

RSCE2/8: Summary Report on the RSCE2 Preparatory Meeting



SUMMARY REPORT ON THE RSCE2 PREPARATORY MEETING

10 - 12 FEBRUARY 2009, CAISTAB CONFERENCE CENTER,
ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

RSCE2 is sponsored by:



Côte d'Ivoire



Federal Ministry
of Food, Agriculture and
Consumer Protection

Germany



agriculture, nature
and food quality

The Netherlands



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Trinidad and
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International Cocoa
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INTRODUCTION

The first Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy was held in Accra, Ghana, from 3-6 October 2007, under the auspices of the ICCO and with the generous sponsorship of the Government of Ghana and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands.

The need for this platform, enabling consultation and exchange of opinions with a view to debating the conditions and principles essential for ensuring a sustainable cocoa economy was recognised and stated during the first meeting of the Roundtable.

The first Roundtable defined a number of priority action areas in order to ensure sustainability. One decision taken at this first meeting was to organise a second Roundtable, which will take place in Trinidad and Tobago on 24-26 March 2009, with the mission statement of : “Promoting sustainable production and use of cocoa through dialogue and cooperation with all stakeholders along the supply chain”.

In order to prepare for this second Roundtable, a working group was set up to draft a set of background documents intended as a basis for discussions at the second Roundtable, covering the priority action areas identified by the first Roundtable; a web site was also set up.

As part of the preparations for this key event, an RSCE2 Preparatory Meeting was held on 10-12 February 2009, in the Caistab Conference Center, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in order to enable cocoa stakeholders, particularly those from Africa who would not be in a position to participate in the second Roundtable meeting in Trinidad et Tobago, to share their experiences in the sustainable production and use of cocoa, notably the challenges and success stories related thereto. The results of this preparatory meeting will be reported to the second Roundtable in Trinidad and Tobago, as the contribution of the African stakeholders.

Under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, Mr Laurent GBAGBO, the RSCE2 Preparatory Meeting was co-chaired by the Ivorian Ministers of Agriculture and Trade, and sponsored by donor countries represented at the meeting by Mr Hagen Streichert.

The Preparatory Meeting was attended by 250 participants representing African cocoa-producing countries, NGOs, international cocoa organisations and institutions, cocoa producers, cooperatives, industry, research institutes and decision-making bodies.

Twenty-two (22) presentations were made, prompting a thorough debate whose conclusions are summarised below:

CONCLUSIONS OF THE RSCE2 PREPARATORY MEETING

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF A SUSTAINABLE COCOA ECONOMY

The move towards a sustainable cocoa economy (SCE) entails the need to undertake priority initiatives linked to the three (3) pillars of sustainable development: social responsiveness, sound environmental management, and economic viability.

These initiatives may be placed within the framework of the following ten (10) principles, arranged under four (4) general headings:

Transparency and legal compliance:

- Principle 1.** Transparency;
- Principle 2.** Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Economic viability:

- Principle 3.** Remuneration for quality cocoa production and improved farmer incomes;
- Principle 4.** Access to credit and rural development services;
- Principle 5.** Access to markets and market information.

Social responsiveness:

- Principle 6.** Decent working conditions;
- Principle 7.** Support for farmers' and workers' organisations.

Sound environmental management:

- Principle 8.** Clear land use planning, secure access to land and proper infrastructure;
- Principle 9.** Rational management of natural resources;
- Principle 10.** Conservation and wise use of biodiversity.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

- With regard to the potential institutionalisation of the Roundtable, it was noted that numerous international instruments and structures were already in existence, and suggested that the Roundtable should not become a supplementary instrument; this matter would, in any case, be examined during the RSCE2 in Trinidad and Tobago
- It was recommended that the guidelines on sustainable cocoa production, as a strategic tool, be tailored to meet the specific requirements of each country, with a view to preparing a technical manual for producers;
- In discussing whether or not it was for the RSCE to develop criteria and indicators, concerns were expressed that – whilst the principles are elements common to all

sustainability systems and may serve as a reference for any recognition mechanism – transforming the principles into criteria for certification could restrict opportunities for producing countries to export cocoa;

