



TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE COCOA IN GHANA: FARMERS' PERSPECTIVES

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INTRODUCTION

- Sustainable cocoa production means producing cocoa in a way that does not destroy the ability of future generations to also cultivate cocoa
- This ability is influenced by actions we take and policies that we pursue today
- Farmers have a role to play in promoting sustainability through their actions and inactions



SOME POLICY INTERVENTIONS THAT PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

- Cocoa Hi-Tech programme
- Control of cocoa pests and diseases programme (CODAPEC)
- Increases in producer price of cocoa
- Provision of rural infrastructure including roads, schools and hospitals/clinics
- Payment of bonuses



CONSTRAINTS TO SUSTAINABILITY ATTAINMENT

- High cost of inputs including agrochemicals, equipment and labour
- Ineffective public cocoa extension system
- Ageing cocoa farmers
- Constraining land tenure system that makes entry into cocoa for the youth difficult
- Unavailability and high cost of credit to small-scale farmers



WAY FORWARD -1

- Pragmatic policies to increase returns to the farmer
- Provision of effective information support system to farmers
- Establishment of an efficient and effective input delivery system for cocoa farmers
- Establishment of a viable credit system to farmers to enable them manage their farms well



WAY FORWARD -2

- Protection of the forest and the general cocoa environment to enhance new establishment or replanting
- Effective implementation of the regulatory framework to promote safe use of agrochemicals
- Effective utilisation of farmers' knowledge and skills through their groupings



CONCLUSIONS

- Attainment of sustainable cocoa production is feasible only if pragmatic policies are put in place today
- The central role of the farmer should be recognised and harnessed
- It is only through the positive involvement of all relevant stakeholders would sustainable cocoa production be attained

