

# Cocoa Farming 3

An Update – July 2006

The cocoa and chocolate industry's sustainable cocoa farming efforts are having an increasing, positive impact on farm families in the world's cocoa regions. Working in partnership with producing countries, NGOs, government agencies and development organisations, industry supported programmes are driving improvement in farm family incomes, labour practices, access to education and protection of the tropical ecosystem.

Sustainable cocoa farming depends upon:

- A sound economic base for long-term production, which meets the needs of farming families
- Social conditions that help cocoa communities to improve their livelihoods
- Stewardship of the environment so that future cocoa farmers will find fertile land within a sustainable eco-system

## Providing a sound economic base

The Farmer Field Schools programme, run through the Sustainable Tree Crops Programme (STCP), is raising cocoa farm family incomes substantially. These "schools without walls" provide farmers with training on how to increase productivity, reduce crop loss and costs, and diversify the crops they grow. The training can be implemented immediately with benefits achieved when the current crop is harvested. To date, more than 26,000 farmers in Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are benefiting from Farmer Field Schools.

Another scheme, run through the STCP, is also helping West African farmers sell their cocoa collectively. Such "group selling" can substantially improve farmers' ability to realise a higher price for their cocoa.

Results from the Farmer Field Schools and "group selling" efforts are encouraging. In 2004, participating farmers in the Côte d'Ivoire saw, on average, a 24 percent income boost.



## Improving social conditions

Tracking improvements in labour practices is a key component of a "certification" programme for cocoa farming, currently being refined for application in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Certification will provide a clear view of actual cocoa farming labour practices and will also measure progress in addressing related farm community social issues.

Winrock International's Child Labour Alternatives Project, with funding from Mars Inc., works to improve basic and agricultural education in communities in the Côte d'Ivoire and Mali – with an emphasis on youth mentoring and school attendance. More than 1,600 children are participating in the first phase.



## Stewarding the environment

Investment in research has helped farmers to obtain better planting materials. CAOBISCO chocolate manufacturers support research programmes which focus on two key aspects of sustainable cocoa production:

1. The effective control of a variety of pests and diseases that affect cocoa crops.
2. Plant breeding initiatives to ensure that growers have access to new cocoa tree varieties that perform better in their local environments.

These improved planting materials help not just this generation but generations to come.



# Voices from the Field: Sustainable Cocoa Farming

Thousands of cocoa farming families have been touched by programmes supported by the chocolate and cocoa industry. These examples show how the industry's partnerships are making a real difference to the lives of those in cocoa communities around the world.



**Cameroon:** STCP Farmer Field School Lucie Edzimbi manages a four hectare cocoa farm she inherited from her father in the village of Elat in Southern Cameroon. Recently, she has seen excellent results from pest and disease techniques she learned in an STCP Farmer Field School. For example, Ms. Edzimbi learned to thin shade trees to reduce crop losses from black pod, a common disease that can devastate cocoa farms. "Last year, the whole plot was attacked by black pod," Lucie said. "This year, after I had applied the new techniques, only six trees are affected. More importantly, I have not sprayed even once!" Lucie is expecting a much improved harvest this year.

**Côte d'Ivoire:** Winrock Classe Project Edi Calice is an orphan who lives with her aunt Kama Solange. They are benefiting from a unique programme that provides help with living expenses and helps Ms Solange improve educational opportunities for Edi. Micro-credit from Winrock enables her to buy greater quantities of rice, fish and sauce in the market. The increased profit has improved Ms Solange's living standards and helps pay for Edi's education. She already has reimbursed half of her credit and is saving up to pay for Edi's school next year.

- The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) supports cocoa farmers and their families worldwide – to improve the economic and social conditions of cocoa farming communities, and to promote environmental conservation. WCF helps to co-ordinate STCP and other programmes.

Visit [www.worldcocoafoundation.org](http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org) to learn more.

- The International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), established in 2002, is a product of active cooperation between the global chocolate industry, concerned politicians, members of the labour movement and other key actors engaged in the fight against child labour.

Visit [www.cocoainitiative.org](http://www.cocoainitiative.org) for more information.

CAOBISCO is the Association of chocolate, biscuit and confectionery industries of the European Union. Through its 2000 companies, CAOBISCO represents 236,000 direct employees and generates more than 43 billion Euros annual turnover.

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