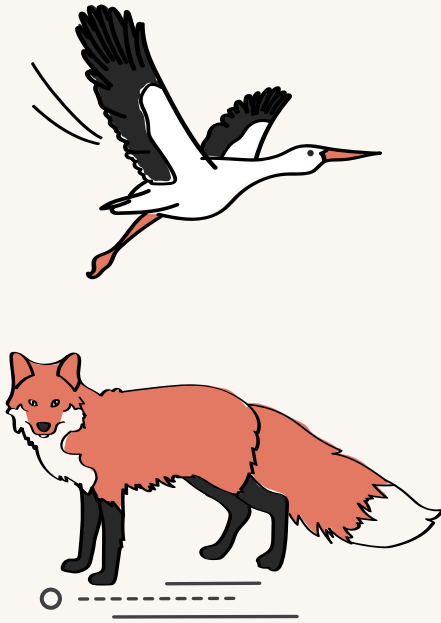


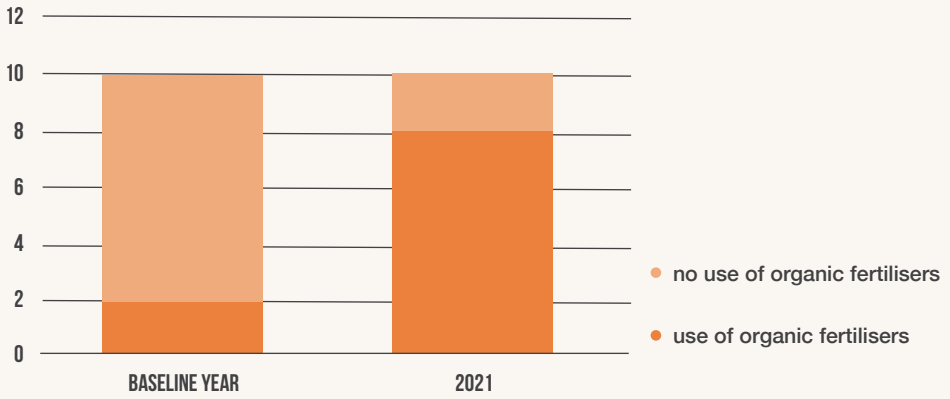
Fig. 28: The number of different species on the project farms in 2021. The census takes into account all animal species listed in the national catalogue of “protected animal species” or listed as “protected” or “specially protected” species in Appendices II and III of the Berne Convention.



GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE

The project also promotes the building up of humus, which is important for living soils as well as for water retention. Here, the focus is on increasing the proportion of organic matter in the soil and the use of organic fertilisers. Conversely, the use of mineral fertilisers is reduced and their application is adjusted based on soil, foliage and water analyses.

USE OF ORGANIC FERTILISERS ON EXISTING FARMS



OUTLOOK

The ongoing drought and high temperatures are leading to changes in the incidence of pests, and to a further decline in the availability of water. Continued further development and adaptation of the project's measures are therefore needed, as is the transfer and consolidation of knowledge and experience for both the project's producers and the project team.

EDEKA and WWF will continue to work together in the citrus project for more sustainable oranges, mandarins and clementines from conventional cultivation in the future. To further increase the proportion of more sustainable farmland in Spain and the availability of fruit from the project for EDEKA's private-label product range, additional farms are to be included in 2022 in all the project regions.

Fig. 29: Increased use of organic fertilisers. Out of 10 existing farms that joined the project before 2021, 8 farms are already using organic fertiliser, compared to only 2 out of 10 in the baseline year (baseline 2018 or project entry 2019/2020).

Photo: Ioana Cristiana / Unsplash

3.2

JOINT PROJECT FOR A BETTER BANANA

JOINT PROJECT FOR A BETTER BANANA

Growing regions: Ecuador (Guayas and Los Ríos provinces), Colombia (Magdalena State, Northern Colombia) and Costa Rica (Limón province)

Project targets: **Subject areas associated with banana cultivation:**

- protecting the ecosystem rain forest and its biodiversity
- protecting precious freshwater from contamination, and conserving water
- improving waste disposal and assisting with the establishment of a waste management system
- conserving soils and optimising the use of pesticides
- identifying sources of greenhouse gases and reducing them
- assuming social responsibility for health protection and job security for the workforce

Number of project plantations: **20 plantations** – 12 in Colombia, 7 in Ecuador and 1 in Costa Rica

Area under cultivation: approx. 4,000 hectares

Marketing:

- The project bananas have been available at EDEKA stores throughout Germany since 2014.
- Since 2015, the project bananas have also been available at supermarkets of the Swiss retail chain Migros.

Table 14: Project parameters of Banana project.

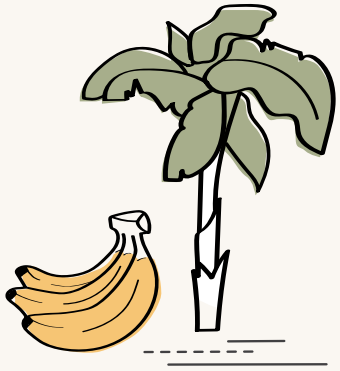


Photo: Denis Ünver / WWF

PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE PROJECT

SECOND PROJECT PHASE (2017-2020)

After the successful completion of the second project phase, all project parties agreed on continuing the joint work to make conventional banana cultivation more sustainable. The project thus entered its third phase in January 2022 and has been extended for another five years. Here is an overview of some successes achieved during the second project phase, and an outlook on project work yet to come.

1. NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

The cultivation regions in Ecuador and Colombia are considered biodiversity hotspots, which means they are among the most biodiverse areas on earth. To protect natural ecosystems such as rivers and forests from the harmful effects of pesticides and to create refuges for wildlife, the protection zones between cultivated areas and ecosystems were successfully expanded in the second phase of the project. These zones today cover an area of over 85 hectares (ha). On average, this amounts to 4.5 ha per project farm. Native plants are thriving once again in these areas. Animal species whose habitat had been severely reduced as a result of forest clearing are also returning once again. Even within the cultivated areas, dense plant cover protects the groundwater and soil against contamination by agrochemicals. To this end, dense plant cover was established along the water channels on the farms.

