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MARKETS IN BALANCE

CEN ISO Standard on Cocoa, a tool to support the professionalization of cocoa farming

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Why

- The standard was developed by stakeholders across the entire cocoa supply chain who want to make sustainable cocoa production the norm and a viable option for as many cocoa farmers as possible and to secure the global supply of cocoa.

How

- Through active participation by all stakeholders in countries that are involved in the drafting process, including countries representing more than 95% of all cocoa produced and the main consuming countries in EU and USA.

- Public enquiry starting September 1st, so everybody else can participate as well

What

- requirements for sustainable and traceable cocoa, including economic, social and environmental factors

- a tool to support the professionalization of cocoa farming.

  - adoption of the requirements will enable farmer organizations to deliver targeted services to their farmer members, assisting them to transform their farms into economically viable units

  - requirements for Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and improved business methods.

  - commitment to a farm development plan. This process will assist farmers in planning a sustainable future for their cocoa farms.

What more?

- Strict requirements for improved working and social conditions for farmers and their families, including children.

- The empowerment of women and young people and is a tool to improve gender equality and equal opportunities that will support improved social conditions.

- Environmental protection requirements to preserve natural resources and biodiversity and to avoid pollution.

Anything else?

- A standard for traceability, including systems for identity preserved, segregation and very strict rules for mass balance.

- Rules for conformity assessment based on ISO standards but translated to the world of cocoa.

- Rules for organizations that want to apply the standard.

- A technical guidance document.

For who?

- Worldwide, more than 14 million farmers grow cocoa, of which 10.5 million are in Africa.

  The standard is designed to be broadly accessible for cocoa farmers wherever they live. There is a low threshold to entry – any cocoa farmer who can meet the criteria may choose to operate under the standard.

- The standard includes conditions to be fulfilled by both, farmers and farmer organizations as well as all stakeholders in the supply chain for traceability.

When?

- The standard will be published at the end of 2017.

Where?

- It is a voluntary standard. It is applicable worldwide, wherever buyers and sellers agree.