- It was recommended that all stakeholders in the cocoa chain apply the ten principles governing the sustainability of the cocoa economy, and harmonise certification criteria, although each country should be free to adapt them to meet specific local requirements;
- It was recommended that the principles outlined above be applied, or that other principles applicable to consumers and to the industry be defined;
- It was recommended that coordination of cocoa-certifying initiatives be improved, and that the impact of those initiatives be thoroughly assessed;
- It was recommended that producing countries should be given time to better understand the principles, in order to ensure their application;
- It was recommended that Governments create or encourage an environment conducive to investment initiatives likely to benefit producers and their communities;
- It was recommended that every attempt be made to facilitate the taking over of assets and benefits deriving from private initiatives by the various governments in due course;
- It was recommended that farmers and farmer organisations develop a more professional approach;
- It was recommended that the implementation of actions aimed at achieving a sustainable cocoa economy should be included in national crop-diversification strategies;
- It was noted that cocoa producers had a strategic role as the main actors in any moves towards a sustainable cocoa economy;
- Finally, it was stressed that sustainability must be developed as a win/win partnership in which every stakeholder or link in the cocoa chain should benefit.

THE COCOA VALUE CHAIN

- With regard to cocoa research and production

It was recommended to:

- Strengthen the capacity of research institutions, in terms of equipment and training, in order to enable them to anticipate new threats
- Set up centres of excellence and encourage subregional cooperation on research issues;
- Develop high-yielding varieties with improved resistance to cocoa pests and diseases;
- Train producers in good production, harvest and post-harvest practices;
- Improve farmers' organisations and develop their capacity;
- Facilitate farmers' access to credits and inputs;
- Pay premiums aimed at covering the costs of certification borne by beneficiaries;
- Encourage and support all initiatives aimed at crop diversification and improved productivity, with a view to diversifying and improving farmer incomes;

- With regard to cocoa marketing

It was recommended to:

- Identify various niche markets and meet their demands to provide farmers with a range of options and enable them to adapt production systems accordingly;

- Encourage producers through payment of a remunerative farm-gate price;
- Strengthen the management and marketing abilities of farmers' organisations;
- Create a permanent forum bringing together cocoa producers and the industry with a view to implementing a price-fixing mechanism acceptable to all parties.

- **With regard to cocoa processing/consumption**

It was recommended to:

- Promote the local processing and consumption of cocoa-based products in producing countries, bearing in mind local dietary habits and preferences,
- Promote the consumption of chocolate and chocolate products in developing countries.

SOCIAL/HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

It was recommended to:

- Raise producer awareness and develop participatory alternatives to combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour;
- Raise awareness and educate cocoa producers with regard to health and safety issues at work;
- Improve the environmental, economic and social setting in which farmers live and work, especially through the creation of improved infrastructures in cocoa-producing areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

It was recommended to:

- Train farmers in the conservation and sustainable management of the environment, and especially of classified forests, and encourage the introduction of multi-purpose trees in cocoa farms,
- Train farmers in the sound management of harvest residue and other cocoa waste.
- Prepare good-practice guidelines on the use of pesticides in cocoa growing, and provide support to farmers and farmers' organisations, especially through initiatives such as the Sustainable Tree Crop Programme currently operational in some cocoa producing areas.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AND THE CHALLENGE OF IMPLEMENTATION

It was recommended to:

- Plan the sustainable management of natural resources, essential to all production systems, and ensure balanced development in terms of social measures;
- Create a permanent forum involving all stakeholders along the cocoa chain to achieve consensus regarding standards and guidelines;
- Harmonise and simplify standards in order to make them more accessible to a larger number of small farmers;
- Adapt standards and criteria to specific local conditions, using low-cost objectively-measurable key indicators;
- Consolidate models for monitoring farmer groups on the basis of available experience.

Abidjan, 12 February 2009
RSCE2 Preparatory Meeting

Annex 1: Summary of Session Reports

Session 2

Four (4) papers were presented at the 2nd Session, addressing the sustainability of production systems and the development of producing areas:

1. Sustainability Initiatives and the Challenge of Compliance (Mr. Simon Schnetzer)

This paper examined sustainability models developed in several commodity sectors and outlined certain lessons applicable to the cocoa sector

2. Guidelines on Best Known Practices in the Cocoa Chain (Jean Marc ANGA)

The paper highlighted good production, harvest and post-harvest practices in order to supply a quality commercial product to an increasingly demanding market. In this respect, traceability stands out as a key concern on the world market

3. Study on Traceability and Tracking (Tony LASS)

This paper examined three models of traceability (identity preservation, the example of Cocobod in Ghana, and traceability from cooperative level). These models are intended to guarantee product quality and thus provide the product with added value. The extra costs are generally covered by quality premiums.