In order to better preserve the protected areas and the natural ecosystems, the technical systems for pesticide application by plane have also been optimised: the nozzles through which the pesticides are sprayed now shut off the moment the plane passes the last banana plants. Every pass the plane makes as well as the actual application of pesticides can now also be tracked very accurately by means of GPS. Other farms in the growing regions also benefit from this improvement in the system used by the service provider.

Photo: Boris Smokrovski / Unsplash

PROTECTION ZONES FOR ECOSYSTEMS IN HECTARES

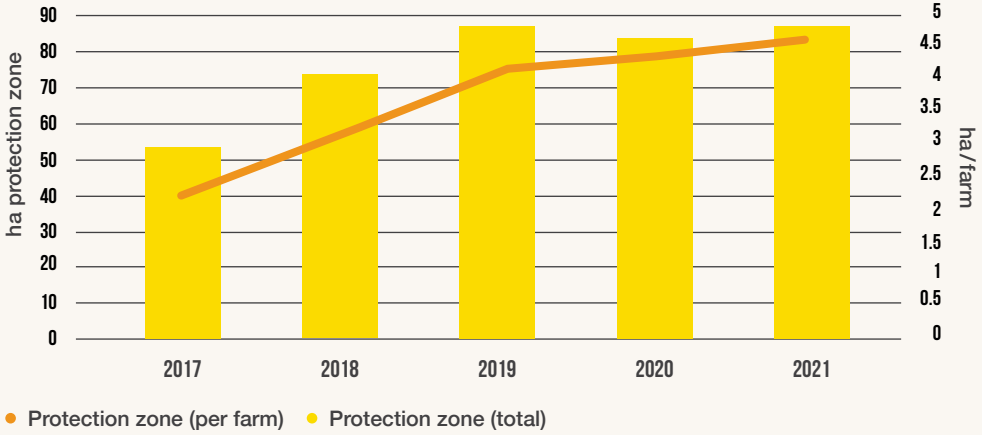


Fig. 30: Area covered by protected zones around ecosystems and average per farm in Ecuador and Colombia in the second project phase (2017-2020).

2. WATER MANAGEMENT

In the regions where bananas are grown, water is becoming increasingly scarce. Yet the cultivation of bananas requires a lot of water. In addition, the fruit needs to be washed before it can be shipped. Before the project was launched, very few farms had any idea what their water consumption was. With the completion of the second phase of the project, water treatment plants for water use in the post-harvest treatment have been deployed on all the project farms. This measure reduced water consumption at the packing stations by up to 81.75 per cent.

As the precious resource of freshwater is a common good for all the actors in a river basin, the project farms are now exchanging information with other actors from civil society, the private and public sectors and are working to control and reduce their water consumption, and to ensure good water quality. In Colombia this is part of activities carried out by means of a water protection platform covering the Río Frío and Sevilla river basins. The establishment of a similar multi-actor platform is also being prepared in Ecuador. The resource-saving pioneering work has been validated by the "Alliance for Water Stewardship" certification of all project farms in Ecuador and Colombia since the end of 2021. The project farms are the first plantations in the banana-growing industry to achieve this AWS certification. They are therefore seen as industry pioneers in sustainable water management.

WATER CONSUMPTION & IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL OF AWS CERTIFICATION

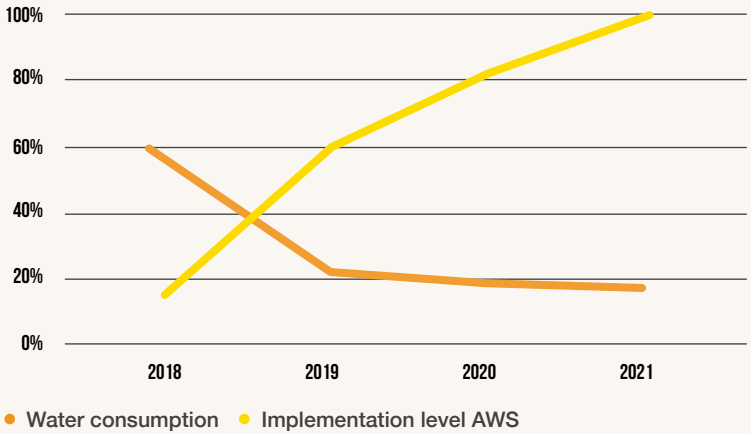


Fig. 31: Water consumption & level of AWS implementation in Ecuador and Colombia during the second project phase (2018–2020).

Photo: Ashutosh / Adobe Stock

3. INTEGRATED CULTIVATION MANAGEMENT

Pesticides play a major role in conventional farming. These include insecticides, fungicides and nematicides used to control pests or pathogens, and herbicides to control weeds. In addition to pesticides, fertilisers are also used to achieve the high yields that are common today on intensively cultivated soils. However, both types of agrochemicals – pesticides and fertilisers – also leach into soils and water, and this has harmful effects on flora and fauna and can trigger health problems in humans. In the second project phase, work was successfully carried out on optimising the use of these substances in order to reduce the negative effects on humans and the environment. One milestone in this endeavour was the gradual reduction in the use of herbicides, to the point where they were completely eliminated by the end of 2020.

The list of benefits of the elimination of herbicides is long: for example, not using herbicides promotes the development of natural ground cover, which in turn protects the soil and hence also the groundwater from contamination with pesticides. To establish a natural ground cover on the cultivated areas sustainably and for the long term, additional native species of ground covers (cover crops) are planted. A dense plant cover over the soil increases the root mass, loosens up the soil, and boosts the proportion of the vital biomass contained in the soil. This contributes significantly to the health and biological balance of the soil and at the same time promotes biodiversity on the farm. The banana plants themselves also benefit from these developments.

