



INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION

SEMINAR ON VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

“Standards Map”: an interactive online tool to make informed decisions in relation to the use of sustainability standards, with particular focus on the cocoa sector

***Hotel Sofitel Ivoire, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
Tuesday, 24 March 2015 – from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm***

This seminar is being kindly hosted by the International Trade Centre (ITC) with the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO).

Background

Voluntary sustainability standards, codes of conduct, and audit protocols have become a popular instrument to advance and manage sustainable practices along supply chains. As a consequence, the market shares of products traded and produced in compliance with such standards have seen unprecedented growth in recent years. This is particularly the case in the cocoa sector, with the rising importance of Fairtrade, UTZ Certified and Rainforest Alliance.

This situation impacts the competitiveness of cocoa producers and exporters, as they need to develop additional skills and competencies to supply products that meet social, economic, and environmental production and processing criteria required by various voluntary standards. SMEs are also under growing pressure to comply with more and more demanding requirements. At the same time, producers and exporters lack the necessary information tools to understand and analyse the differences and overlaps among these codes and voluntary standards. Hence adequate decision making tools are needed in order to help them to better understand their current capacity against a range of potential standards applicable to their products.

Seminar objectives

The ICCO has conducted studies and organized workshops to discuss the role of cocoa certification and assess its potential benefit for farmers and for the sustainability of the cocoa sector. In this framework, the ICCO has invited the ITC to organize the seminar, which is being held in conjunction with the 91st regular session of the International Cocoa Council and meetings of its subsidiary bodies from 23-27 March in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

ITC’s Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) programme has developed a training curriculum that provides tailor-made support for producers and exporters and concrete in-depth analysis of voluntary codes of conduct, audit protocols and sustainability standards in order to understand whether compliance with their requirements is viable and increases their competitiveness.

The main objective of the seminar is to strengthen the capacity of cocoa producers, exporters, buyers and policymakers to make informed decisions in relation to sustainability standards, particularly in the cocoa sector. It will allow them to better understand the requirements to be met in order to obtain certification for a variety of relevant standard initiatives; the degree of stringency of these voluntary

requirements; audit processes, and information on the direct and indirect costs of compliance. The seminar will also include a presentation of T4SD's self-assessment tool which allows cocoa producers and exporters to assess their level of compliance to a selection of one or several voluntary standards, understand their strengths, weaknesses and "compliance gaps". This will enable cocoa producers, exporters and policymakers to estimate the necessary adjustments and investments needed to comply with one or more voluntary sustainability standards, codes of conduct, and audit protocols.

Who should participate and how to participate

This event is intended for policy makers, staff from national institutions in charge of the cocoa sector, cocoa cooperatives, cocoa farmers' associations, relevant NGOs, local staff of certification systems, cocoa buyers and private cocoa and chocolate companies. It is open, free-of-charge to all.

The Seminar will be held at the Hotel Sofitel Ivoire, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on Tuesday, 24 March from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm. It is noted that interpretation will be provided in both English and French. Those who wish to participate are respectfully requested to enrol in the seminar by completing the registration form below. Only those who have received confirmation of their registration will be able to participate.

For more information about the programme, registration and other practical arrangements, please contact Mr. Philippe Pestelle – Email: philippe.pestelle@icco.org – Phone: +44 (0)20 8991 6019 / 00.

REGISTRATION FORM

SEMINAR ON VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

Sofitel Ivoire Hotel, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Tuesday 24 March from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Title (Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms) : _____

First name : _____

Middle name initial : _____

Last name : _____

Organization : _____

Mailing address : _____

Tel : _____ Fax : _____

E-mail : _____

Please email the requested information or scan your completed Registration Form to:

Mr Philippe Pestelle, International Cocoa Organization, Westgate House (5th Floor), Westgate Road, Ealing, London W5 1YY (U.K); Email: philippe.pestelle@icco.org - Phone: +44 (0)20 8991 6019 / 00 - Fax: + 44 (0)20 8997 4372 - <http://www.icco.org>

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