4. Social Issues related to Sustainability (Mme Acquah)

This paper looked at major problems in producing areas and at key challenges for the achievement of sustainable cocoa growing in terms of production, economic and social development (including ethical considerations) in cocoa-producing areas.

Discussion on the papers

Participants put forward their own contributions and questions regarding all the above papers. The following conclusions were drawn from the ensuing discussion:

1. Several traceability systems may be defined depending on the quality standards imposed and the type of market involved
2. Traceability is essential for tracking product origin. Traceability is also an indicator of the reliable quality of products delivered to the market
3. There are currently a wide range of standards and certification criteria, which should be harmonised and adapted to the specific circumstances of each country
4. Certification initiatives need to be better coordinated and their impact evaluated before they are extended to mainstream cocoa production
5. Restricted access to farmer credits is a constant problem in cocoa-producing countries. Interests on credits are relatively high. It would therefore be useful to examine the possibility of setting up a subregional credit system to finance sustainable cocoa development. The microcredit and microfinancing system could be explored, although its impact remains limited
6. Identification of the various existing markets and their demands is essential in order to adapt the various production systems to meet customer expectations
7. Crop diversification is necessary in order to improve farmer incomes (summary)
8. The new generation of cocoa farmers must be provided with the necessary economic and social infrastructure to ensure that they stay in producing areas and to encourage them to work the land.

Session 3

Two (2) papers were presented at the 3rd Session, relating to methodological issues involved in achieving a sustainable cocoa economy.

1. **Draft Principles for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy** (Mr. Marcel Vernooij)

The move towards a sustainable cocoa economy (SCE) entails the need to undertake priority initiatives linked to the three (3) pillars of sustainable development: social responsiveness (people), sound environmental management (planet), and economic viability (profit).

These initiatives may be placed within the framework of the following ten (10) principles, arranged under four (4) general headings:

Transparency and legal compliance:

Principle 1. Transparency;

Principle 2. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Economic viability:

Principle 3. Remuneration for quality cocoa production and improved farmer incomes;

Principle 4. Access to credit and rural development services;

Principle 5. Access to markets and market information.

Social responsiveness:

Principle 6. Decent working conditions;

Principle 7. Support for farmers' and workers' organisations.

Sound environmental management:

Principle 8. Clear land use planning, secure access to land and proper infrastructure;

Principle 9. Rational management of natural resources;

Principle 10. Conservation and wise use of biodiversity.

2. **Modus operandi of the Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy** (M. Tony Lass) :

To ensure its smooth working, the speaker proposed that the Roundtable become a formal institution based on the working principles of a private company, an ONG, a coalition or a State structure. The speaker analysed the advantages and disadvantages of each model.

Discussion on the papers

Participants put forward their own contributions and questions regarding the above papers. The following conclusions were drawn from the ensuing discussion:

- The document on draft principles for cocoa growing is a strategic tool. It cannot be imposed on all countries.
- Whilst respecting the ten principles governing the sustainability of the cocoa economy, the participants felt that each country should be given a degree of latitude in adapting them to their specific requirements; this will need to be done progressively in order to ensure a full understanding and implementation of the principles
- It was strongly urged that consumers and the industry should apply the same principles.
- The draft principles should not be transformed into certification criteria, which might lead to the erection of non-tariff barriers for cocoa-producing countries.

- Local processing should be encouraged to ensure greater added value for producing countries

Session 5

REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PUBLIC SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

Public sector perspective: programmes and responsibilities for a more sustainable cocoa economy

Three papers were delivered at the 5th Session, by speakers from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

The cocoa chain is a key contributor to the economy of producing countries, accounting for a substantial share of export earnings and major share of GDP. The livelihoods of a large number of small-farmer households depend on cocoa growing;

However, in the producing countries as a whole, this sector faces numerous institutional, economic, social and environmental difficulties which limit its development.

