



2021 Partnership Meeting Summary

Overcoming Challenges Together
Online · November 17-18, 2021



World Cocoa
Foundation



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Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the 2021 Partnership Meeting summary, that looks back on our latest online conference.

The 2021 Partnership Meeting gathered 340 private sector sustainability leaders, farmers, government officials, civil society representatives, and researchers from 38 countries to explore this year's theme: Overcoming Challenges Together. These numbers once again demonstrate that the Partnership Meeting remains the leading global conference dedicated to cocoa sustainability.

This was my first Partnership Meeting and I am grateful to all the participants, sponsors and the 132 speakers from around the globe who generously shared their resources, time and expertise. For me personally, it was a real pleasure to hear for the first time such a wide range of experts on various cocoa sustainability topics such as traceability, European Union due diligence, poverty, child labour, deforestation and more.

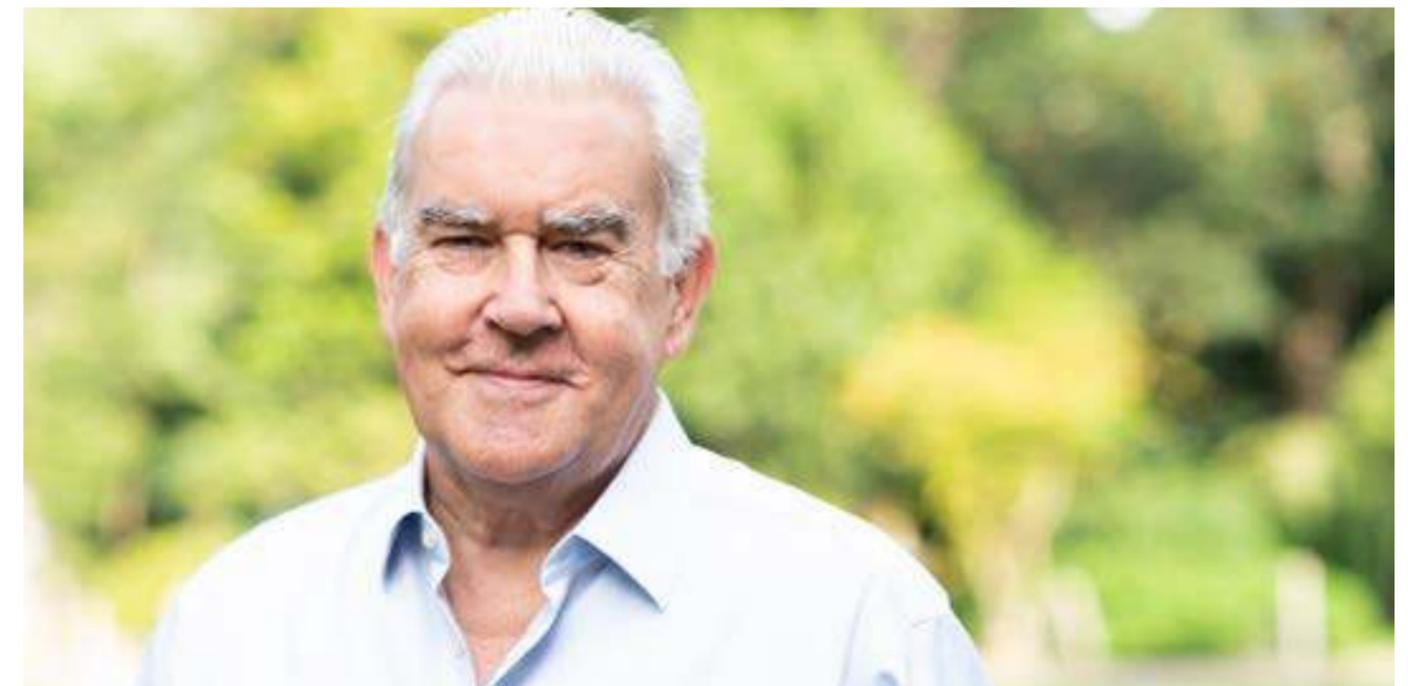
Most importantly, we now need to be an agent of change and hold ourselves to account for improving the supply chain in a way that makes a meaningful and lasting impact on farmer income which has such an important influence on our other focus areas.

And of course we all need to understand how the new European Union legislation will impact the cocoa supply chain and embrace the traceability protocols that are required to be implemented to meet those European Union objectives.

We look forward to continuing our work together and invite you to join us for the next Partnership Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on October 26-27, 2022.

