



Gobierno Nacional de la  
República del Ecuador



## **WORLD COCOA CONFERENCE 2012**

**“ Intensification in cacao production through innovation  
in technology to increase the total value of the cocoa  
industry”**

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November 22 / 2012  
Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire**




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# CONFERENCIA INTERNACIONAL DE CACAO 2012


*“Intensificación tecnológica de la producción de cacao  
para el crecimiento de la cadena de valor”*


**Noviembre 19-23 / 2012**  
**Abidjan, Costa de Marfil**

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- Last year's cacao-year production was 4 million tons on 9 million hectares. Fifty million people benefited both directly and indirectly from these activities.
  - The world's mean production was less than 0.5 tons per hectare. The slow increase in productivity restrains the economic growth of the cacao sector.
  - In the cacao-year, 2012-2013, a deficit of 100,000 tones is anticipated. Climate change may contribute to this deficit.

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- The climate change creates uncertainty in international cocoa supply.
  - The common cacao cultivars are very sensitive to extreme variations in climate. It is a latent threat, which is contrary to the development of the cacao value chain.
  - The future of cacao production depends on the attention and investment to fight the threat of climate change.


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- For the small traditional cacao farmer, it is increasing difficult to manage their farms with increasing environmental risks.
  - There is an emerging risk that is not completely climatic. Also, these risks are from diseases and insects which are related to climatic change.
  - On marginal land the cacao is most vulnerable to changes which are reflected as pronounced decreases in production.

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- Without sufficient technological control increased productive is not obtainable
  - The small producers lacking the resources need to change the current paradigm of production from low input-low output to a paradigm that leads to more productivity.
  - Are there alternatives for the small producer to produce more cacao per hectare?





Is it possible to decrease the area in cacao production; while increasing productivity and income?





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- Both answers are positive. They should lead to the new paradigm of increased production on less land.
  - We need to work on the technological factors which are inciting these changes.
  - The technological controls means the manipulation of natural resources in the productive process (water, fertilizer, soil, etc).



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- Global cacao productivity has grown at a slow rate in the last 50 years. We should find an explanation for this.
  - In the same period average corn yield has increased 8 times. Apple yield increased 5 times.
  - A higher cacao yield per hectare increases the net return and keeps the farmer from growing other crops.

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- All farms show important variability in the productivity of the land.
  - For example soil productivity can change in the course of few hundred meters.
  - To apply the concept of intensive management on small cacao fields we need to identify the best land on the farm.

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- The best land is the combination of good soil, easy access to water, limited slope, etc.
  - To take full advantage of the good land we need to use the best available genetic material.
  - Promoting the goal of higher cacao yields in small farms using modern technology has begun in Ecuador.

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- Obtaining 2 and 3 tons of cacao dry beans per hectare has been achieved.
  - A small cacao producer and his family with a 2 hectares orchard yielding 2.5 tons per hectare would earn 700 to 800 US dollars per month.
  - A farmer with his family investing their resources in the land along with access to low interest loans will facilitate the accomplishment of this new concept.
  - The inclusion of timber and fruit trees will increase additional revenue for the farmer in the future.





***Árbol clonal de cacao de 18 meses de edad, en el que ya se han cosechado unas pocas mazorcas maduras (Ecuador)***





***Línea de árboles de teca, una madera de alto valor, en el perímetro de una huerta joven de cacao clonal (Ecuador)***





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Ministerio de  
Agricultura, Ganadería,  
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# ***Gracias***