Discussion

Participants put forward their own contributions and questions regarding the above papers. The following conclusions were drawn from the ensuing discussion:

- The need to promote diversification by including food crops within cocoa production systems;
- The need to develop production systems adapted to appropriate agroecological areas in producing countries
- The need to adopt motivational policies and measures (access to credits, inputs, etc.) benefiting producers ;
- The need to adopt motivational policies and measures to encourage young people to take up cocoa farming;
- The need to promote and add value to cocoa through local processing, in order to ensure a good balance of supply and demand;
- The need to promote chocolate consumption in emerging countries;
- The need to promote cocoa-based products (other than chocolate, given dietary habits) accessible to the population in producing countries;
- The need to set up an internal marketing system that shortens the marketing chain and provides greater added value to the producers

Session 6

Session 6 : Private sector perspective

Three (3) papers were presented at the 6th Session, related to the private sector and the sharing of experiences for a more sustainable cocoa economy. These papers can be summarised as follows:

1. Actions implemented by the industry to promote sustainable cocoa growing, presented by Mr. Martin GILMOUR, representative of MARS

The speaker outlined statistics pointing to a gradual increase in cocoa demand and consumption. A sustainable market supply to meet this growing demand for cocoa might be jeopardised by a number of constraints, and especially by losses due to pests and diseases and by a deterioration in cocoa quality. To address these constraints, the MARS company has become involved in various actions at economic, social and environmental level aimed at achieving a sustainable cocoa production through programmes such as CFC/ICCO/IPGRI and the STCP in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Indonesia.

2 The OTA project, presented by Mr. Alessandro PARLATORE, of UNIDO

The speaker outlined the implementation of a programme for the prevention and control of contamination of coffee and cocoa by Ochratoxin A (OTA) in Côte d'Ivoire, carried out by UNIDO and comprising four components:

- Scientific studies
- Establishment of an accredited laboratory for OTA analysis
- Dissemination of good harvest and post-harvest practices aimed at reducing OTA rates and levels
- Negotiation with the EU to fix a maximum limit acceptable to both producers and consumers.

After sample collection in all coffee- and cocoa-producing areas, analyses are currently being performed to determine rates and levels of OTA contamination. For this purpose, the LANADA laboratory has been specially equipped and is now operational.

Moreover, 34 awareness-raising teams have alerted around one million people in 1416 villages to the dangers of OTA. Awareness-raising missions have focussed on factors favouring the development of OTA and on good agricultural practices.

3 The experience of exporter cooperatives in the sustainable marketing of coffee and cocoa, by Mr. Jacques ABOULE, CEO, UCOOPEX-CI

The speaker examined the challenges faced by producer organisations in achieving a sustainable cocoa economy. Following the grouping of producers encouraged by the Government through implementation of the new law on cooperatives in 1997, the first coffee- and cocoa-exporting cooperatives (COOPEX) were created in the 2001/2002 season. Today, there are 47 COOPEX. The export share covered by these COOPEX has risen from 2% to 13% in 2007/2008. However, certain difficulties remain which may hinder the emergence of the COOPEX :

- Lack of competitiveness ;
- Limited collection capacity ;
- Restricted access to financing

One solution to these problems is to target niche markets with a view to increasing profitability through the earning of premiums. Five COOPEX currently have access to such markets, for which they receive premiums ranging from 10 to 40 F CFA/kg. Measures are being taken to allow a larger number of COOPEX to gain access to these markets.

Discussions

Participants put forward their own contributions and questions regarding the above papers. The following conclusions were drawn from the ensuing discussion:

- There is little local processing or consumption in producing countries
- OTA analyses are costly
- Traceability systems within producing countries are weak or non-existent;
- Producers are largely unaware of harvest and post-harvest practices aimed at reducing OTA contamination rates

DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATIONS

- The need to promote local processing and product consumption in producing countries, bearing in mind dietary habits.
- The need to promote the consumption of chocolate and chocolate-based products in emerging countries
- The need to encourage the implementation of traceability systems within producing countries
- The need to encourage the lowering of the cost of OTA analyses
- The impact of measures to raise producer awareness of harvest and post-harvest practices aimed at OTA levels should be assessed over coming seasons.