USE OF PESTICIDES (KG OR L PER HECTARE)

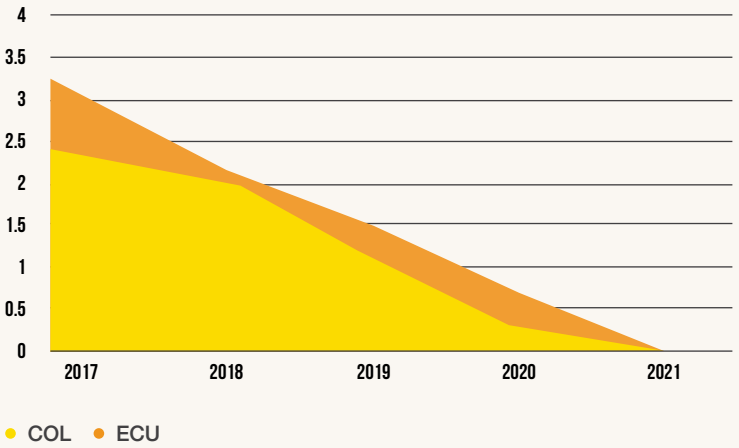


Fig. 32: Use of herbicides on project plantations in Ecuador and Colombia during the second project phase (2017–2020).

OUTLOOK FOR PHASE 3 (2022-2027)

In the years 2020 and 2021, the project team was engaged in an intense effort to fine-tune the strategic orientation of the projects and to develop new measures targeting the various subject areas. Work that extends beyond the farm level to the enterprise and landscape level, which began in the second phase of the project, will be further expanded in the future.

Photo: josto / Adobe Stock

OVERVIEW OF MEASURES FOR NEW PROJECT PHASE

At the **farm level,** the protection zones for natural ecosystems will be further expanded in the new project phase. In addition, increased use of drones for the application of pesticides is intended to achieve greater precision and result in better protection for the workers. In addition, targeted measures are to be implemented in the protected zones to protect the local pollinators. Soil health is also to be promoted further. This will be done, for example, by adding organic matter to the soils and by maintaining the resulting soil cover. Water treatment is also being further developed, at the same time as water use for irrigation is being reduced. Moreover, the GHG emissions of direct and indirect emission sources will be assessed, and measures aimed at their reduction defined, and the use of plastic in production is also to be minimised. The measures to protect workers' health and rights will remain in place and will be complemented by measures at the **enterprise level**. These measures include the development of a gender equality strategy and ensuring adequate living wages. There are also research projects that focus on optimising recycling and work processes carried out in the field and at the packing station.

At the **landscape level**, environmental education for neighbouring communities and stakeholders and cooperation with other institutions such as universities, foundations or educational platforms will be further expanded. To protect biodiversity, the project team is developing a survey, awareness-raising and monitoring strategy for the most important species. And finally, a concept for improving connectivity in the catchment areas and a Water Stewardship strategy will also be developed and implemented.

INFOBOX: GROWING IN TANDEM WITH THE EARTH UNIVERSITY

In addition to the preparations for the third project phase, the EDEKA-WWF Banana Project 2021 took another big step in its project history: the expansion of the banana project to Costa Rica in collaboration with the new project partner EARTH University.

EARTH is a private non-profit university with a focus on sustainable agricultural sciences and at the same time the operator of a commercial banana farm. The combination of an academic institution and a banana farm holds a great deal of potential. It is envisaged that the academic part of EARTH will also be integrated into the project work, and that this will provide new scientific impetus for the project. Since October 2021, an initial set of project measures have gradually been implemented, but EARTH did not yet deliver project bananas in 2021.

New country, new challenges: A special challenge for the project work in Costa Rica is the elimination of pesticides of the category WHO1a+b. These include pesticides classified by the WHO as "extremely hazardous" (WHO class 1a) or "highly hazardous" (WHO class 1b). Foregoing the use of these pesticides is therefore one of the essential requirements for new farms to be included in the project from the very beginning. WHO1a+b pesticides are used, for example, to control specific soil pests, including those belonging to the nematodes, which represent a particularly difficult burden on cultivation in Costa Rica. EDEKA, the WWF and EARTH have jointly assembled a team of experts to deal with this challenge and are assuming a pioneering role in the effort to dispense with the use of WHO 1a+b pesticides in Costa Rica. All the parties involved are aware that this pioneering work also involves challenges. By implementing this strategy, the partners run the risk of crop failures, among other things. There is, however, an overarching shared vision: if it succeeds, the project can serve as a blueprint for the banana sector in Costa Rica.

Photo: Frank Gottwald / EDEKA

3.3

AGRICULTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE "AGRICULTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY" PROGRAMME

Growing region:	Germany
Programme objectives:	• Conservation and enhancement of ecosystems and biodiversity • Establishing the nature conservation module for organic farmers • Long-term cooperation between nature conservation organisations and agriculture based on advice from nature conservation experts • Rewarding the implementation of nature conservation measures • Transparency through traceability by means of tracking codes on products
Number of operations in the programme:	**Total number: 209 operations** • Region North: 69 (approved), 11 (in consultation) • Region Southwest: 43 (approved), 8 (in consultation) • Region West/Central: 17 (approved), 1 (in consultation) • Dessert Fruit Region North: 39 (approved) • Dessert fruit Region South: 17 (approved) • Dessert Fruit Region West: 4 (approved)
Total area under cultivation:	**Total area: 53,342 ha** • Region North: 43,000 ha • Region Southwest: 5,479 ha • Region West/Central: 2,977 ha • Dessert Fruit North: 1,140 ha anticipated • Dessert fruit Region South: 650 ha • Dessert Fruit Region West: 96 ha
Marketing:	• Meat and cold cuts as well as potatoes available at EDEKA stores in the EDEKA Region North (since 2015). • Beef available at EDEKA stores in the Region Southwest (since 2019) • EDEKA organic apple juice as the first nationally available product (since 2020) • Cereal products available at EDEKA stores in the Region North (since 2022) • Dessert apples and apple purée from the new dessert fruit initiative available throughout Germany (since 2022)

Table 15: Programme parameters for "Agriculture for biodiversity".