Sincerely,

Martin Short
President



WINCC Preview Event:

Women Empowerment To Overcome Challenges Together

MODERATOR

Suzan Yemidi
WINCC

The growing WINCC network was introduced by Caroline Lubbers as a global network connecting, engaging and inspiring women in cocoa & chocolate. Women empowerment was a catalyst for sustainable growth and social impact and WINCC continued to support women with its platform.

SPEAKERS

Betty Annan
World Cocoa Foundation

Suzan Yemidi introduced the theme and speakers. Despite making up an estimated 50% of the cocoa labor force, women still do not have equal opportunities in the cocoa sector. Recent research by Oxfam has found that a clear gender strategy was often missing, whilst the challenges and solutions were well known. This year's Partnership Meeting theme, Overcoming Challenges Together, called for joint efforts, strategic partnerships and a bold approach to women's empowerment within the sector. An overarching gender policy positioned women as active players in the call to overcome challenges together.

Caroline Lubbers
Equipoise

Martha Mensah
Oxfam

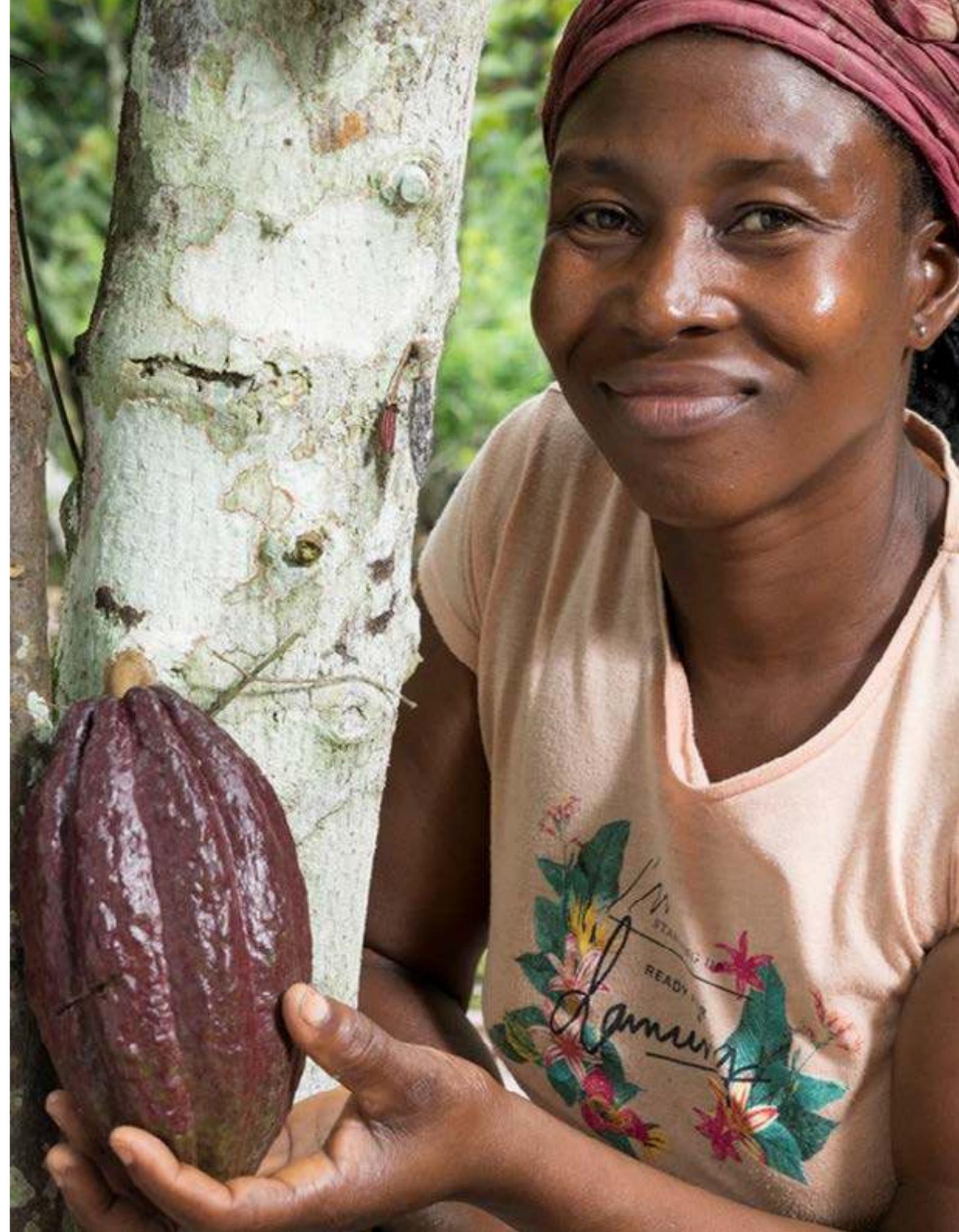
Martha Mensah presented Oxfam research on cocoa and gender in Ghana. Results showed there had been an inadequate policy focus on addressing gender inequalities in the cocoa sector. COCOBOD had indicated that there was no specific gender policy document on cocoa production, processing and marketing in Ghana. A commitment must be made to a mainstream gender approach through policy. At the same time, cultural hurdles that stop women from actively participating must be addressed.

