

# **Child Labor Certification of West African Cocoa Production**

**World Cocoa Foundation**

**Partnership Meeting**

**May 2007**

**Amsterdam**

# Certification Update

- **Background / Protocol Commitments**
- **Certification: Definition / Expectations**
- **Current Activities**
- **Country Presentations**
- **Discussion / Q & A**

# The Issue:

- **2000 / 2001: Children reported in dangerous working conditions on West African Cocoa Farms**
- **Issue: receives attention from Broad Public, Opinion Formers and Legislators**
- **Industry: seeks to assure all concerned parties that it will address the issue in a responsible fashion**
  - **Goal: ensure that children are not harmed in cocoa farming**
  - **Primary Mechanism: Meeting terms of Protocol**

# Harkin / Engel Protocol

- **Agreed in September 2001**
  - As an alternative to sanctions
- **Protocol called for:**
  - Achieving objectives *“through partnership among major stakeholders: governments, global industry, cocoa producers, organized labor, NGO’s and consumers”*.
  - Engagement of stakeholders to fashion a *“long term solution”*

# Industry Commitments

- **Public statement of need for and terms of action plan**
- **Multi-sectoral advisory group on labor practices in West Africa**
- **Foundation to serve as a clearinghouse on best practices in addressing worst forms of child labor**
  - *International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)*
- **Joint statement on child labor witnessed by the ILO in Geneva**
- **Memorandum of Cooperation among major stakeholders**
- **Certification**
  - *50% of cocoa-growing area in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire by July 2008*

# Certification

- **(6) Building Toward Credible Standards**
  - *... industry in partnership with other major stakeholders will develop and implement credible ... standards of public certification ... that cocoa beans and their derivative products are grown ... without any of the worst forms of child labor.*

# Challenges of Certification

- **Small, remote, independent cocoa farms**
  - > 2.0 million farms in West Africa
    - Cannot visit and approve every point of production
- **Extended, complex supply chain**
  - Early co-mingling prevents certification of each bag of beans
    - Lack of available capacity and infrastructure for Data Collection
- **WFCL = complex issue**
  - Multiple factors impact children's well-being
    - The need to develop an effective measurement instrument

# Certification Defined

## ■ Certification:

- A transparent, credible and progressive process that reports, on a country-to-country basis, the incidence of the worst forms of child labor (WFCL) and forced adult labor (FAL) in a producing country's cocoa sector as a whole and on progress in reducing this incidence, with the goal of eliminating WFCL and FAL from the sector.

## ■ Under this definition, the model being developed will certify that a system is in place to provide:

- Statistically representative family, farm and community-based data collection on the incidence of the WFCL and FAL in a country's cocoa-growing area;
- Publicly available annual reporting on the findings of this data collection;
- Publicly available reporting on the nature and impact of remediation efforts focused on the elimination of the WFCL and FAL (including rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation); and,
- Independent verification of the data collection, reporting and remediation efforts

## ■ Certification does not include:

- Individual reporting on each of the estimated 2 million small-holder farms growing cocoa in West Africa
- Reporting on individual lots or bags of cocoa beans
- A guarantee that no individual instances of the WFCL or FAL exist in a country's cocoa sector

# What is Certified?

- **Model being developed will certify that a system is in place to provide:**
  - **Statistically representative** family, farm and community-based data collection on the incidence of the WFCL and FAL in a country's cocoa-growing area;
  - **Publicly available annual reporting** on the findings of this data collection;
  - **Publicly available reporting** on the nature and impact of **remediation efforts** focused on the elimination of the WFCL and FAL (including rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation); and,
  - **Independent verification** of the data collection, reporting and remediation efforts

# Certification

A unified, continuous improvement process

DATA COLLECTION

REPORTING

**Sector Wide  
Continuous  
Improvement**

INDEPENDENT  
VERIFICATION

REMEDIAATION /  
RESPONSE

In conjunction with producer Governments and Stakeholders

# Recent Certification Activities

## ■ Data Collection

- Pilot survey completed in Ghana and underway in Côte d'Ivoire.

## ■ Public Reporting

- Ghana data posted on Cocobod Website
- Earlier pilot work from Côte d'Ivoire posted

# Certification Activities

## ■ Remediation Actions

- **Ongoing work via International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)**
  - Working at Community Level
  - Interacting with key stakeholders within each country
- **Efforts via Sustainable Tree Crops Program**
  - Sensitization of Farmers within Farmer Field Schools
  - Income improvement to support community / family change
- **Supportive efforts by Individual Companies, Associations and Experienced Development Groups**
  - E.g. IFESH, Winrock, UNICEF and others

# Certification Activities

## ■ Verification

- Certification process must be verified to have credibility
- Working with Producer countries to define scope of work
- Will develop stakeholder consultation mechanism for selection of Verification Group

## ■ Oversight

- Grant awarded to Tulane University for Oversight of Activities

# Certification: Next Steps

- **Scaleup of Surveys**
- **Development of Verification**
- **Expansion of Remediation**
- **Continued Public Reporting**

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