

This is not a word-for-word transcript.

Neil

Hello, this is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Neil.

Becca

And I'm Becca. How many of our listeners, Neil, do you think love chocolate?

Neil

Well, I can't think of anyone who doesn't love chocolate. I know, I certainly do.

Becca

Yes, I thought you might say that, having seen your mid-morning snack most days!

Neil

That's true. I do love a bit of dark chocolate. Do you know, I really like the one that's got some chilli in it. What's your favourite, Becca?

Becca

Oh, I also love dark chocolate, but chilli is a bit spicy for me. I like it with sea salt.

Neil

Hmm, that's also good. But now to the stuff that makes chocolate possible – cocoa – a key ingredient and it's become more expensive in recent years.

Becca

Now, a new EU law could make chocolate even more expensive. Today, we'll talk about how this law could change things for farmers, companies and chocolate lovers, as discussed on the recent BBC World Service programme, Business Daily.

Neil

As always, we'll learn some useful new words and phrases and you'll find all the vocabulary along with a transcript on our website, bbclearningenglish.com.

Becca

Before we get started Neil, I have a question for you. Europeans are big fans of chocolate, just like us! Around how many tonnes of cocoa beans were imported to Europe in 2023? Was it:

- a) 500,000 tonnes
- b) two million tonnes
- c) 10 million tonnes

Neil

Well, I have no idea, but I'm just going to guess and say 500,000 tonnes.

Becca

We'll find out if you're right later on!

Neil

Now, that new EU law that we were talking about earlier would stop companies buying cocoa from land where any trees were cut down in the last six years. The process of cutting down trees is called **deforestation**.

Becca

Albert Smith, who owns a small chocolate business, believes that the new law wouldn't change too much for his company.

Albert Smith

...we have all the information on farm level already because the producers that we work with are small plantations that either work through a **co-op** or **social enterprise** and all of our cocoa is already **traced back** to the plantation.

Neil

Albert adds that they already know where the cocoa beans come from, as they work with farmers from **co-ops** or **social enterprises**. A **co-op** in this case is a farm owned by its workers.

Becca

A **social enterprise** is a business that wants to help the community. Because of working with farmers who are part of these organisations, Albert says that the cocoa they buy can already be **traced back** to the farms. To **trace something back to something**, means to find out where something has come from. Here's Albert Smith again.

Albert Smith

Mapping means that farmers have to actually provide the **geolocations** of their plantation. And you know, for some farmers that are very remote, that comes also with a challenge.

Neil

Albert suggests that giving a **geolocation** is difficult for some farmers, as they live in **remote** places and don't all have mobile phones. **Geolocation** is data taken from a special device which shows exactly where something is, and the term **remote** means at a large distance from places where other people live.

Becca

Because of these changes, the price of chocolate might go up even more, meaning that chocolate lovers us could really notice the difference in our bank accounts. Reporter, Matthew Kenyon, asked a chocolate lover on the street if they would pay more for their chocolate.

Chocolate Lover 1

Absolutely I would do that because I think the normal chocolates are way too cheap. Definitely we will pay, we have to pay more because the money will go to the local people, to give them a better life, also to tackle **deforestation**.

Neil

And he asked another chocolate lover about whether he looks at where the cocoa beans come from.

Chocolate Lover 2

For me, personally, absolutely not! Out of principle, because I want them to be produced most efficiently as possible. The cost is completely irrelevant. But on principle, I want production to be as efficient as possible. Otherwise, it's a waste of everybody's time.

Neil

Mixed opinions, it seems there Becca! Whilst one chocolate lover would pay more for chocolate to support farmers and production, the other doesn't worry too much about the cost, but says the production process should be as efficient as possible.

Becca

OK, time to answer our quiz question. Earlier, I asked you how many tonnes of cocoa were imported to Europe in 2023 and you said 500,000 tonnes. Well, Neil, I'll tell you, it is 2 million tonnes!

Neil

Wow. Well, I was wrong and that really is a lot.

Becca

Between us, we've probably eaten a few tonnes already this year!

Neil

At least, Becca! I'd be interested to know what kind of chocolate our listeners enjoy!

Becca

Me too! And whether they would be happy to pay more for their favourite chocolate bar!

Neil

OK, let's recap some of the vocabulary from this programme.

Becca

Deforestation is the process of cutting down trees.

Neil

We heard **co-op** which is a farm owned by its workers.

Becca

A **social enterprise** is a business that wants to help the community.

Neil

To **trace something back to something** is to find out where something has come from.

Becca

Geolocation is data taken from a device which can show you exactly where a person or thing is.

Neil

And finally, **remote** means at a large distance from places where other people live.

Becca

Once again, our six minutes are up, but if you want to test your knowledge, visit our website, bbclearningenglish.com, where you'll also find a worksheet and quiz for this episode. Bye! See you next time.

Neil

Goodbye!

VOCABULARY**deforestation**

the process of cutting down trees

co-op

a farm owned by its workers

social enterprise

a business that wants to help the community

to trace something back to something

to find out where something has come from

geolocation

data taken from a device which can show you exactly where a person or thing is

remote

at a large distance from places where other people live