Isabelle Roger
Solidaridad

Betty Annan spoke about the need to support younger women and build the capacity needed. We must also make a commitment to mainstream gender and prioritise gender integration at all levels, she said. WCF has designed and implemented different projects and a guidance note on how to integrate gender in its work. One example is family business management training, a module to help understand the importance of communication and common vision to better manage resources – placing cocoa households on the path of sustainable prosperity.

Then Isabelle Roger stressed the importance of having focused gender-inclusive policies and interventions from the design stage. WINCC strongly believed that we need to stimulate and invest in women empowerment as a catalyst for the future sustainability of the cocoa sector because empowered women are change agents.

In closing, all speakers hoped to have converted participants (men and women) to be gender ambassadors and bring the topic of gender equality and women empowerment in discussions throughout the WCF Partnership Meeting.



Day 1: Plenary Sessions

MODERATOR

Kristy Leissle
Master of Ceremony

SPEAKERS

Amber Johnson
Mars Wrigley

Martin Short
World Cocoa Foundation

Overcoming Challenges Together



Opening the Partnership Meeting, Martin Short spoke about the lack of social progress in the cocoa sector over the last 60 years. "I am looking at two pictures of different farmers, one taken in 1959 and one in 2019," he said. "The only difference is that the (picture) in 2019 is not in black and white." He said farmers' living conditions had remained unchanged over the past several decades. He said poverty was at the heart of both child labor and deforestation, and that everything to be discussed at the two-day WCF meeting would come back to this core problem. More than ever, Short said, partners in

the supply chain needed to collaborate because all shared responsibility.

He listed core themes to be addressed at the meeting:

- Child Labor - Significant progress had been made in education, but the reporting needed to be expanded. There was still too much child labor, and it was important to look at why.
- Deforestation - CDI and Ghana had taken important leadership roles and Colombia had made good progress. Stakeholders should examine their efforts and see if any investments were made outside of in-kind contributions and those that would have already existed.
- Partnerships - It was necessary to focus on creating partnerships and overcoming challenges together. To achieve bigger goals, private institutions, governments, and all other stakeholders would need to leave their egos at the door.

Short said there was a need for systemic reform and the word sustainability was overused, without effective action. It was important to consider three S's: Scale, Systemic reporting, and Sustainability. He said he had been struck by a news headline saying "Poverty Drives Child Labor," commenting that "poverty poisons everything." A siloed approach was not sustainable as it did not address the whole picture and the core issue. He said traceability protocols did not provide proper rewards or incentives for farmers, so did not change behaviors. Any proposed initiative must meaningfully improve farmers' incomes, he said, adding: "If not, then we have a problem." In a world of fluctuating supply and demand, long-lasting solutions depended on robust traceability and supply chain management.

Platinum Sponsor Address

Amber Johnson said Mars was a private, purpose-led company that held accountability to a high standard and strived for positive growth for all stakeholders in its supply chain. She said that its key funders looked equally for financial performance and sustainable development. "The challenges we face in cocoa forestry are vast," she said. Cocoa communities continued to face challenges such as climate change and poverty, and COVID-19 had set farmers back. She said the WCF strategic pillars represented the way forward toward a healthy planet, prosperous farmers, and empowered communities.



The real challenge was to move farmers out of extreme poverty. "This can only be done collectively," Johnson said. The first step was to listen to one another openly and especially to work with origin governments. It was important to build farmer resiliency, back legislation that supported human rights and due diligence and ensure all played by the same rules. She said it was essential to define a "new normal," and not go back to business as usual. She hoped that all could come together during this meeting and act to create a thriving and sustainable cocoa sector.

SPEAKER

Justin Adams
Tropical Forest Alliance

COP 26: What Does It Mean for Cocoa?

Justin Adams discussed the outcomes of COP26. He said that with over 40,000 delegates present, the forum achieved real momentum by showing solidarity and cross-sector collaboration around the critical goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C. The conference showed there had been progress in technical areas such as the Paris rulebook, which obliges countries to review their plans every 12 months. The high-level champions, charged by the U.N. with mobilizing stronger and more ambitious climate action among non-state actors, had created unprecedented momentum. Despite all this, Adams said, COP26 showed that the world was actually on track for 2.4 °C of warming and had failed to mobilize the finance needed for transitioning developed countries.

