

# Organic Sheabutter



**A week in another world – our purchase manager Carsten Richter visited our suppliers in Africa. "Women's Gold" is produced traditionally by our partners and thus promotes women`s independence and fair trade.**

In September 2023, our purchase manager Carsten Richter travelled to Africa and visited some of our cultivation projects.



**Family-run business in Abidjan, Ivory Coast with future visions.**

One of them is a family business in Abidjan, which was founded 50 years ago and now employs 70 people at its production site. The high quality of shea butter is monitored both in an own laboratory and in cooperation with external laboratories.

It is great to see that investments are being made into the future. A new warehouse, possibly with air drying, and investments for continuous quality improvement are planned.

**Women are paid directly and can thus feed and provide for their families.**

Our partner supports women's cooperatives with over 3500 women from 50 villages. Each woman collects about 1000kg of nuts per year, which are then cracked and stored in their homes.



The payment for the shea nuts is made in cash and goes directly to the women so that they can pay for food, clothing and schools for their children. After the shea nuts are purchased, they are delivered to the production plant where they are processed into raw shea butter.

**Women's cooperation with over 2800 women from 60 villages. Improvement of the general supply of the villages is supported and promoted.**

Another project is located in Ferke in the north of the Ivory Coast. This partner also takes care of women's cooperatives with over 2800 women from 60 villages. The shea nuts are collected in the wild. Here, too, the women's work is remunerated in cash and on site.

The plan is to promote the general supply of the villages, to build water pumps, to procure

# Organic Sheabutter



transport vehicles, to build common storage buildings and to purchase machines to make work easier.

## What is behind the women's projects?

Shea butter is also known as "women's gold" because the collection and processing of shea nuts is traditionally in women's hands. As a result, the extraction of shea butter constitutes fair trade and the independence of women. Thanks to the production of shea butter, the added value is largely maintained locally in Africa. In this way, living spaces in the countryside remain attractive and migration to the big cities is reduced.



## How is shea butter traditionally made?

The production of shea butter is complex: after collecting the fruit and removing the pulp, the seeds are dried, peeled, roasted and then crushed. By adding water and constantly kneading the mass, an emulsion is created from which the fat can finally be skimmed off.

Many steps of the production are carried out by hand, and the use of smaller machines relieves the women of the physically hard work



## Where do we get the shea butter from?

We source our shea butter from Ghana, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda. In doing so, we support local cooperatives, rural communities and various projects. Another example of this is the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary: The nature reserve in northern Ghana protects the habitat for hippos. Since shea butter is traditionally produced by women, they can use it to earn their own income and thus enable their children to go to school.

The wild shea trees live for over 100 years and provide financial security for families for generations to come.





# Organic Sheabutter



## Our qualities

Sheabutter Crude, Organic	light beige, typical smell	valuable secondary plant substances
Sheabutter Refined, Organic	white, almost odourless	
Sheabutter Nilotica Refined, Organic	creme white, light yellow	particularly soft skin feeling

### What ingredients make shea butter so valuable?

The soft and supple butter contains a balanced proportion of stearic acid and oleic acid. Raw shea butter in particular **contains valuable phytochemicals** that cannot be saponified.

In addition to **tocopherols** or **catechins**, **phytosterols** are the focus of shea butter. These are similar to the skin's own cholesterol and thus strengthen the skin's natural lipid barrier. Moisturizers to **support the skin barrier** are trending and are recommended by skinfluencers on Instagram or TikTok.



### Why is shea butter so interesting for cosmetics?

Shea butter preserves moisture in the skin and has a smoothing and moisturizing effect. It is ideal for the care of dry and rough skin, as the film-forming, occlusive stearic acid reduces moisture loss from the skin.



At the same time, the oleic acid, which is also contained in shea butter, ensures that the skin is intensively cared for and active ingredients are channelled into the skin.

In body butters, rich creams and in hand and lip care, shea butter protects the skin from wind, cold or the dry air of air conditioning systems. It is also appreciated as a consistency enhancer in creams and lotions.

