Food safety in the Cocoa Sector: How best to help producers to comply with and influence legislation

Isabelle Adam – ECA General Secretary
World Cocoa Conference
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Who is concerned by food safety legislation?

- Producers
- Industry
- Consumers
Why is it important?

- **Safety/ Health Hazard or Risk to Consumer**
- **Risks for animal & plant health**
- **Health and safety risks for operators in the chain**
- **Risks to brand or producing country reputation**

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**Life under the Food Safety Moderniz: Act: Tracing, tracking and brand protection**

"Give me the horse meat stew, at least that way I'll know what I'm eating."
A global market

- Most cocoa is exported for consumption
- Producing and consuming markets have national, regional and international laws to respect
- Efforts for harmonization underway but more needs to be done (on SPS & Testing methods as a priority)
Key principles of (EU) food legislation

- Integrated approach
- Traceability
- Scientific basis
- Risk Management
- Precautionary principle
- Re-evaluation
  - GAP
  - ALARA
  - Prevention and Mitigation
EU decision-making process as applied to food safety

Based on scientific assessment: EFSA

Legislation proposed by the EU Commission

Proposals discussed in WG (EC & MS experts)

SCFCAH
Decisions & adoption of proposals

Consultations with stakeholders: ECA/ CAOBISCO ICCO/COPAL

Decision made by EU Member States

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**EFSA** = European Food Safety Authority

**SCFCAH** = Standing Committee Food Chain & Animal Health

**Lengthy Process**
Cocoa priorities at EU level

**Pesticides**
EC Regulation 396/2005 on MRLs of pesticides

**PAH**
EC Regulation 835/2011 setting max. limits

**Mycotoxins/ OTA**
EC Regulation 105/2010 No levels set (yet) for cocoa

**Heavy Metals**
EC Regulation 488/2014 setting max. Cd limits (as of 1/1/2019)
Quality goes beyond food safety

- Industry needs to meet quality requirements to respond to manufacturers’ & consumers’ expectations
- How can we work better together to address regulatory challenges and other quality issues in a win-win scenario?
- How can we ensure that producers are informed in-time of new food safety regulations?
- How can we help them to comply with new requirements?
- How can we all improve the traceability and internal early warning systems?
Industry action

Joint WG on Contaminants & Residues

Joint WG on Quality & Productivity

- Identification of threats
- Analysis of beans & products
- Review of proposed limits
- Cooperation with cocoa producing countries & ICCO
- Data collection to substantiate positioning
- Research projects (Pesticides, PAH, Cd, OTA; as of 2014 new fund: Cd, CSSV, Quality Guidelines)
- Substantial positioning to EU authorities & stakeholder outreach
- Monitoring developments at international level
How do we work with partners?

- Industry Trade Associations & Cies
- ICCO & other cocoa partners (eg WCF)
- Producing and Consuming country governments and agencies
- Research Institutes in Producing and Consuming Countries
- NGOs, Media

Support projects, Input discussions, Information Exchange Projects, Joint Research
Priorities & Challenges

- **In-country analysis** capacity
- **Harmonisation** of safety requirements
- **Increase outreach and training to farmers**
- **Sustain/increase partnership with research institutes**
- **Increase regional & international cooperation** (pooling of resources)

⇒ **Examples of successful cooperation:**
  - Quality conferences in producing countries (CIV, Cameroun 2013)
  - Set up of Joint Caobisco/ECA/FCC Research Fund
  - Industry input to SPS project
  - Industry support to ICCO pesticides manual

Conclusion: Food Safety & Quality

- **Food safety & quality** compliance ensures **profitability**
  - No compromise on food safety and quality for products consumer markets
  - **GAP** need to be based on sound science and focus on:
    - Cocoa farm maintenance and crop husbandry & protection
    - Cocoa harvest, post harvest, on-farm processing and storage
    - Health, safety of cocoa producers

- More impact if we address regulatory concerns as a sector
Thank you for your attention!

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