He said COP26 focused on restoring and protecting forests more than ever before, and more than 140 countries were committed to stopping deforestation by 2030. There was a specific focus on the Congo Basin, indigenous communities, and the link between the social agenda and climate change. Adams said that overall COP26 had made real progress by focusing on food and forests, but progress was needed in five key areas: more action, unified transparency, inclusion, partnership, and finance. The next COP will be in Egypt. There was already talk about nature-based solutions, a greater focus on forest and food, and the integration of ecological and social agendas.



Day 1: Plenary Sessions

SPEAKERS

Kim Frankovich
Mars Wrigley

Adama Kamara
Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of
Employment and Social
Protection

Aarti Kapoor
Embode

Pablo Perversi
Barry Callebaut

Ending Child Labor: Why Aren't We There Yet? What Next?

Speaking about child labor, Aarti Kapoor said that we were nowhere near where we should be in the cocoa sector and supply chains. "The situation is pretty grave," she said, but it was important to grasp the global picture. In June 2021, the UNICEF and ILO report estimated that child labor had increased by 8.5 million worldwide and 16.6 million in Sub-Saharan Africa in the past four years. Agriculture saw the highest level of child labor of any sector. This increase was due to the rise in poverty, vulnerability, and the inadequacy of social programs and support.

Kapoor urged a "child-centered approach," looking beyond cocoa to solve the issues and focus on child well-being outcomes rather than incidents of child labor. It was important to agree on indicators that reflected the ability to take care of children, such as access to education, gender equality, and household access to amenities. She called for a developmental approach, investing in systems meant for the long run rather than building parallel systems that are unsustainable because they could disable existing government structures.

Minister Adama Kamara stressed the importance of having an accreditation system in place to ensure accountability. He outlined Côte d'Ivoire's efforts to prevent child labor, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators, as detailed in the National Action Plan. He said addressing child labor was also key to the struggle against deforestation and stressed the need to train work supervisors and strengthen social structures to protect farmers. Kamara said the country was moving in the right direction, although it had to do more to stop child labor. He invited exporters and producers to join this struggle.



Fighting Child Labor in Cocoa: Building Partnerships & Scaling Up Action

Kim Frankovich and Pablo Perversi spoke about overcoming child labor and focused on their listening tour approach to gain collective feedback and understanding. Their tour included a series of confidential interviews with stakeholders to help understand how to make progress based on the key principles of trust, engagement, openly listening and understanding, and focusing on root causes. Perversi said the WCF defined empowered communities by assessing whether human rights were protected and whether there was no child labor, and said there had not been enough progress in these areas. Frankovich said the tour was due to end by the end of the year. They would share the results with the broader cocoa community and seek ways to move forward. They hoped to "ensure that this generation and future generations talk about how we ended child labor in the supply chain."



Can All Cocoa Farmers Earn a Living Income?

Achieving a living income is at the heart of creating a sustainable value chain, but it is extremely complex and requires a deep understanding of the drivers and coordination among all the stakeholders. This session looked at how the cocoa sector could work better together and create a positive impact at scale.

Yuca Waarts said at most one third of farmers could earn a living income from cocoa alone because of the small farm sizes, their inability to invest which leads to low production volumes, unstable and unremunerative prices as well as a tendency to oversupply. She said this last point was very important: increasing the price was not sufficient for farmers to reach a living income. Farmers also faced commodity dependence—there were few other options to increase income.

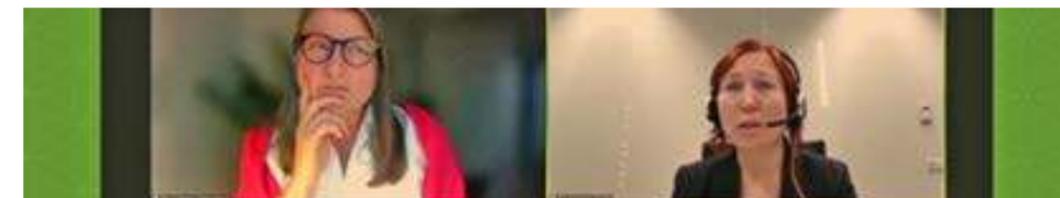
Waarts suggested several approaches: consulting with farmers to understand their needs and aspirations, sharing data and information, tailor-made support initiatives, production management to avoid price-damaging oversupply, and new policies, including on land governance, social protection and creating new employment opportunities.

