



ICAM Cioccolato issues its first sustainability report

Responsibility toward the product chain, the community, and the planet: sustainable chocolate defines the goals for a slight impact on society and the environment

Orsenigo, July 23rd - ICAM, a Lecco-based company specializing in the production and commerce of chocolate and semi-finished cocoa products, has been committed for over 70 years to pursuing a distinctive production approach: producing sustainable and high quality chocolate. This approach has always been the cornerstone of all the company's choices and has led it today to announce its first sustainability report.

A report that not only certifies the values that permeate the company, but also sets new and ambitious goals for the future. Starting from its identity and responsibilities towards people, the supply chain, the community in which it operates, consumers and the planet as a whole, ICAM puts down on paper the assets that have always been considered of primary importance and defines new goals for the future, including: **reduction the 50% of water consumption by 2020, reduction of the percentage of non-recycled material for the packaging of chocolate bars and further increase the share of cocoa from direct supply.**

ICAM was founded in 1946 from the great passion for chocolate that the Agostoni and Vanini families have handed down from generation to generation, up to the third that now occupies top positions within the company. A passion that, combined with creativity, cutting-edge technology and attention to market trends, still represents the soul of ICAM today.

With an offer that stands out in three main product lines (dedicated to industry, private label and own brand), ICAM has now earned its place not only on the Italian market, but is increasingly asserting itself on the foreign market, which accounts for 58% of turnover 2018 (total turnover 2018: 156 Mil. €). The control of the entire production chain, from planting to the finished product and a production plant (in Orsenigo, Como) equipped with the most modern technologies of the 4.0 industry, are the two distinctive features that have always characterized the offer of ICAM. Two elements that together allow the company to develop a highly diversified production of excellent quality, with the certainty of maximum food safety guaranteed by the complete traceability of raw materials used.

Made up of four main areas of interest, ICAM's Sustainability Report analyses in depth the social and environmental aspects that contribute to outlining the company's responsibilities towards society.

RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS PEOPLE

Careful management of human resources, consisting of better working conditions and remuneration policies compared to the sector of reference, and in the firm belief that the enhancement of human capital contributes decisively to the construction of real competitive advantage. ICAM employs 416¹ people with a strong sense of belonging and who contribute daily to fostering a positive corporate climate. Those involved in production are guaranteed flexible working hours, salaries that include performance bonuses linked to the achievement of objectives and a training plan that guarantees theoretical and *on-the-job* professional growth. For ICAM, this commitment translates into a high level of loyalty, with an outgoing turnover rate in the last two years of close to 5% (of which about one third for retirement).

RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Responsible management of the entire supply chain, attentive to people and the environment, and capable of guaranteeing high levels of quality and food safety, is an essential element in ICAM's approach. In order to

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¹ Dato aggiornato al 31 dicembre 2018



reduce the complexity of the cocoa supply chain; the company has adopted a vertical integration strategy aimed at directly sourcing cocoa. Present in the **Dominican Republic, Uganda and Peru**, ICAM has established a solid and fruitful working relationship with plantation farmers, committing itself financially and technologically to improving the working methods and quality of cocoa, and consequently the socio-economic conditions of the people involved. Ethical management that favors the establishment of an equivalence of roles between the company and the farmers, which in effect becomes a commercial partner, allows the sharing of the expertise necessary to improve quality and productivity (currently 30% higher than the average productivity of other crops). A strategy that allows ICAM to **have most of the cocoa coming from cooperatives with which it has a lasting collaboration** and to check that cultivation practices are carried out with respect for human rights, without recourse to child or forced labour, and through the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and careful to preserve natural resources and biodiversity. It is precisely the great attention paid to the respect of farmers and the environment that has led ICAM to now have 66% of the production **of organic chocolate and Fairtrade**.

Further increasing the share of cocoa from direct supply is one of the objectives that ICAM has set itself for the future, thanks also to the project started in 2019 with Makabio, the new company set up in Madagascar with the aim of making further progress in the selection and processing of quality organic cocoa.

RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY

ICAM's relationship with the local community in which it operates has been consolidated over the years through recruitment and a great deal of attention to **environmental, educational and social issues in the area**. The company is also committed to offering its support to cultural and educational initiatives, with particular attention to the relationship with schools, making itself available to accommodate students on internships and adhering to projects of alternation school/work of many schools of different order and degree. ICAM also offers its support to the community, donating its products to all those associations that request it, in addition to joining Banco Alimentare. In this context, the Company has signed agreements with some distributors/retailers, aimed at encouraging them to send ICAM products withdrawn from the market directly to Banco Alimentare, taking care of all costs.

RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE PLANET

ICAM takes care of the planet and controls its environmental impact in four ways:

- **Energy efficiency.** The Orsenigo production plant, inaugurated in 2010, is powered by a **trigeneration plant** which, while simultaneously producing electricity, steam and cold water from a single energy source, **allows the autonomous and highly efficient production of the energy required to meet almost all (about 80%) of the production process's needs**. The tri-generator, powered by methane, reaches an efficiency level of about **82%**, thus allowing a truly significant energy saving. This saving is confirmed by the 6,320 "White Certificates" (or even Energy Efficiency Certificates) awarded to ICAM in the last four years, which certify the energy savings achieved by implementing measures to improve energy efficiency.
- **Water management.** The chocolate is one of the food products with most impacts in terms of water consumption. Conscious of the important role played by the responsible use made of natural resources, by relocating production to the Orsenigo plant, ICAM is optimizing its water consumption management within its production cycles. The factory is in fact characterized by a closed circuit water structure for the cooling system that allowed the company to **reduce by more than 90% the annual water** consumption compared to the previous system, going from about 700,000 liters to "only" 70,000 liters and simultaneously doubling the production capacity. By 2020 ICAM has set itself the objective of developing a method for reducing water consumption by 50%.

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- **Sustainable packaging.** The issue of the eco-sustainability of packaging is now a highly debated and controversial issue, both at the level of legislators, producers and users. In 2018, ICAM purchased **860 tons of packaging material for its products**, of which about **85% is made up of fully recyclable material**. By adopting the directives on waste management indicated by the European Union (Directive 94/62 EEC) and in response to the ever-increasing demands coming from customers, has launched, in partnership with some suppliers and consultants specialized in the sector, an important study on several fronts, in order to significantly reduce **the use of non-recyclable packaging**. The study is divided into 3 main directions: **the reduction of the volume of packaging**, the commitment, where technologically possible, **to use 100% recyclable packaging** and the **development of biodegradable/composable packaging solutions**.
- **Carbon Footprint.** In order to measure the environmental impact generated with respect to global warming, ICAM has started calculating and monitoring its Carbon Footprint. The study, developed with the support of a **researcher from the Polytechnic of Milan**, has made it possible to assess the environmental performance of the production of 1 kg of dark chocolate 86% Vanini (origin Bagua, Peru) including packaging, in packs of 100g. The analysis was carried out according to the LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) methodology, taking into consideration the entire supply chain from the cultivation of raw materials to the disposal of waste produced by packaging. The study **calculated a product carbon footprint of 1.11 kg CO2 equivalent per kilo of chocolate**, almost 30% less than other comparable products.

Among the few other chocolate companies that have drawn up their own sustainability report, ICAM stands out for its decision to voluntarily adopt this document, the purpose of which is to certify the transparency of each action that is part of the production process of the company towards its target audience and meet the information needs of all its stakeholders. ICAM's newborn social report is only at the first step but will expand, increasingly in the coming years, also actively involving stakeholders who will be involved in helping the company to understand and improve those aspects that are priority for them, and therefore improvable where necessary. The FieldFisher Law Firm, an international firm based in Milan, supported ICAM in the preparation of the Sustainability Report.

ICAM CHOCOLATE

Since 1946 ICAM has been the interpreter of an authentic culture of Italian chocolate and has established itself as a spokesperson for excellence in the art of Italian chocolate making. Strongly committed to respecting the environmental, social and economic sustainability of its suppliers, ICAM is one of the few companies in the world that controls in a complete and integrated way the production chain, selecting the best cocoa plantations in the world and working closely with local producer

For further information:

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