

Senior Expert Contact – A programme of Swisscontact POTENTIAL MEETS EXPERIENCE

The retired professionals of our Senior Expert Contact (SEC) are qualified experts on-site. Through their consulting services, they provide hands-on, cost-effective support towards the sustainable development of companies and institutions.

SEC Assignment in Peru, 2024

Assignment No. 4346

Location	Arequipa, Peru
Client	Fabrica de Chocolates La Iberica
Expert	Rinus Heemskerk, Cocoa & Chocolate Expert
Period	08.-22.03.2025



Client Profile

The client is a medium-sized industrial chocolate producer with a long history dating back to 1909. The production plant is equipped with high-quality (mainly European) machinery and employs a staff of 250. The product range is extensive and includes solid bars, filled bars, bonbons and pralines, panned items, enrobed chocolates, and hollow chocolate figures. In addition, there is a significant production of toffees and turrón.

Tasks

The key tasks focused on evaluating the Chuncho cocoa supply chain, optimising and improving cocoa and chocolate production processes, and supporting several innovation projects.

Results

We assessed the Chuncho cocoa potential and identified strong opportunities for speciality products. Several trials were conducted - and recommendations made - to enhance quality, achieve more consistent chocolate production, reduce costs, and strengthen control mechanisms. In parallel, a number of new products were developed.