Anna Laven called for segmentation to identify specific approaches to living income for different households. Many determinants for segmentation were well-known, but other less obvious factors, such as marital status, were also key and it was essential to adopt a gender-sensitive approach. Her approach was based on a data-driven clustering exercise among households to try to identify potential pathways to living income. There were five re-occurring clusters which were intuitive and follow life stages: cocoa dependent households, ambitious young farmers, female farmers, an aspirational elite, and female entrepreneurs. What would potential pathways look like? To start, it was necessary to have a good understanding of the needs and aspirations of the different segments, then to identify an entry point that made sense to the specific groups and consider all relevant enabling factors as well as opportunities for income diversification.

In a panel discussion, Antonie Fountain said there were increasingly accurate social maps to guide research on living incomes. It was essential to address the needs of the one third of farmers who were struggling and not focus only on those who were performing well. Recognizing gender equality was key but it was vital to understand how all the markets worked.

As a way to promote living income, Waarts raised the option of farm diversification, although this option mostly helped better performing farmers, while for poorer farmers there was a need to look beyond cocoa to social protection, other employment opportunities and cash transfers.

Fountain stressed that cocoa had been a key driver in raising incomes and there was a real connection between cocoa and the national development and economy of producing countries. Farmer poverty had been going on for at least three decades. Holistic rural development policies were needed to address it. He said consumers would not make the big changes needed, because they still thought with their wallet and rules and regulations would be needed to help drive the conversation forward. Laven said traceability and reaching a living income were part of the same goal and transparency was needed to understand if things were going well.



MODERATOR

Cathy Pieters
Mondelēz

SPEAKERS

Antonie Fountain
VOICE Network

Anna Laven
KIT

Yuca Waarts
Wageningen University

Day 1: Breakout Sessions

MODERATOR

John Howchin
Council on Ethics of the
Swedish National Pension
Fund

SPEAKERS

Ruthann Bartello
Sustainalytics

Andrew Brooks
Olam

Tamara Hardegger
SVVK-ASIR

Leigh Horner
The Hershey Company

Stina Nilsson
Sustainalytics

Rebecca Rehn
Alecta

Irina van der Sluijs
NN Investment Partners

Investors For Cocoa Sustainability

Ruthann Bartello presented an overview of impact investing and avenues to help Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) clients determine investment strategies. In the past, cocoa companies had adopted a defensive posture when ESG investors sought to begin a dialog but there was now constructive engagement around the United Nations Guiding Principles on sustainability. Many ESG investors had a keen interest in companies that were working to eliminate child labor in their supply chains.

In a session moderated by John Howchin, speakers reflected their companies' commitment to responsible and sustainable investments. Irina van der Sluijs said NN Investments looked for living wage policies and progress in meeting policy goals; Rebecca Rehn said Alecta looked for a clear alignment of action between the company's sustainability goals and its procurement of products, including cocoa; and Andrew Brooks said Olam was one of the first supply chain companies to make commitments on living income and had created household income benchmarks across companies. In offering a US perspective, Leigh Horner noted the historical difference in governmental engagement in the United States and in Europe. As a company traded on the New York Stock Exchange, Hershey had seen increased interest from ESG investors in the last few months, especially on environmental issues, she said.

The group addressed white labels (rebranding, by retailers) and how ESGs could ensure these companies are engaged in sustainability efforts. Van der Sluijs urged mandatory human rights legislation to level the playing field. Brooks said Olam supported legislation and agreed that all companies, including indirect supply chains members, should be pursuing living income goals. Horner said Hershey's position was that living income was a precompetitive challenge.

Latin American cocoa faced similar living income, child labor and environmental challenges. Van der Sluijs noted that while ESG investors had been focused on child labor and living wage, NN Investment had also begun to focus on companies' environmental commitments.

Howchin, wrapping up the session, noted that the ESG movement was growing exponentially, especially in Europe. He said investors and consumers wanted to be able to enjoy fair and equitable chocolate products.

Cocoa & Forests Initiative State of Play

Moderator Andrew Bovarnick gave an outline of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI), which was launched in 2017 as a partnership between 35 leading cocoa and chocolate companies and the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana to eliminate deforestation. In 2019, the CFI expanded to Colombia with the Cocoa, Forests & Peace Initiative. Bovarnick noted that tackling deforestation required multi-stakeholder collaboration and collective action, and showed a video about the Asunafo-Asutifi hotspot intervention area in Ghana.

Brou, an Ivorian cocoa farmer, said climate change had created harsh conditions for farmers, and women were especially vulnerable. Through efforts associated with CFI, she said farmers had received support to stop deforestation and support their communities, including receiving trees and training.

