



**SPS Capacity Building in Africa to Mitigate the Harmful effects of Pesticide Residues in Cocoa and to maintain Market Access**

**PROJECT RESULTS EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP**

*Progress in addressing SPS issues in cocoa in Africa: status and actions required*

**10 – 13 December 2013, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire**

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The main goal of the “Cocoa SPS Africa Project” is to maintain market access for cocoa beans from Africa through capacity building in SPS standards. This will enhance the capacity of cocoa producing countries to produce good quality cocoa that complies with the relevant international regulations and legislations on pesticide residues and other harmful substances applicable in cocoa-importing countries.

Project implementation started in June 2011 and since then the project has recorded, in general terms, the following achievements.

1. The project has raised awareness at regional level on international SPS standards and regulations applied by cocoa importing countries and their impact on cocoa trade with producing countries. This was achieved through the project launching workshop, country activities and regular discussions about the issue during the ICCO meetings since September 2011.
2. Training and workshop have been conducted in Ghana on Self Assessment Guide (SAS), training of trainers on food safety and good agricultural practices (GAP). A Self-Assessment Guide for Cocoa in Ghana has been developed and the final report completed. Similar activities were initiated by EDES/COLEACP in Cameroon and would be extended to Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo. These activities have strengthened the commitment of stakeholders to adhere to international regulations, and to enhance their access to cocoa importing countries.
3. In Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire and Cameroon, there has been considerable progress in the training of law enforcement agents on anti-counterfeit measures on pesticides, and on cross-border trade of illegal pesticides and other agrochemical products. Trainings were organised or financed by both public and private sectors.
4. A policy paper had been prepared on the implications on cocoa production of the proposed EU ban on neo-nicotinoids – a chemical compound that is commonly found in pesticide used on cocoa. A scientific paper on pesticide efficacy and risks, and the third edition of the manual on “Pesticide Use in Cocoa: A Guide for Training Administrative and Research Staff” are currently being finalized.

5. Twenty one (21) training modules on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Warehousing Practices (GWP) have been developed.
6. A programme of Training of the Trainers (ToT) on modules for SPS measures, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Warehousing Practices (GWP) has been conducted in Côte d'Ivoire in July 2013 for experts from Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Togo. The same training for experts from Ghana and Nigeria will take place in Ghana in September 2013.

The objective of the workshop is to evaluate the achievements of the project to date, to review constraints encountered, to review recent SPS developments and pesticides available for cocoa, to provide necessary capacity building and make appropriate recommendations for subsequent dissemination in participating countries. The workshop will deliberate on measures to be put in place to ensure the sustainability of the project after completion.

The topics to be covered at the workshop are outlined below:

### **1. Pesticide Efficacy and Risk**

Documents on pesticide efficacy and risk will be prepared, distributed and discussed during the workshop. Safe use of pesticides in relation to residue levels and danger to the applicators will be discussed. This will cover the following topics.

- Pesticides and other chemicals safe for use on cocoa
- The effects of pesticides on cocoa and applicators
- Benefits and risks of pesticides and their alternatives
- New pesticide products and international regulations
- National approved pesticide lists and licensing procedures

### **2. Manual on Responsible Pesticide Use and Manual on Best Known Practices in Cocoa value Chain**

ICCO manuals on responsible pesticide use and on best known practices will be distributed and discussed. This will serve as training material and provide information on the following aspects.

- Administrative and technical issues with pesticides
- Information for research and extension staff on pesticide science
- Road map for establishing good crop pest control, storage and distribution practices for bulk cocoa
- Chemical compounds that are, or may be, used on cocoa and emphasis on product selection and application by smallholders
- Characteristics of good quality cocoa
- Best known practices in cocoa production

### **3. Self-Assessment Guide for the Cocoa Sector in Producing Countries**

The workshop will discuss the importance of a self assessment guide system as a tool to meeting international SPS requirements.

- Self-Assessment Guide as a practical tool to meet SPS requirements

- Presentation of the Self-Assessment Guide developed for Ghana
- Protocols for developing a Self-Assessment Guide system in other countries

#### **4. Training Modules for SPS Measures, GAP, GWP**

Training material will be reviewed taking into account different local conditions.

- Review of EDES training modules
- Adaptation of modules to local requirements
- Methodology for cascade training to reach farmers

#### **5. Harmonization of national and international SPS standards**

National and international SPS standards will be reviewed to enhance compliance by cocoa producing countries.

- Review of national SPS regulations and institutions
- Review of international SPS regulations and institutions
- Harmonization of national and international SPS regulations

#### **6. Cross border trade in illegal and obsolete pesticides and other harmful substances used on cocoa**

Coordinated efforts will be established to monitor and prevent cross border trade in illegal and banned pesticides

- Products not approved for use on cocoa
- Law enforcement at the border on movement of agro products
- Regional cooperation and integration

#### **Date and Venue**

The regional workshop will be held over four days from 10 – 13 December 2013 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Practical arrangements on logistics will be discussed with the authorities in Côte d'Ivoire.

#### **Participants**

A total of 50 participants are expected to participate in the workshop. The workshop participants will include representatives of national agencies responsible for the cocoa sector, institutions in charge of registration and approval of pesticides, laboratories for pesticide analysis, farmers' organizations, customs, immigration, Plant Protection departments, national standards authorities, cocoa exporters. In addition, major stakeholders such as the ICCO, STDF, CropLife, EDES COLEACP, UNIDO, cocoa trade and industry, research and development institutions will be involved.