



Global Programme on Sustainable Cocoa Economy

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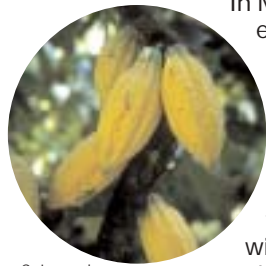


The purpose of this global programme will be: "...to work in public and private partnerships, in both the North and South, for the creation of cocoa-based farming systems that are profitable and environmentally friendly in the long term, in order to offer stable development prospects and effectively take action against poverty in the Humid Tropics".



Background

The private sector, concerned with the future of cocoa supply, took an initiative in 1998 aimed at the development of an International Sustainable Cocoa Programme (ISCP). In March 1999 at a meeting in Paris on this issue, a consensus emerged among the major operators involved in the cocoa sector that a coordinated action was required, and this was expressed in the "Declaration of Intent" signed by a broad range of stakeholders at this meeting. All the stakeholders in the cocoa sector share a common interest for a sustainable cocoa economy and therefore the cocoa community (producers, industry, research, etc.) will benefit from the coordination of their efforts and the possible synergies in what they called: "...a global research programme on cocoa sustainability...", later transformed to a global programme on Sustainable Cocoa Economy.



C. Lanaud

Cocoa pods

Partnership

A Global Coordination Group is in charge of preparing the setting up of the Global Programme. It is chaired by M. Hope Sona Ebaï (Cocoa Producers' Alliance, COPAL) and is composed of 21 members from the following stakeholders:

Farmers' organisations in producing countries	6 representatives
National research institutions in producing countries	4 representatives
National research institutions in consuming countries	1 representative
Public bodies in producing countries	3 representatives
Consuming countries	1 representative
The Industry	2 representatives
International Research	2 representatives
The Trade	1 representative
International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO).....	1 representative

Activities

The cocoa community proposed several issues to define the content of a global programme but did not finalise yet the appropriate mechanisms to set up the programme.

They asked COPAL to lead the Global Coordination Group, which discussed the following matters: review of on-going research projects, draft of a work programme and its implementation and terms of reference and financing of a scientific coordinator. ICCO provides secretariat facilities to the Group.

Four working groups are preparing position papers which will lead to the identification of priority areas for project proposals:

- analysis of national and donors' strategies related to the cocoa sector;
- promotion of efficient value added commodity chain and strengthening the private sector in cocoa producing countries;
- improvement of cocoa quality and productivity of planting materials;
- achieving efficient knowledge transfer and strengthening integrated pest management strategies.



From cocoa beans to chocolate bar.

T. Erwin

Outputs



G. Blaha

Sun-drying on trays.

Global Coordination Group: a formal mechanism for the cocoa community stakeholders to discuss global issues, where very little international collaboration existed previously. For the first time, farmers' organizations, NARS and the private sector have engaged in a dialogue aiming at the identification of a common agenda.

Lessons learnt



C. Lanaud

Bearing cocoa tree.

- The real complexity of stakeholders' interactions within a commodity chain; agendas and cultures are different, and relationships are often competitive and/or antagonistic. Without an active "honest broker", there are little possibilities of "neutral" exchange for a better mutual understanding, even in organised commodity institutions.
- Contacts with commodity stakeholders are easier through commodity institutions, but there is a risk of ownership claim from these institutions.

There is a common tendency to muddle up the concept of global research programme and a comprehensive global approach of the identified problem or challenge. Most of the time, research is only one of many aspects to be considered in addressing these problems or challenges at a global level.

Next steps

- Informing (officially) the donor institutions on the existence of the Group and its objectives and a brief synopsis of work done to date and priority areas.
- Convening of a meeting of the Group with all donor institutions and donor NGO's alongside the 14th International Cocoa Research Conference scheduled for October 2003, in Accra, Ghana.



M. Barel

Pod breaking.

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