Sustainability Options: The Nigerian Experience

Evangelist Joshua O. Oyedele

Cocoa Association of Nigeria
Introduction: Cocoa in Nigeria

• Cocoa was introduced into Nigeria around 1874
• Cocoa production and export in large quantity started at about 1910
• There was high figure quantity production between 1970 and 1975, when annual production rose as high as 307,000 metric tonnes per annum
• Millions of seedlings are raised annually by the State Cocoa Development Units for the farmers to increase acreage and improve yield
• The governments of Nigeria, both Federal and States, are continuing in the programme of seed multiplication and supply
Cocoa in Nigeria – The Situation

• Nigeria was the 2\textsuperscript{nd} highest producer globally in the mid 1960s before it came down to the 5\textsuperscript{th} position now
• Income from crude oil has affected cocoa production like other agricultural produce
• Governments provide improved variety cocoa seedlings to farmers annually
• Drought, disease and pests destroy over 90\% of planted cocoa seedlings in the farms
• Unreliable and unfavourable prices do not encourage farmers to invest in their cocoa farms
Lessons from Accra 2007

- Exposure to needs for sustainable cocoa production
- Greater understanding of the different roles of stakeholders – farmers, government, industry, NGOs
- Need for networking by different interest groups within the industry
- Greater attention to Good Agricultural Practice by farmers to produce better quality
- Industry is being reminded to contribute more for true sustainability
Cocoa Association of Nigeria
After Accra 2007

• Accra Agenda explained to farmers in different meetings and workshops by Cocoa Association of Nigeria
• Greater emphasis on farmer-education on ICPM and GAP
• Collaboration with Farmers Organizations and NGOs on inputs procurement and fertilizers usage in cocoa production
• Networking with states’ and regional farmers’ groups on implementation strategies across Nigeria
After Accra – Our Success

• Greater compliance to sustainable practices – we place greater emphasis on practices that can promote sustainability by regular training and enlightenment programmes
• Awareness has increased and this forms a challenge for producers since they are also engaged as critical partners and must be committed
• Training content has become more farmer-focused and integrative
• Field results in the trial areas have been very encouraging, especially in Cross River State where the cocoa marketing chain is obeyed
Challenges

- Poor overall remuneration for cocoa beans and products discourage farmers
- Absence of discriminatory prices for good quality cocoa beans that will encourage producers
- Information sharing remains a major challenge; CAN and its affiliates have limited coverage of the country due to available resources
- Lack of coordination on various intervention projects in the industry leading to wastage and concentration of efforts in urban centres
- Cost of quality and approved chemicals are too high
Our Expectations for The Future

- Better prices for quality cocoa beans
- Support from Industry on Sustainability issues of environment and social needs – forests, training for farmers (payment should be made for cocoa beans produced under good environmental conditions)
- Coordination of various intervention under Cocoa Association of Nigeria and similar private sector stakeholder groups in producing countries
- Greater access to information from all the sectors, particularly from industry and government and among farmers’ groups and organizations
A Parting Question!

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR COCOA TODAY?