

Speech by Kip Walk, Board Chairman, at the WCF Partnership Meeting in Brussels on October 14, 2009

Good morning. It is my pleasure and distinct honor to welcome you to our 16th Partnership Meeting.

Yesterday, we held our Executive Committee and Board Meetings. Budgets for 2010 and 2011, our first multi-year budgets were approved.

Two task forces were also created. One will have a primary focus on new membership and the second will work to develop a framework for the Foundation to communicate efforts in cocoa sustainability, including projects run privately by our members providing a holistic and comprehensive data of the industry efforts.

Breakout sessions were held to review the potential role of the WCF as a convener of the certification organizations. Each of the 3 groups reached the same conclusion that the Foundation was ideally suited for this role and able to provide guidance for the best practices in sustainable cocoa farming. A meeting is scheduled for Friday October 16 with the certification bodies to begin this effort.

Retiring officers:

Co-chair: Clive Barnes and Jeff Morgan

Secretary Treasurer: Alain Fredericq

Two new co-chairs:

Gerry Manley

Steve Genzoli

Secretary Treasurer:

Anne Alonzo

Programs:

1. Challenge Grants:

The grants will conclude at the end of this month. Five have requested and will be granted a one year extension.

Three new grants are available in Côte d'Ivoire through the sponsorship of CLP and CHOKOFA.

2. Borlaug Fellowship:

3 fellows are currently conducting their fellowships in quality improvement, soil fertility and frosty pod integrated pest management.

We are expecting 9 fellows for 2010.

3. Programs in Latin America: 2 active projects

1st project: The support of the Success Alliance in the focus of nursery management.

- 2nd project: A partnership with Colombias National Cocoa Council, along with 2 member companies, Casa Luker and Compania Nacional de Chocolates, with the focus on cocoa quality and integrated pest management practices.
4. Cocoa Livelihoods Program:
Noble Cocoa has now joined the program, which makes a total of 12 companies that offer their support to CLP. The German government has also joined as a funder. The first Steering Committee meeting was held in Côte d'Ivoire and country teams have been formed. The site selection is now complete and the baseline studies are underway. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in Accra, Ghana, following this Partnership Meeting.
 5. ECHOES:
A new grant has been received from USAID for 4 million dollars in addition to funds provided by general member companies. The program will provide training and education for 60,000 new generation cocoa farmers in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

The efficacy and range of the WCF programs in the cocoa farming sector is unparalleled and I applaud the tremendous effort of our staff in making this possible. However, we cannot become complacent and rest on our successes. The majority of the world's cocoa farmers continue to face significant challenges and global cocoa production forecasts would indicate that these challenges are not being successfully met. Only with the continued efforts of all the stakeholders in the cocoa supply chain will we achieve our goal of a sustainable cocoa community.