Cedric Van Cutsem said that the CFI had been quite successful in creating collaboration between the companies and countries involved. For companies, participating in the CFI had helped build collective knowledge and a monitoring and evaluation framework for ending deforestation, and had promoted collective action such as the Asunafo-Asutifi collaboration in Ghana. There was still room to improve collective action and learning, but he pointed out that when the companies had signed onto the framework, they created individual action plans through 2022. Once these were published, companies were obliged to report on their performance on meeting specific targets on an annual basis, creating accountability and transparency.

Ynsa Traoré said that Côte d'Ivoire produced 40% of world cocoa and that in less than half a century the country had lost over 70% of its forest cover. The main cause of this deforestation was agriculture, and within that category cocoa was the leading cause. Côte d'Ivoire had begun several initiatives, including signing the CFI in 2017 to work with companies and the chocolate industry. He said that they had high hopes for CFI and that signatories needed to find a way to create greater synergy between projects.

Léonie Verrier said the CFI had helped create awareness, structure, and organization around ending deforestation in the cocoa sector and said it was a "really relevant and essential tool to implement national strategies." In Côte d'Ivoire, the CFI helped efforts to attain the zero deforestation goal and sustainably manage forests to fight climate change. Verrier said it had the potential to develop a carbon market and sequestration and preserve biodiversity across country.

Verrier also said, however, that while the CFI showed that all private sectors understood the strategic stakes, they were missing a piece. The CFI structure helped implement projects on the ground, but it was necessary to know how to maximize impact. To do this, companies and governments needed to collaborate on the different modalities of projects and engage with companies on the ground. She said cooperation was essential because we could never end deforestation if we continued to work in silos. She suggested that the CFI expand its collaborative effort to rehabilitate degraded forests, including those that are not classified. Governments should define clear points for companies to engage in forest rehabilitation.

Valérie Reboud said the first step for a multi-stakeholder partnership had been to build a governance framework, and CFI had done this, creating a space for peaceful debate between parties. She said it was also necessary to establish trust, accountability, and transparency among the partners. Having IDH as a facilitator had "greased the wheels" by funding technical studies on traceability, sensitization, etc., creating more informed parties, Reboud said. Now the framework was in place to take concrete actions, it was necessary to understand who would fund specific activities.

Wendy Arenas said Colombia had signed the CFI in 2018, even though its cocoa was not driving deforestation, to illustrate its commitment to stop deforestation and help implement the country's peace agreement. Multi-stakeholder collaboration was key because there were common issues across countries, she said. She said they had learned to have an honest dialogue and that it was important to set ambitious targets after first establishing trust and traceability. Arenas said this could put pressure on small farmers and added: "We need to start collaborating with farmers from the beginning."

Van Cutsem said to have more impact the CFI should scale collective action and knowledge-sharing, and increase collaboration with governments on the ground. There was an urgent need for creating traceability systems across Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, for governments to clarify policies around classified forests, and to create carbon credit incentives for companies to invest in off-farm restoration. CFI also needed to continue building a strong secretariat to facilitate accountability and to "think beyond the cocoa sector." The CFI also needed to find more donor financing. He said the CFI Technical Working Group was discussing action plans for 2023, and they would be more ambitious with a focus on collective action.

Traoré said the Côte d'Ivoire government needed financial and technical support from private companies to restore forests, particularly to carry forward the national monitoring system. He said census and traceability systems must be operationalized together to monitor the actions of all stakeholders. It was necessary to focus on landscape-oriented approach involving industries outside of cocoa.

MODERATOR

Andrew Bovarnick
UNDP

SPEAKERS

Wendy Arenas
Alisos

Aya Odette Brou
Cocoa Farmer

Cedric van Cutsem
Mondelēz

Joseph Osiakwan
Ghana Ministry of Lands
and Natural Resources

Valérie Reboud
IDH - The Sustainable
Trade Initiative

Ynsa Traoré
Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of
Water and Forests

Léonie Verrier
Olam

Day 1: Breakout Sessions

MODERATOR

Megan Passey
International Cocoa Initiative

SPEAKERS

Isabelle Adam
Touton

Peter Antwi
Ghana Ministry of
Employment and Labour
Relations

Espérance Tano Kanon
TSOPA

Bernard Kofi Mensah
Cocoa Farmer

Marine Jouvin
University of Bordeaux

Understanding Child Labor Severity

Megan Passey said the aim of the session was to share what the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) had learnt so far on how child labor can affect children's health, development, education, future opportunities and learning, and to put the findings in context and discuss the implications for the cocoa sector.

