WORLD COCOA CONFERENCE

DELIVERING A SUSTAINABLE COCOA VALUE CHAIN IN GHANA

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Introduction

- Ghana produces an average of 850,000 tonnes of cocoa beans per annum, representing about 20% of the world cocoa production.
- Ghana thus has a significant role to play in the achievement of a sustainable supply base.
- In Ghana, cocoa is produced predominantly by smallholder farmers.
- Average farm size is approximately 3 hectares with low yield levels ranging between 400-500 kg/ha.
Interventions towards achieving sustainable Cocoa Value Chain

- COCOBOD has initiated various policies/interventions in the cocoa sector.
- The focus of the interventions is to achieve sustainable cocoa value chain.
- All measures are geared towards strengthening the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable cocoa production and are indicated in the subsequent slides.
A. ECONOMIC PILLAR: - Key interventions

2. Reliable micro-financing arrangement

✓ Efforts are on-going to put in place a reliable micro-finance scheme to provide finance for cocoa farmers.

✓ This is being done in collaboration with some financial institutions and financial support from World Cocoa Foundation and other private sector organizations along a public private partnership model (e.g. Agence Francaise de Development)

✓ work is underway to prepare the modalities for administering the scheme for cocoa farmers.
A. ECONOMIC PILLAR: - Key interventions

3. Improvement in farm yields to economic levels.
   - The focus is to raise average yield levels to 1,000 kg/ha.
   - COCOBOD intends to achieve this through the following:
     ✓ Provision of fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices to improve soil fertility and management through Cocoa Hi-Tech Programme.
     ✓ Control of diseases and pests through Disease and Pest Control Programme (CODAPEC).
     ✓ Treatment of the swollen shoot disease by cutting out infected cocoa trees and replanting with disease tolerant hybrid planting material(s).
     ✓ Replanting of old, abandoned and destroyed farms.
     ✓ Rehabilitation of existing unproductive farms.
     ✓ Provision of extension service to farmers with support from private partners on the public-private partnership model.
     ✓ Production and distribution of improved planting materials to farmers free of charge.
A. ECONOMIC PILLAR: - Key interventions

4. Farmer Economic Empowerment through other initiatives

- COCOBOD carries out the following to economically empower cocoa farmers:

  ✓ Encouraging farmers to diversify their income generation abilities to earn additional income. This is carried out through the business model of the extension programme.

  ✓ Instilling business culture into cocoa farming as part of the curriculum of the new cocoa extension scheme.

  ✓ Encouraging the development of new markets for certified, organic, fair trade, traceable and fine flavour cocoa. This specialty cocoa will offer farmers extra income and social projects/benefits and improved livelihood programme for cocoa communities.
✓ Promotion of local consumption of cocoa
✓ Creating congenial atmosphere for farmers to form groups/associations as a medium for dissemination of extension education, distribution of inputs and promotion of farmer’s welfare.
✓ Provision of weighing scales and test stones to farmers to minimize cheating at the point of sale.

Ghana Cocoa Board ... Poised to Maintain Ghana's Premium Quality Cocoa
B. SOCIAL PILLAR - Key interventions

I. Elimination of the worst forms of child labour from cocoa farming:

✓ Provision of financial/logistical support to the National Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (NEPCLC) in cocoa.

✓ Implementation of a National Plan of Action to withdraw worst forms of child labour in cocoa growing areas.

✓ Creation of awareness on the use of Child labour through farmer’s fora/rallies and radio programmes on key FM stations located in the cocoa growing communities.
B. SOCIAL PILLAR - Key interventions

2. Access to quality education in cocoa growing communities:

- Institution of a Cocoa Farmers Scholarship Trust. It offers scholarships to 7,500 wards of cocoa farmers in second-cycle institutions annually.

- Provision of capitation grant, school feeding programme and free school uniforms under the Free Compulsory and Universal Basic Education Programme (FCUBE)
C. Corporate Social Responsibility Programme

I. Provision of healthcare facilities to some cocoa growing communities.

II. Contributing to the Roads Fund towards the construction and rehabilitation of cocoa roads to open up cocoa communities.

III. Establishment of Cocoa Farmers Rural Housing Scheme on pilot basis in cocoa growing communities.

IV. Provision of solar street lights and solar-powered boreholes in selected cocoa farming communities which are not connected to the national grid.

V. Provision of treated mosquito bed nets to cocoa farmers.
D. ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR: - Key interventions

✓ The aim is to increase cocoa production through intensification method of cultivation rather than expansion.

✓ Efforts toward cocoa rehabilitation and replanting exercises are geared towards old, abandoned and denuded farms.

✓ Adoption of Hi-Tech method which involves application of fertilizers and other recommended inputs is aimed at enhancing productivity on existing area under cocoa cultivation.

✓ Extension message emphasises cultivation of recommended crops and trees to provide shade to protect the cocoa trees for environmental enhancement.

✓ Farmer education also includes construction of fire belts around cocoa farms especially during dry season to prevent fire outbreaks on cocoa farms.
D. Environmental Pillar cont’d:

✓ Provision of protective clothing for gangs and other personnel involved in the nationwide spraying against pests and diseases.

✓ Education of spraying gangs and farmers on the proper disposal of cans and packaging materials of agro-chemicals.

✓ Agro-chemicals are recommended for use only on the advice of CRIG and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Ghana after a minimum of 3 years scientific trials to ascertain efficacy and environmental impact.

✓ Testing of maximum residue levels (MRLs) by CRIG and QCC of COCOBOD in line with acceptable standards before export.
Conclusion

- Ghana Cocoa Board is committed to delivering a sustainable cocoa value chain.
- The way forward will depend on the commitment of the various actors along the supply chain to complement our efforts to promote efficiency, transformation and sustainability of the cocoa sector.
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