

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is an essential issue for all companies today. The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda require it. It is the companies themselves however that have long understood that their role in this area is crucial and that a commitment to sustainable development is the best investment not only for the planet but also for the survival of their business.

Rooted in nature as it is, the work of Indena has always been inspired by the mechanisms of plants. They are observed with scientific rigour, from which lessons are drawn for the production of particularly effective botanical extracts of the highest quality.

Sustainability, both environmental and social, is therefore inherent in the way the company operates.

Indena purchases raw materials from all over the world. Just under 40% comes from Europe; most of the rest mainly from countries in Asia. Cultivated plants account for more than 62% of this raw material. Of the remaining 37%, almost two thirds consist in varieties of which renewable parts are picked, such as leaves and fruits. Indena uses 120 plant species, and numbers 268 suppliers.

Suppliers are accredited on the basis of internal procedures and strict criteria of sustainability, quality, traceability and reliability. Guidelines for good agronomic and harvesting practices (GAPC) are applied throughout the entire supply chain which is subject to periodic audits by Indena's Quality Assurance Group. In addition, the company has worked on sustainable management projects in conjunction with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the International Organization for Tropical Timber (ITTO).

At the same time, Indena has developed internal standards to reconcile the demand for high quality raw materials with the principles of biodiversity and sustainability provided for in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other international reference standards.

This commitment to sustainability is connected with the complexity of the ecosystems from where the raw material originates but also with that of the socio-economic contexts in which Indena operates alongside its suppliers.

A multidisciplinary team of botanists, communication professionals, quality system managers, regulatory experts, cultural and linguistic specialists was set up by Indena in 2013. Their task is to cope with these complexities, develop far-reaching projects and create networks with local partners and NGOs. The sustainable procurement program (SuSo) is based on the work of these professionals, and is fully integrated into the company's quality management system. This approach is consistent with the philosophy that Indena has always pursued, to make the environment in which they operate a better place to live.

In 2017, Indena decided to join SEDEX, an important international organization whose aim is to promote the sustainable management of supply chains worldwide by monitoring the ethics of companies through a big data collection platform.