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<https://www.cerelia.com/fr/engagement-de-cerelia/>

CÉRÉLIA'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

Our young company now employs more than 1,500 people. This implies a great deal of responsibility. Not only to those directly involved, such as our employees, suppliers and customers, but also to the entire value chain. This is why we are bringing together our strengths and resources, so that corporate social responsibility becomes part of the heart and soul of our group.

Based on our belief that sustainable development can succeed if focus is balanced between environmental/biodiversity, economic and social aspects, we developed our 2017-2025 strategic plan for sustainable development around 4 areas of actions:

- Producing responsibly and sustainably, taking constant care to reduce and recover waste and improve methods to limit the use of non-renewable resources;
- Innovating to develop our activities, contributing to the improvement of our partners' economic and environmental performance;
- Fostering burgeoning talent among our employees so that they may become agents of change;
- Contributing to a responsible, sustainable and participative economy.

We wanted our objectives to be shared by our employees and to be in accordance with their vision. This allows employees to translate and implement the SD strategy in their daily work, to take ownership of these actions, to put forward ideas and support initiatives.

We consider that through our supply chains, we have the opportunity to respond to environmental and biodiversity challenges.

We aim to use responsible and sustainable cultivation methods throughout our supply chains, which help preserve biodiversity.

For our paper and cardboard packaging, we offset our impact by purchasing FSC-certified materials from sustainably managed forests. To date, this represents more than 5,000T, and we are doing our utmost to achieve our goal of zero deforestation by 2020 at the latest in this category.

We are working on and involving our partners/suppliers in the production methods of our flours/wheats, and the identification of existing approaches, in order to develop and promote them.

These approaches are based on reasoned agriculture, agroecology, and organic farming.

We have developed a wide range of products whose raw materials are derived from organic farming (2,400T of AB certified pasta).

We are developing wheat sectors whose major axes are:

■ Plant cover for the soil. By binding carbon, plants form the basis of energy exchanges in our ecosystems. Maximising both their presence throughout the year, and the biomass produced and returned to the soil, helps to maintain soil fertility and encourage biodiversity (plant cover with delayed destruction, double cropping, associated cropping, relay cropping, sowing under cover, full crop residue restitution, etc.).

■ Tillage that respects soil structure and maintains the populations of various micro-organisms and animals in the soil horizons.

■ Reducing chemical use. No prohibition on the use of chemicals and crop protection products, but researching ways to reduce it. Whenever possible, and with the aim of continuous improvement, it is important to replace them with biological regulatory processes or bioproducts that have a lower impact on health, the environment and biodiversity.

■ Increasing biodiversity so as to promote biological regulation mechanisms and thus reduce the use of crop protection products. This supposes nurturing biodiversity through an array of methods, from reducing disturbances and maintaining habitats and ecological niches, to restoring biomass on the ground, hedges, grass strips around water points, flower beds, etc.

Cérélia is working on developing these recipes to promote the use of raw materials from crops that benefit the environment, such as flax, lucerne, field beans, etc., the advantage of these crops being that they help to increase biodiversity. Thanks to these crops, there will be fewer nitrogen fertilisers and crop protection products in crop rotation cycles and therefore in our food chains.

100% of imported raw materials, palm oil and cocoa, are certified.

In December 2015, Cérélia created the Earth & People endowment fund. It promotes supply chains of raw materials, including palm oil, which respect the environment and the lives of local actors.

Earth & People also supports a sustainable palm oil production in south-western Côte d'Ivoire by:

- Helping to develop the Ivorian sustainable palm oil sector by working on production conditions. Providing training in good agricultural practices whose objective is to

help small producers to improve the yields of their orchards, increasing their income without the need to expand current plantations. Forests and forest clearings are therefore preserved, as is the biodiversity they represent.

- Protecting the environment.

- Improving living conditions for oil palm communities and producers, by supporting health, social and educational projects.