

# Cocoa Farming – An update 2

October 2005

**The global cocoa and chocolate industry has a long-term commitment to the social and economic development of cocoa farming communities. As part of that commitment, the industry is currently in the process of implementing a number of programmes which focus on improving labour standards and the sustainability of the cocoa sector in West Africa.**

With the help of our partners, much has been accomplished both in developing a groundbreaking system of labour monitoring and in launching on-the-ground programmes to improve the well-being of more than 1.5 million farming families who grow cocoa in West Africa.

The industry is committed to ensuring that a certification system, which will measure labour conditions on cocoa farms and drive improvement in labour practices and related areas, is put into place within the next three years. The aim is to cover 50% of the cocoa growing areas of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana by 2008.

A foundation – the International Cocoa Initiative – has also been established which is now forming partnerships with government agencies and with NGOs to reduce the incidence of child labour and to provide social protection programmes in West Africa. The ICI's work complements the work being done on certification.



These collaborative partnerships represent a model for how industry, government and non-government organisations can work together not only to address a complex social need in the developing world, but to improve the lives of millions of people involved in a supply chain.

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## Industry Investment in Social and Economic Programmes

The industry supports a growing number of programmes to improve the conditions in West African cocoa farming communities.

The industry has also committed to initiatives covering the social aspects of the farming village, activities to improve farm family incomes and access to education. In addition, a number of companies have their own active programmes on the ground.



The International Cocoa Initiative programmes provide effective, coordinated social protection for those at risk and in need of support.

Winrock International's education efforts ([www.winrock.org](http://www.winrock.org)) in Cote d'Ivoire have been expanded. Winrock International works with farmers, local organisations, research and educational institutions, and policymakers to improve agricultural productivity, sustainability and income in developing countries. Winrock, along with the International Foundation for Education & Self-Help ([www.ifesh.org](http://www.ifesh.org)) – a teacher training programme, will benefit approximately 40,000 children annually in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

Following the success of the Farmer Field Schools (under the Sustainable Tree Crops Programme [www.treecrops.org](http://www.treecrops.org)), this activity is also expected to be extended. The Farmer Field Schools encourage responsible cocoa farming by improving farmer incomes and promoting sound labour practices. These schools have seen increased incomes of between 20-50% for the thousands of farmers who participated.

## Certification System – Update on Progress

The progress achieved to date in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana is significant and without precedent in the developing world.

### Working with the International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- In 2005, the government in Cote d'Ivoire officially adopted and published, in accordance with ILO Convention 182 requirements, a national definition of the worst forms of child labour for the cocoa sector (Decree 2250)
- In Ghana in 2000 a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Government and the ILO, followed by the country's ratification of ILO Convention 182

### Government

#### In Cote d'Ivoire

- In 2004 a cocoa taskforce was formed to oversee the development and execution of a labour certification system.
- In 2004 a National Steering Committee covering both cocoa and other sectors was established to oversee efforts to address child labour issues.

#### In Ghana

- A National Steering Committee on Child Labour has been established.
- The government has recently committed to: Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education; the expansion of basic education to cover pupils four years old through kindergarten.

### Cocoa Businesses in Producing Countries

#### In Cote d'Ivoire

- In May 2005, Bourse de Café et de Cacao held a workshop for cocoa producers to discuss the issue of child labour on cocoa farms and developed a comprehensive action plan to help cocoa farmers and cooperatives to tackle child labour.

#### In Ghana

- COCOBOD has established a Child Labour desk officer and is developing a national plan of action to address child labour concerns in cocoa growing.

### Child Labour Monitoring – Pilots

- In 2005, in Cote d'Ivoire a pilot test of the Child Labour Monitoring System was launched working with the ILO
- In Ghana two full cycles of child labour monitoring (CLMS) have been conducted in five districts, four of which are cocoa producing districts.



### Certification System

The certification system is designed to present an accurate picture of labour practices in cocoa growing. It also is intended to drive positive, sustainable change both in labour practices and in contributing conditions such as parental and community attitudes, farm family incomes and farm safety practices along with access to quality education, both academic and vocational.

A cycle of the certification system will operate as follows:

- Farm level surveys will collect data from a statistically valid sample of cocoa farms
- Data from the survey will be reviewed and developed into an action plan as required
- Issues identified in the survey will be addressed
- The entire process will be carefully reviewed by an independent body of third-party experts.



CAOBISCO is the Association of chocolate, biscuit and confectionery industries of the European Union. Through its 1900 companies, CAOBISCO represents 270,000 direct employees and generates more than 44 billion Euros annual turnover. CAOBISCO industries show a production of 10,8 million tons of products; € 3.4 billion Euros of exports, i.e. 10% of the total value of food exports from the European Union; and an import value of € 1 billion.

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