For over ten years, the "Agriculture for Biodiversity" programme has combined hands-on conservation work with agricultural practice in an endeavour to preserve the diversity of animal and plant species in Germany. With more than 200 participating farms to date, "Agriculture For Biodiversity" is already one of the largest privately funded agrobiodiversity programmes in Germany, and this year it has become even bigger and better known thanks to the inclusion of new farms and product ranges: here's to agriculture that creates diversity!

Especially in agriculturally dominated habitats, the decline in species has been particularly dramatic. This is why the farmers participating in the programme implement nature conservation measures on their organic farms that have demonstrably been able to boost biodiversity.

The programme is based on a catalogue of measures and services consisting of over 100 nature conservation modules – scientifically designed and developed by the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF). Conservation measures include, for example, leaving strips of land covered by clover grass unmown. For insects, farmland birds, hares and amphibians, these unmown areas in the fields are important refuges during and after mowing. Once the "Strips of wildflowers and other flowering plants" module has been implemented, partridges and other field birds find good breeding sites in these wildflower strips (see also the section on Monitoring). The strips of land left unmown also provide food and a refuge for hares and insects.

In consultation with a nature conservation advisor, the participating farmers select the most suitable and effective measures for their farm and implement them on their land. EDEKA funds and supports the programme organisation and advisory services, sells the products from participating farms and rewards them for the implementation of biodiversity-promoting measures. Products originating from the “Agriculture For Biodiversity” programme are easy to identify at the EDEKA stores: they carry the WWF logo and the programme’s own seal, an origami bird. By buying products from the programme, consumers can also contribute to the promotion of biodiversity for local fauna and flora.

MONITORING CONFIRMS SUCCESS


Photo: Beate Leidig

Fig. 33: Following the implementation of the “Wildflower strips and flowering strips” module.

For the southern German region, monitoring of the impact of the programme measures was completed in 2022. The findings of the scientific surveys are remarkable, because they confirm the great significance of grasslands such as meadows and pastures for biodiversity. In particular, the programme measure of not mowing some strips of grassland at all in the course of the year. or mowing them very late in the year, ensures that habitats for wildflowers and insects, but also for ground-nesting birds and mammals, are preserved.

Mapping on six selected farms showed that at least eight times as many insects are found on the unmown meadow strips, compared with the mown strips on the same farm. This factor eight is the highest success factor recorded for any conservation measure under the “Agriculture For Biodiversity” programme.

This finding is particularly exciting because leaving strips of grassland unmown is one measure that is implemented very often on the participating farms. These are often farms with grassland or mixed farms with livestock, with most of them practising suckler cow husbandry.

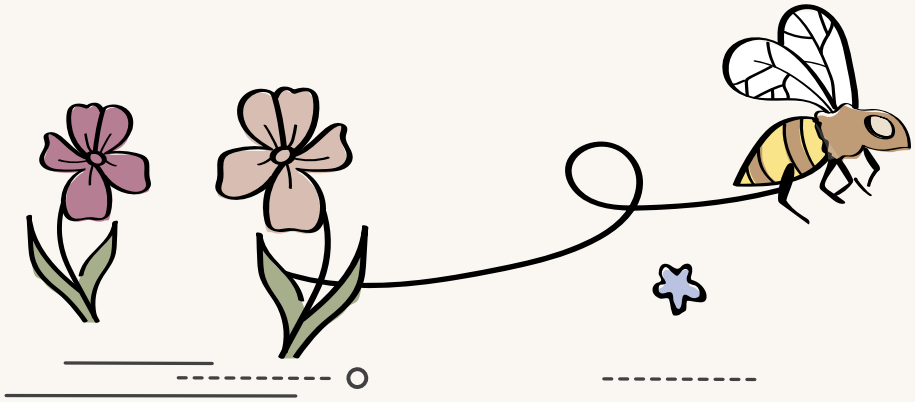
Fig. 34: An additional measure from the “Wildflower strips and flowering strips” module.

Launched in 2012 together with the Biopark growers’ association and the EDEKA Region North in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Brandenburg in pasture and grassland, “Agriculture for Biodiversity” has expanded to take in eleven of the 13 rural rather than urban federal states and to over 200 farms in the last three years. As well as Biopark, these farms also participate in the other large farming associations Naturland, Bioland and Demeter. In addition to beef, pork and sausages, the products of the participating farms include fruit and vegetables as well as cereal products such as northern German spelt, rye and wheat flours.

After starting out in northern Germany with twelve Biopark farms, the programme expanded to southern Germany in 2020 with around 50 Bioland farms that sell beef to the EDEKA Region Southwest.

With the EDEKA organic apple juice ***naturtrüb (naturally cloudy),*** the first article of the programme available throughout Germany went on sale in 2020. Since August 2022, the first cereal products sporting the programme logo have been available at EDEKA stores.

One outstanding success story has been the establishment of an initiative for organic fruit cultivation: some 54 farms from various growing regions in Germany are now participating, supplying EDEKA with dessert apples, apple purée and juice. What is particularly pleasing in this context are the many new flowering strips between the rows of apple trees, with the large number of wild flowers and herbs that have been able to grow in the vehicle tracks – called tramlines – thanks to the practice of alternating mulching. Many insects benefit from this measures, including wild bees, butterflies, spiders and grasshoppers – all beneficial insects that pollinate flowers or eliminate pests: for every earwig there is one fewer codling moth.