Session 7

Five (5) papers were presented at the 7th Session, relating to the experience of NGOs, research institutes and certification initiatives.

CNRA

The representative of CNRA outlined the results of research into improved productivity, the fight against pests and diseases, and improved cocoa quality. With regard to productivity, CNRA has developed a number of high-yield, disease-resistant varieties. Nurseries have been established to facilitate the dissemination of improved planting material. With regard to resistance, biological control methods are now available, and tests to evaluate resistance to pod rot and capsids have been developed. Moreover, the speaker outlined a fertilisation method based on pod residue, a method of rapid fallow regeneration using legumes, and a replanting technique.

OXFAM

The representative of OXFAM looked at the main exporters operating in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and examined the responsibilities of the different stakeholders at European Union level, as well as in the chocolate industry and in producing countries.

FLO

The paper presented by FLO addressed the promotion of small cocoa farmers, the certification of their output according to fairtrade standards, and the promotion of social justice.

RIAD

The RIAD representative outlined the experience of economic, social and environmental activities by the union of cooperatives in Côte-d'Ivoire.

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

The RAINFOREST speaker discussed his experience in the implementation of certification standards, farmer capacity building and funding support for producer organisations.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the discussion following the presentations at this session, research institutes were asked to seek greater producer involvement in the development of technologies; note was taken of the need to strengthen the capacities of research institutes in terms of equipment and training, in order to allow new threats to be anticipated, and of the need to set up centres of excellence and to enhance subregional cooperation on research issues. Stress should be placed on technology transfer (i.e. of the results of research).

NGOs were invited to help producers gain access to fair trade, and to harmonise certification standards. Stress was also placed on the effective responsibility of all stakeholders along the cocoa chain to improve farmer incomes.

Session 8

Presentations by farmers

CAMEROON

Cocoa stocks in Cameroon are ageing, and the farmers are also growing old. The main producing areas are now shifting into previously unexploited forests. Some industrial plantations are using selected planting material to which the small cocoa farmer still has little access. Farmers are expected to use certified pesticides to treat their crops. Drying on bitumen is forbidden; offenders may face fines. Marketing by producer associations is not widespread, and exporting remains a limited experience for producers. Most producers sell their output individually. There are a number of cottage-level cocoa-butter processing operations. Raising awareness of the benefits of cocoa might help to increase local consumption. However, financing remains scarce due to the lack of microcredit structures.

COTE-D'IVOIRE

In Côte-d'Ivoire, the sustainability of cocoa farming involves various dimensions. Several challenges need to be overcome before sustainability can be achieved. Most cocoa farms are growing old, as are the farmers themselves. Strong parasite pressure requires the implementation of a pest and disease control programme. Good post-harvest practices are also necessary, and farmers need to develop a more professional approach. In order to increase

farm-gate prices, it is essential to reduce the number of middle men and strengthen the capacity of cooperatives so that they can become the primary collectors. It is also necessary to create a quality-oriented buying system. Cooperatives need to be restructured. A rural development policy focussing on the improvement of roads, schools and hospitals needs to be implemented. Farmers should have easier access to selected planting material, pesticides and fertilisers. There is also a need to strengthen producer capacities, so that they can better understand the price-fixing system.

GHANA

Sustainable cocoa production requires the preservation of production conditions for future generations. It is therefore necessary to train farmers in good cocoa-growing practices. This will involve improved forest preservation, disease control and rural infrastructure. However, the farmers are responsible for farm management. Management problems are the result of high input costs, ageing farms and farmers, land tenure systems, and the lack of financial assistance.

MADAGASCAR

Madagascar's cocoa production is estimated at 6,000 tonnes per year, and its quality is internationally renowned. This is the result not only of particular local soil properties, but also – at institutional level – of the creation of a cocoa platform comprising all the stakeholders in the cocoa chain. The cocoa sector in Madagascar receives technical support from outside partners, and a study is underway to bring the sector into the fairtrade system. Support from outside partners is essential for sustainable cocoa production.

