Fertilizer use

May 24, 2016
Quick scan of the cocoa fertilizer use conducted by IFDC in CI in 2015

sponsored by IDH
Objectives

1- compiled the data of the fertilizer use from 2010 onwards

2- Analyse the cost of the fertilizer from the Abidjan port to the farmer

3- Analyze farmers response to fertilizer

Sample: 471 farmers involved
1- 69% of producers reported a decline in productivity of their plots and over half (52% ) of these producers attributed this fact to climate change; while Others agree that the lack of maintenance of the farms (not using products pesticides and fertilizers ) , as well as soil depletion (19 %) and aging plots (7%) are the reasons that most affect their returns

2- However, the most important fact is the increased use of fertilizer in the recent years, probably under the impact of a record price of cocoa Kg ( 1,000 FCFA / Kg for the 2017/2015 marketing year) and multiplication of extension programs and training undertaken within the sector ( ANADER , Certification Programs, fertilizer Initiative etc.) in recent years

3- The proportion of farmers who used fertilizer at least once during the year jumped 7 % in 2013 to 37% in 2015 , as well as the consumption of cocoa fertilizers increased from 31,500 tons in 2013 to 60.000 tonnes in 2014
4- Unfortunately, the relatively high price of fertilizer is the main reason of their non-use. However, over half (51%) say they use fertilizers, first to increase yields from their plots (72%).

5- Fertilizers reach the producers at relatively similar prices on the whole cocoa zone (on average 18,000 FCFA 50 kg bag of cocoa NPK), about 20% above the sale price observed starting position shop manufacturers/suppliers Abidjan or San Pedro.

6- Cooperatives and private distributors are key intermediaries between the Fertilizer companies and producers.

7- When asked what would encourage them to use fertilizer, more than half of cocoa producers (56%) offers a discount price of fertilizers, the development of fertilizer credit systems against beans (24%), or the implementation of a subsidy program (9%).
Conclusion:
May be we need to fight to have more fertilizer companies in cocoa countries than more chocolate factories?

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