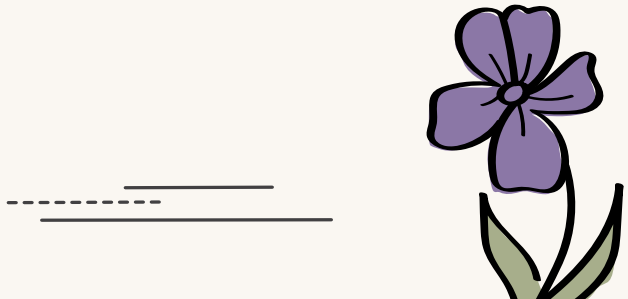


Photo: Thomas Schindel / EDEKA

BIO

4

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIC PRODUCTS RANGE

BIO DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIC PRODUCT RANGE

Forming a vital part of a sustainable, responsible product range, organic products have long been highly valued in the EDEKA Group. They have been an important part of the product range for many years and are represented in every product group. In the private-label segment alone, EDEKA carries around 1,000 organic articles in the various distribution lines of the EDEKA group. There are several thousand additional organic brand products as well as fresh produce from organic farming. The expansion of the organic product range is an integral part of the sustainability strategy in the EDEKA Group.

Due to a high rate of inflation, the demand for low-priced food has increased significantly. This also applies to the organic segment. As a result, more and more consumers are turning to attractively priced private-labels instead of branded products. Moreover, organic specialist brands are also increasingly being bought at traditional food retailing outlets instead of specialist stores.

The EDEKA Group benefits from this trend and is able to score points with its own range of organic brands. Going against the market trend, the EDEKA Group recorded a slight increase in sales of organic products to a total of around 2 billion euros in 2022 again. The share of organic products sold by the EDEKA Group stood at 6.0% according to AC Nielsen, up by 0.3% compared to the organic share of the total market. This makes EDEKA the market leader for organic products in Germany! Against the backdrop of an overall decline in the organic food market in Germany, this is therefore a real success story.

The growth leader is the private-label organic brand EDEKA Bio, with turnover up by 2 per cent. In addition, EDEKA got off to a good start last year with its organic specialist brand NATURKIND. With its product range, the EDEKA Group provides a large organic selection at competitive prices. Especially during this time, characterised by high inflation rates and growing price awareness, EDEKA consistently adheres to its mission to expand the organic product range. After all, it is more important now than ever to bank on domestic organic agriculture. The high demand from customers validates EDEKA's decision to continue with its aggressive organic strategy and to further expand the organic product range in the future.

Photo: Thomas Schindel / EDEKA

With the concept of the NATURKIND Worlds, EDEKA is building bridges and making more and more people enthusiastic about organic food. Designed and set up as “biotopes” within a supermarket or consumer market, the NATURKIND Worlds offer independent EDEKA retailers a new opportunity to address customers with an affinity for organic products and to facilitate their access to organic specialist brands. Depending on the size of the available retail space, the range of products offered by the 41 shop-in-shop concepts already includes fresh food such as fruit and vegetables, frozen food, dry goods, and in some cases bread and bakery counters, as well as so-called unpackaged modules and natural cosmetics. For many organic specialist brand manufacturers, the NATURKIND Worlds are particularly important during economically difficult times because they offer stable sales opportunities.

The EDEKA group is also further reinforcing its organic profile with the products of the organic specialist brand NATURKIND. Over 60 NATURKIND organic products come from 100 per cent organic agriculture. Many of the NATURKIND articles bear additional sustainability seals such as FAIRTRADE and are produced according to the guidelines of the cultivation associations Bioland e.V., Naturland e.V. and Biopark e.V., which means these products exceed the EU organic standard by far.

For 2023, EDEKA is focusing on expanding and strengthening the organic private-label product range as well as on the expansion of the NATURKIND Worlds, for instance.

Photo: Christian Schmid / EDEKA

5

PRODUCT-RELATED COMMUNICATION

CO-BRANDING

Right from the beginning of the Partnership For Sustainability, EDEKA customers have been able to find products bearing the WWF logo as an additional label on their supermarket shelves. These are EDEKA private-label products that meet WWF-recognised environmental standards and have been produced more sustainably. By using this logo, EDEKA and the WWF offer consumers guidance through the product range that helps them make responsible shopping decisions. Their aim is to encourage people to buy more sustainable products.

NAVIGATING THE STANDARDS JUNGLE

When a private-label product also bears the WWF logo, this is called co-branding. The panda as a WWF trademark is applied to products that meet a maximum standard recognised by the WWF and where this is documented through independent certification. These standards set requirements for a food or other product to be produced in a more environmentally compatible way and cover different aspects of environmental protection:

- The certifications apply to the suppliers and also show that the raw materials come from more environmentally friendly cultivation in accordance with organic standards (EU Organic Regulation, Naturland, Bioland or comparable organic associations).
- They certify the quality of ingredients in natural cosmetics such as those in the NATRUE label products.
- They identify the origin of product components from more sustainable sources, as in the case of products complying with the FSC® standard.
- They certify more responsible fisheries like the MSC label.
- They also certify a more environmentally friendly product such as the Blauer Engel or the European Eco-label, for example by setting requirements for resource-saving production, recycling content or durability.

THE SURVEY IN 2022

By 30 June 2022, some 511 EDEKA private-label products were approved for co-branding. Of these, 307 come with organic food certification, 49 with MSC and 56 with FSC© certification. A total of 75 products have received Blauer Engel certification, and 24 products from the natural cosmetics sector have been certified according to the NATRUE standard. NATRUE certifies products according to two certification categories, namely natural cosmetics and organic cosmetics. Since 2021, the WWF has only allowed co-branding for organic cosmetics products. The percentage distribution of the standards for co-branded private-label items is shown in Fig. 35. Compared to the previous year, there were only minor changes in the percentage distribution. The increase in the number of private-label products in 2022 compared to the previous year is largely due to the increase in certified organic products and slight increases in Blauer Engel certified products. Ten fewer products with a WWF logo were identified in the natural cosmetics sector.

