

A woman wearing a bright yellow headscarf with blue and pink floral patterns and a red dress is smiling and working in a field. She is holding a wooden tool, possibly a hoe or a similar agricultural implement. The background shows lush green trees and foliage, suggesting a rural or agricultural setting. The image is partially obscured by a blue banner at the bottom.

Sustainable Shea sourcing practices

IOI Loders Croklaan

*Let's create
together*

Sustainable Shea sourcing practices

The setting

Shea has been an important raw material for IOI Loders Croklaan for more than 50 years. Shea is a wild crop meaning the shea tree is very difficult to cultivate. The geographical area in which the shea tree grows stretches through numerous countries across West Africa. Millions of people in this part of the world depend on shea for their very livelihood. The collection of the shea nuts is done predominantly by women.

Our support to the local communities in West Africa

We have an obligation to develop a fair, sustainable and long-lasting relationship with the people and communities involved in the sourcing and processing of shea in West Africa. We transfer knowledge of value-adding processes to West Africa via projects and partnerships. To support our commitment, IOI Loders Croklaan has two offices and a laboratory in West Africa.



Sustainable Shea Sourcing Practices

What we do: Sourcing

- We source our shea directly from women groups, associations and village communities. We also buy shea from third party suppliers (traders, processors) and, when appropriate, we cooperate with NGO's.
- We help the women groups and village communities to develop skills that will further improve the shelf life of the shea nuts (cleaning, drying and storing). The improved quality of the shea nuts will generate a better income for those people who are directly involved in the collection of the shea nuts.

What we do: Processing

- We partner with local crushers to process the shea nuts into added-value products like shea butter and shea stearin.
- We provide technical support to enable local partners to increase their sourcing and processing standards.



Supporter of sustainable shea industry initiatives

Global Shea Alliance and the Sustainability Working Group

- o IOI Loders Croklaan is a founding member of the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) and we hold a seat in the executive committee of the GSA. The GSA is a multi-stakeholder association promoting quality and sustainability in the shea industry.
- o IOI Loders Croklaan is an active member of the Sustainability Working Group (WG) of the GSA. This WG facilitates social and environmental projects. The objective is to improve the profit and well-being of women collecting the shea and the processors and ensure healthy tree populations.



Third party assessment of shea supply chain

Rainforest Alliance Sustainability Assessments

- In 2011 we have asked the Rainforest Alliance (RFA) to audit our shea supply chain in West Africa. The RFA report concluded that there are no major sustainability issues in our supply chain.
- In 2014 RFA conducted a follow up audit. The report acknowledged that IOI Loders Croklaan actively implemented the recommendations from the audit in 2011 and concluded again that there are no major sustainability issues in our supply chain.
- RFA's assessments were based on the SAN standards, evaluating specifically environmental, social and economical aspects of the shea supply chain.



The next step: certification

IOI Loders Croklaan shea supply chain ISCC Plus certified!

In 2015 the IOI Loders Croklaan's shea supply chain has been successfully audited against the International Sustainability Carbon Certification system (ISCC). Certification body SGS conducted an on site audit in West-Africa and concluded that all sustainable and traceable criteria have been fulfilled. Official sustainable certification is the ultimate result of all the effort we have put in sustainable shea practices.

We are proud to announce that our shea supply chain is officially certified!



Launch of Shea Sustainability Program

In 2017 we launched our ambitious Shea Sustainability Program. We are committed to being a leading company in terms of a sustainable, transparent and traceable shea supply chain.

In line with this goal we implement the measures from our Sustainability Program, which is based on the following key commitments:

1. Human Rights & Workplace

Respect and uphold the rights of all workers in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labor Organization's core conventions.

2. Environmental Management

Strive to minimize environmental impact of the shea supply chain.

3. Traceability & Transparency

Achieve 100% traceability of shea nuts per country to district-level.

Drive positive socio-economic impact for local communities.

Respect and contribute to the quality of life and well-being of the communities in which we operate.

Visit our [website](#) for the latest Shea Sustainability Program projects.