Marine Jouvin shared her analysis of scientific evidence on how child labor impacts children's development, health, education and future employment, and explained the many and often contradictory mechanisms involved. She found that: the intensity of the work matters; younger children (under 12 – 14) are more vulnerable to harm from work than older children; harm accumulates over time and negatively shapes adult health and education outcomes; certain forms of harm are only visible years later. Jouvin stressed the importance of early intervention to prevent harm and said the priority was to target younger children or those working long hours. It was important to take a holistic approach, to work on preventing the inter-generational transmission of poverty, and to work on improving public health and increasing economic productivity.

Bernard Kofi Mensah said he and other farmers were working for the benefit of their children. It was important that they considered the future of their children and saw how best to protect them. He understood from Jouvin's study that child work should be age-appropriate and under supervision, so the children could learn, acquire skills and become responsible adults. Farmers had themselves been exposed to the harmful effects of child labor and groups and cooperatives encouraged each other not to engage their children in harmful activity. A member of a committee on child labor remediation, he said training was ongoing and there had been significant progress in the reduction of child labor cases. Espérance Tano Kanon pointed out that reducing risks for adults had a knock-on effect for children and said looking at child labor was related to several other areas of life.

Isabelle Adam stressed the value of evidence-based research into the harm caused by child labor over time to help cocoa companies better target interventions and programs. It was key to working with local, regional and national structures to build safety nets, including programs that raised awareness on nutrition and access to health and quality education as well as programs that focused on parental skill training. It was vital to work on the underlying causes of child labor, for example poverty which leads to lack of available income to cover education or a health cost or hire skilled labor for farm work. She said a number of WCF members had signed on to the CLEF Initiative started by the Jacobs Foundation which brought together the authorities of Côte D'Ivoire, key philanthropic actors and private sector companies to improve access to quality education at scale in CDI building on evidence-based maps. ICI was also developing other financing initiatives, including on conditional and unconditional cash transfers to boost household income or to address child protection efforts at the landscape level.

Peter Antwi said that an understanding of the overall detrimental nature of child labor would inform the government's efforts to tackle it. If it were considered detrimental to physical, psychological well-being, causing pain, distress and harm and preventing them from enjoying their fundamental rights as children, this would be approached by the government on the level of policies and plans and addressed in a holistic way. He said the constitution specifically defined child labor and Ghana had also ratified the ILO convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor. In accordance with article 41, Ghana, in consultation with others, had developed the Hazardous Activity Framework in 2012. As there had been changes in the world of work, the government went back to engage with the various stakeholders to do a thorough review of the provisions. A validation meeting had been held recently with experts in the field to discuss revisions, he said.

Empowering Women in Cocoa: Progress and Next Steps

Kristy Leissle introduced the session saying that women's empowerment was key to creating a sustainable cocoa sector that ensures human development and equal rights, but there were severe challenges to ensuring the significant participation of women in the supply chain. There was an urgent need to identify individual metrics on women's empowerment and new interventions that would constitute a more transformative gender environment.

Inge Jacobs discussed the first part of a study of conditions in Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana showing a significant number of inequalities with a strong dominance of men in cocoa farming communities and in the value chain. The second phase will be published soon. As one proposal, she said priority could be given to building new habits and new thinking in young girls and boys, which also involved educating and sensitizing their parents.

A video presentation told the story of Indonesia's Manah Masud, who had to overcome discrimination against women to become an entrepreneur in compost-making. After receiving training, she established her own enterprise that provided jobs and instruction for her own community. She said women had difficulty expressing themselves, lacked motivation and were very often illiterate. She recommended providing them with digital support and motivating them.

Rachel Tchéma listed activities related to women's empowerment integral to Socodevi's work to support cooperatives in the developing world. She said it trained its farmers through field schools, conducted training on women's leadership followed by mentoring, created women's economic interest groups, facilitated women's access to agricultural services and sensitized men and local authorities on the issue of women's access to land. Tchéma said Socodevi conducted a baseline study to identify the challenges and inequalities in a locality, and based on the data collected defined the indicators. It practiced couple awareness and training, and "Positive Masculinity," which involves participation of men in discussions on issues of gender and inequality.

Anne Pélagie Affoué, the wife of a cocoa farmer living in Côte d'Ivoire, was a student at the Women's Leadership School run by Fairtrade for members of the SOCOOPEM cooperative. She said spouses also received gender awareness training, which promoted change in some men, and her husband had decided to give her one hectare of land to farm. She now grows food crops and manages the profits herself.