CO-BRANDING EDEKA PRIVATE-LABEL PRODUCT RANGE

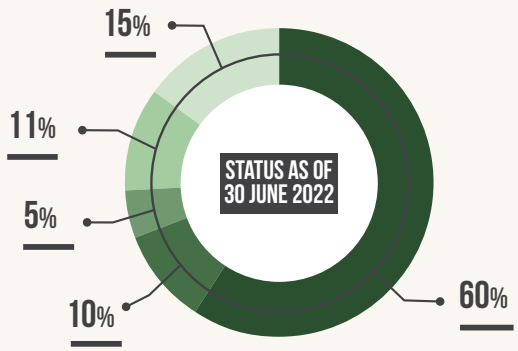


Fig. 35: Proportion of all EDEKA private-label products with co-branding, broken down by sustainability standards recognised by the WWF (status as of 30 June 2022).

* organic standards recognised by the WWF for co-branding. These include EU Organic Regulation, Naturland, Bioland and comparable organic associations

** FSC® 100% for wood products; FSC® Recycled for tissue and paper products

The monitoring is based on an excerpt from the Co-Branding Tool. Recorded in this tool are all tested private-label products that have been labelled with a WWF logo in the course of the partnership. All products for which at least one supplier meets the requirements for co-branding are tested and included in the count. Where products are sourced from various suppliers, they are only counted once, but all suppliers are monitored. In these cases it can happen that not all of the suppliers meet the necessary requirements. In those instances, only products whose suppliers meet the requirements are co-branded, and this is why sometimes a product may be co-branded at one store, but not at another.

MORE AND MORE PRODUCTS WITH THE WWF PANDA IN THE EDEKA PRODUCT RANGE

Since the beginning of the partnership in 2012, the number of co-branded products (cf. Fig. 36) has increased overall. To put this into perspective: with about 4,000 private-label articles in total, about one in eight private-label products is co-branded.

EDEKA PRIVATE-LABEL PRODUCTS APPROVED FOR CO-BRANDING SINCE 2013

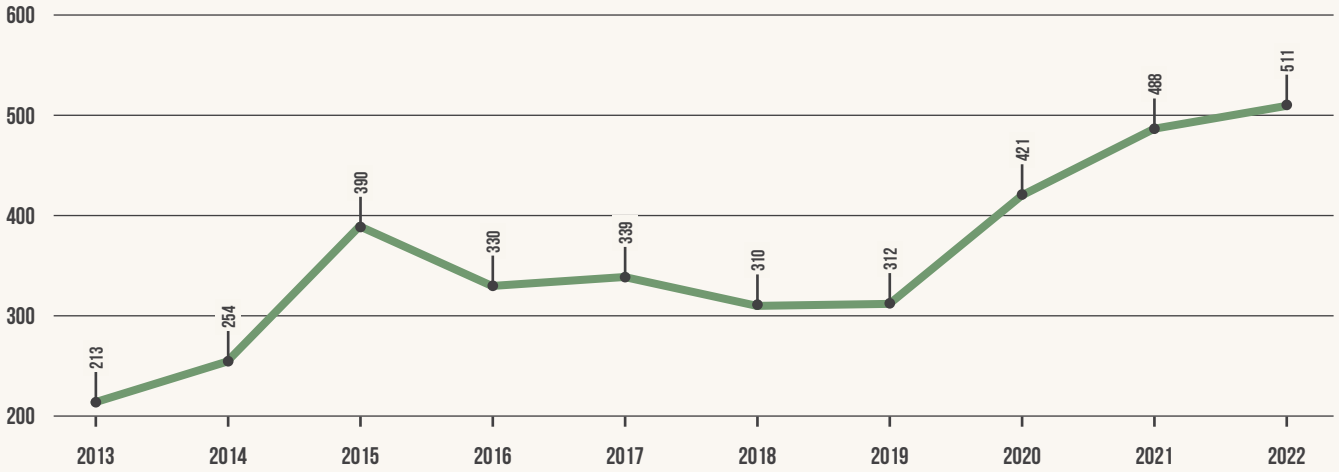


Fig. 36: Development of private-label products with co-branding since 2013 (status as of 30 June 2022).

Changes in standards or a change in method of counting in the course of the development of the Co-Branding Tool (2018) and in the accompanying documentation of the approval processes have led to fluctuations, but the general trend of an increase in products with a Panda logo is evident. This is due, among other things, to the fact that EDEKA has expanded the range of environmentally friendly private-label products to include various product ranges, such as detergents and cleaning products (“RESPECT”), natural cosmetics (“BLÜTEZEIT”) as well as the new organic specialist brand “NATURKIND” with articles from various product groups.

THE FUTURE OF PRODUCT COMMUNICATION IN THE PARTNERSHIP

In 2022, the partners agreed to redesign the promotion of products with the WWF Panda logo. Co-branding, as it has been entrenched in the Partnership for Sustainability since 2012, is to conform to a new system, starting in mid-2024. Its role to act as a signpost making it easy for customers to discover more sustainable alternatives in the product range will remain unchanged. At the same time, the intention is to make it more obvious to which of the four partnership fields of action – climate protection, biodiversity, freshwater and resource and material conservation – the product contributes. The requirements of the EU Commission for a uniformly regulated sustainability label for food, which will be developed by 2024, will also be taken into account.

PROJECT BRANDING

The products from the cultivation projects described in chapter 3 also bear the WWF Panda logo. These include oranges, clementines and mandarins as well as bananas from improved conventional cultivation. They bear the WWF logo with reference to the partnership and to the aims of the project. These references are “EDEKA & WWF Gemeinsames Projekt für eine bessere Banane” (“Joint Project for A Better Banana”) and “EDEKA & WWF Gemeinsames Projekt für eine bessere Orange” (“Joint Project for a Better Orange”).

