

CECAB — São Tomé's Farmer-Owned Organic Cocoa Cooperative Moves from Raw Beans to Chocolate

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Sao Tome and Principe

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Founded in 2004, São Tomé's 3,000-farmer CECAB cooperative lifted organic cocoa output 40% in 2021 and opened a €450,000, AfDB-backed chocolate factory in 2022 — though a 2024 EU rule capping cooperative size at 2,000 members now forces it to restructure.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	1/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-06

Cooperativa de Produção e Exportação de Cacau Biológico (CECAB); African Development Bank; Kaoka (France) — accessed 2026-09-06

Macao Magazine — Chocolate's return to São Tomé and Príncipe — accessed 2026-09-06

Wikipedia — Organic Cocoa Production and Export Cooperative (CECAB) — accessed 2026-09-06

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