NIGERIA

Nigeria's cocoa farmers are strongly involved in the decision-making process. The Cocoa Association of Nigeria provides the framework for the required cooperation with farmers, and a forum for the much-needed sharing of experiences, especially regarding post-harvest techniques. At the same time, this sort of association helps to raise farmer awareness. These assets have allowed Nigeria to improve the quality of its cocoa. However, farmers are concerned at the low farm-gate prices, high input costs and the uncertainty regarding the continuation of cocoa farming – farmers are growing old, and the younger generation shows little interest. For the future, Nigerian farmers advocate an improvement in farm-gate prices, the meeting of social needs through the improvement of basic infrastructures, and access to credit facilities and subsidies for the purchase of inputs.

Annex 2 : Summary of the “ World cocoa/ café” group

SESSION 4: “World cocoa / café”

Discussions were organised in eight groups, to answer the following questions:

- Sustainable production and use of cocoa: what are your personal success stories and challenges?
- How can you, as an engaged stakeholder, contribute to a more sustainable cocoa economy?
- How could the RSCE help you in producing or using cocoa in a more sustainable way?

The reflections of the various groups may be summarised as follows:

QUESTION 1 : SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND USE OF COCOA: WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL SUCCESS STORIES AND CHALLENGES?

Success stories include:

- Public-Private Partnership initiatives for the development of sustainable cocoa farming (STCP, MARS, PROSTAB, PPDC, GTZ, CFC, AGRO ECO, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, T & T, UTZ, exporters, etc.) ;
- Close supervision;
- Ready access to improved planting material, inputs and credit;
- Training /agriculture and agricultural engineering schools;
- Creation of national research and agricultural extension structures;
- Development of national cocoa pest and disease control strategies;
- Development of soil-improvement techniques to aid replanting of cocoa farms;
- Creation of an agricultural development bank in the 1980s in Côte d’Ivoire;
- Creation of a *caisse de stabilisation* (marketing board) in Cote d’Ivoire;
- Promotion of local consumption;
- Development of by-products.

The major challenges identified were as follows:

- Institutionalisation of the results of different private initiatives, to enable them to be taken over by governments;
- Development of a more professional approach among farmers and farmers' organisations;
- Raising the awareness of farmers regarding the non-use of prohibited pesticides;
- Handing down of farms from generation to generation;
- Improving farm productivity;
- Increasing local processing and consumption in producing countries;
- Improving quality.

**QUESTION 2 : HOW CAN YOU, AS AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER,
CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE COCOA ECONOMY?**

In economic terms, stakeholders should:

- Develop high-yield varieties resistant to pests and diseases;
- Facilitate farmer access to improved planting material, pesticides and fertilisers;
- Train farmers in good farming practices;
- Facilitate access to credits for production;
- Fix a remunerative farm-gate price;
- Achieve the efficient transfer of new technology;
- Strengthen the capacity of farmers' organisations with regard to organisation, management and marketing;
- Create a permanent forum bringing together cocoa producers and the industry with a view to implementing a price-fixing mechanism acceptable to all parties.

In environmental terms, stakeholders should:

- Train farmers in the rational use of pesticides;
- Train farmers in the preservation/integration of multiple-purpose trees;
- Train farmers in the sound management of harvest residue and other cocoa waste.

In social terms, stakeholders should :

- Raise producer awareness and develop participatory alternatives to combat the worst forms of child labour
- Raise producer awareness with regard to preventing and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- Improve socioeconomic infrastructures in cocoa-producing areas.

QUESTION 3 : HOW COULD THE RSCE HELP YOU IN PRODUCING OR USING COCOA IN A MORE SUSTAINABLE WAY?

The Roundtable is a forum for meeting, discussion and the sharing of experiences between stakeholders. Its decisions, moreover, represent the common view of the producing countries, enabling actions to be taken towards achieving a sustainable cocoa economy.

Thus, the Roundtable should help to:

- Formulate realistic and implementable recommendations;
- Develop specific national frameworks for consultation, with a view to the implementation and follow-up of sustainable cocoa farming programmes;
- Set up a framework for tracking and evaluating the decisions of the Roundtable;
- Develop joint activities with the chocolate industry, and encourage the industry to provide more funding for sustainable cocoa development programmes;
- Promote certification to encourage the development of sustainable cocoa production systems.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

The governments in producing countries should display political willingness to develop national frameworks to stimulate the implementation of sustainable cocoa production and consumption programmes.