Fig. 37: The project stickers are applied to bananas from the joint project.

In addition to organic association seals, products from the “Agriculture For Biodiversity” programme also carry the word and design mark with the green origami bird and the WWF logo. In addition, a QR code printed on the packaging provides customers with a link to the project’s web page, which in turn provides a direct link to the relevant agricultural operation. These so-called stock projects and programmes will continue to bear the WWF logo with the corresponding claims in the future.

Fig. 38: The apple juice from the Agriculture for Biodiversity programme bears the WWF panda logo and the word and design mark with the green origami bird.

CO-CLAIMING

Product-related information also refers to certification systems that, although not classified as the highest standard, already represent an improvement towards greater environmental protection. In these cases, no WWF logo is applied to the products, only a text reference. In the palm oil segment, there are four such products with palm oil components that are certified according to RSPO Segregated along the entire supply chain.

Photo: lovelyday12 / Adobe Stock

6

OUTLOOK: THE TARGETS UNTIL 2032

OUTLOOK: THE TARGETS UNTIL 2032

Photo: freepik

The Partnership for Sustainability is being extended. For the next 10 years, WWF and EDEKA will be focusing on challenges that not only address some of the most important global environmental problems, but where the food retail sector can make a concrete contribution towards solving these problems.

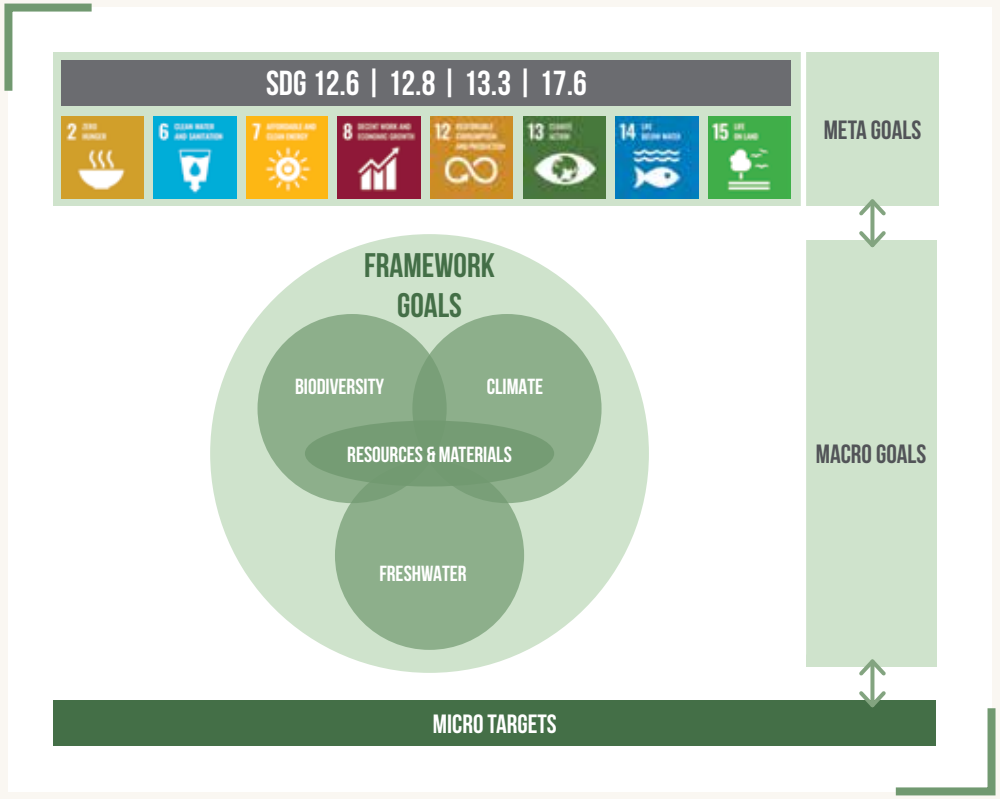


Fig. 35: Themes and target system for the Partnership for Sustainability.

The starting point was and still is the shared guiding principle, which is to stop the worldwide destruction of nature and the environment and to shape a future in which people and nature can co-exist in harmony. One central goal will therefore continue to be to reduce EDEKA's ecological footprint, and to raise awareness among the population with regard to more sustainable consumption and the value of food.

In the future, the partners will continue to commit to contributing to the global objectives formulated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) (see section 1.2). These goals serve as a vision for the partners and are set out as overarching meta-targets in the partnership agreement.

The WWF and EDEKA have agreed on four main themes for the further development of the target levels, which form the basis of the partnership. These four main themes encompass the macro targets for climate protection, conservation and promotion of biodiversity, freshwater protection and conservation of resources and materials. In addition, framework goals were developed which, as overarching macro targets, in turn influence all the main themes in question. The partnership is at all times focused on, and guided by, current developments and, within the scope of the operational design, allows for flexibility in adjusting the level of ambition so that the latest findings in society, science and the economy are taken into account and can be implemented accordingly. To this end, micro targets that are subordinate to the macro targets are developed in a two-year cycle, and measures are derived from them. In future, the progress reports will represent the degree of achievement for the macro targets as well as the current micro targets.

SELECTED MACRO TARGETS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP UNTIL 2032

CLIMATE

- Findings regarding climate hotspots and reduction of GHG emissions in the product range
- Reduction of GHG emissions from scope 1, 2 and business travel (scope 3) to net zero by the end of 2032
- Funding of climate and environmental protection measures

BIODIVERSITY

- Findings regarding biodiversity risks and opportunities in the private-label product range
- Implementation of measures to mitigate biodiversity risks
- Organic market leadership[20]

FRESHWATER

- Findings regarding freshwater risks and opportunities in the private-label product range
- Implementation of water risk mitigation measures
- Stewardship projects in water risk hotspots

RESOURCES

- Sustainable design, procurement and production of the private-label product range
- Elimination of deforestation and forest transformation in supply chains by 2025
- Promotion of more sustainable eating habits
- Reduction of food waste

MATERIALS

Promotion of a circular economy:

- Minimisation in the use of materials for private-label packaging
- Raw materials for private-label packaging from sustainable sources and recycled materials
- Recycling and reusable systems
- Efficient and effective material flow management[21]
- Elimination of private-label products that are resource-hungry and energy-intensive
- Ecologically sound design of private-label non-food and drug store products

FRAMEWORK GOALS

Pioneering role in the food retail sector in the four main themes pursued in the partnership	Traceability & transparency of supply chains	Consideration of sustainability criteria in procurement processes	Further development of certification systems and other market-based sustainability solutions
Readiness to investment (capacities & resources)	IT-supported recording of sustainability criteria and performance of private-label products and suppliers	Further training for all employees on the themes pursued in the WWF and EDEKA partnership	Preliminary competitive engagement

[20] EDEKA's goal is to remain the market leader in organic food – i.e. to generate the highest market share in the food retail sector.
[21] Including Design4Recycling, recyclability

Table 16: Overview of selected macro targets for the partnership until 2032.

Photo: Volodymyr Kondrianenko / Unsplash

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NOTE

NOTE

LIMITED ASSURANCE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR REGARDING SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION[22]

TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF WWF DEUTSCHLAND STIFTUNG BÜRGERLICHEN RECHTS, BERLIN

We have performed an independent limited assurance engagement on the selected quantitative sustainability information listed below and published in the "Progress Report 2022" on the strategic Partnership between EDEKA and WWF (further "Report") for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 of WWF Deutschland Stiftung bürgerlichen Rechts (hereinafter: "WWF Germany").

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

The legal representatives of WWF Germany are responsible for the preparation of the Report in accordance with the Reporting Criteria. WWF Germany applies the reporting principles mentioned in the Sustainability Reporting Standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) (Accuracy, Balance, Clarity, Comparability, Reliability, Timeliness), supported by internal guidelines (hereinafter: "Reporting Criteria").
The responsibility of the legal representatives includes the selection and application of appropriate methods to prepare the Report and the use of assumptions and estimates for individual qualitative and quantitative sustainability disclosures which are reasonable under the circumstances. Furthermore, this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining systems and processes relevant for the preparation of the Report in a way that is free of – intended or unintended – material misstatements.

[22] Our engagement applied to the German version of the Progress Report 2022. This text is a translation of the Independent Assurance Report issued in the German, with the German text being authoritative.

SUBJECT AREA			PAGE
Fish and seafood	Table	2	23
Palm Oil	Table	7	33
Soya/More sustainable livestock feed	Fig.	11	43
Freshwater	Fig.	14	56
Packaging	Fig. Fig. Fig. Fig. Fig. Fig. Fig. Fig.	15 16 17 18 20 21 22 23	62 62 62 63 64 64 64 64
Co-Branding	Fig.	35	91

INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ON THE PART OF THE AUDITING FIRM

In performing this engagement, we applied the legal provisions and professional pronouncements regarding independence and quality assurance, in particular the Professional Code for German Public Auditors and Chartered Accountants (in Germany) and the quality assurance standard of the German Institute of Public Auditors (Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer, IDW) regarding quality assurance requirements in audit practice (IDW QS 1).

PRACTITIONER'S RESPONSIBILITY

It is our responsibility to express a conclusion on the selected sustainability information within the scope of our engagement in the Report based on our work performed within a limited assurance engagement.

We conducted our work in the form of a limited assurance engagement in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (Revised): "Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information" published by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB).

Accordingly, we have to plan and perform the assurance engagement in such a way that we obtain limited assurance whether any matters have come to our attention that cause us to believe that the above-mentioned sustainability information of the entity for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria. We do not, however, issue a separate conclusion for each disclosure. As the assurance procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement are less comprehensive than in a reasonable assurance engagement, the level of assurance obtained is substantially lower. The choice of assurance procedures is subject to the auditor's own judgement.

Within the scope of our work, we performed amongst others the following procedures:

– Review of the reporting process and the corresponding internal control system
– Review of the methods and evaluation of the design and implementation of the systems and processes for the collection and processing of the selected sustainability information
– Review of processes and analysis of selected sustainability information
– Analytical evaluation of data and trends of selected sustainability information
– Evaluation of selected internal and external documentation
– Assessment of the overall presentation of the disclosures in scope of the assurance engagement.

In our opinion, we obtained sufficient and appropriate evidence for reaching a conclusion for the assurance engagement.

CONCLUSION

Based on the procedures performed and the evidence received to obtain assurance, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the selected sustainability information for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 included in the scope of this engagement and published in the Report is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria.

RESTRICTION OF USE/CLAUSE ON GENERAL ENGAGEMENT TERMS

This assurance report is issued for information purposes of the Management Board of WWF Deutschland only. We assume no responsibility with regard to any third parties.

Our assignment for the Management board of WWF Deutschland and professional liability is governed by the General Engagement Terms for Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungs-gesellschaften (Allgemeine Auftragsbedingungen für Wirtschaftsprüfer und Wirtschafts-prüfungs-gesellschaften) in the version dated January 1, 2017 (https://www.kpmg.de/bescheinigungen/lib/aab_english.pdf). By reading and using the information contained in this assurance report, each recipient confirms notice of the provisions contained therein including the limitation of our liability as stipulated in No. 9 and accepts the validity of the General Engagement Terms with respect to us.

Cologne, March 27th, 2023
KPMG AG
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft

Krause ppa. Mathias