Participants in a question and answer session discussed a range of interventions to encourage greater women's engagement in the decision-making and work of cocoa farming, including building confidence, drawing them more into group discussions, organizing them into groups where they receive training for change and bringing in the younger generation.



MODERATOR

Kristy Leissle
Master of Ceremony

SPEAKERS

Anne Pélagie Affoué
SOCOOPEM

Inge Jacobs
Mars Wrigley

Manah Masud
Cocoa Farmer

Rachel Tchéma
Socodevi

Day 1: Breakout Sessions

MODERATOR

Andrew Nobrega
PUR Projet

Corporate Carbon Commitments and Cocoa Sustainability

Andrew Nobrega said the session would focus on four key themes:

- Addressing deforestation,
- Increasing global carbon commitments,
- Companies seeking to address climate and carbon impact in their supply chain,
- National policies and activities on farmer rights, protected areas and forests, and carbon policies.

SPEAKERS

Cynthia Cummis
World Resources
Institute

Cynthia Cummis discussed the Science-Based Target (SBT) initiative begun in 2015, and the net-zero standard that her team had recently launched. Over 2,100 companies had set SBTs, and over half have had targets validated by the initiative. She defined net-zero as “an end-state balance of emissions and removals where there is no additional impact on the climate.”

Anne-Franziska Sinner
South Pole

Anne-Franziska Sinner described how to define a path to climate net-zero cocoa in practice. She said the key steps for companies to develop and implement SBTs and a Net Zero journey included understanding your footprint, setting ambitions, identifying interventions, developing climate roadmaps, piloting scale solutions, and monitoring reporting. Sinner referred to a study that estimated the cocoa sector had a 100 million tons footprint, requiring companies to reduce by 50% every ten years; meaning, companies would want to be at 50 million tons by 2030, at 25 tons by 2040, and 12.5 by 2050. At the same time, companies would need to neutralize the rest of the emissions or invest in removals. The options for companies included:

1. Directly investing in activities on cocoa farms such as soil management and deforestation improvement such as increasing yield. These would count toward SBTs.
2. Investing in activities in the community such as forest conservation and community-based projects, which could not be claimed as SBTs, but count as offsetting and could be used as compensation.
3. Intervening at the landscape level, for example, with REDD+ programs, that cover other impacts beyond carbon, such as biodiversity. She said these could be used for carbon neutralization for Net Zero claims with in/offsetting credits.

Sinner discussed the trends and challenges to net-zero cocoa. Trends included companies increasingly committing to net zero and SBTs, climate-neutral consumer products, investors expecting alignment to 1.5 °C, climate risks materializing, and companies needing to invest in adaptation. Corporate climate action was focusing on SBT-aligned on-farm interventions and cocoa countries were implementing carbon pricing/compliance schemes. Challenging questions included: how do we scale fast enough and ensure that everyone in that value chain benefits? Significant investments were needed for both on-and off-farm programs.

Alexander von Maillot said Nestlé had signed the 1.5 °C decree and created a net-zero roadmap. He described Nestlé’s forest positive strategy, including deforestation-free supply chains, long-term forest conservation and sustainable landscapes. He said satellite imagery would play an important role in monitoring these efforts, and collaboration with communities and other stakeholders was critical. The company’s three-step forest positive strategy was to map all farms for deforestation, supply trees to ensure agroforestry on cocoa farms, and work at the landscape level for forest preservation and restoration. He cited progress at the Cavally Forest in Côte d’Ivoire, where forest loss had been reduced to near zero.

Charlotte Streck discussed the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) global dialogue that showed that the growing demand for carbon credits provided an opportunity for governments to rapidly channel significant additional funds to climate mitigation. The VCM fast-tracked emission reductions provided governments with opportunities to access foreign direct investments, she said. Streck said governments could maximize their benefits if they engaged strategically with the VCM, but enumerated some of the challenges related to the ownership of carbon and the role of the public and private actors, that could lead to accounting problems. She said credible use of carbon credits was essential.

Naomi Swickard detailed three carbon-related initiatives:

- Landscale: a partnership with Rainforest Alliance and Conservation International and a framework focusing on measuring and reporting claims related to landscape-wide sustainability;
- SDVista (sustainable development verified impact standard): similar to Landscale, but looked at sustainability at project scale instead of at the landscape scale;
- VSF: the leading standard of voluntary carbon markets, which accounted for about 80% of carbon transactions.

She outlined carbon market opportunities coming out of COP26, the link between carbon market opportunities and sustainability, and potential win-wins for companies from sustainability and carbon.



Investing in Quality, Flavor and Value to Fight Farmer Poverty

Gary Guittard emphasized the need to work together to support the market and accommodate differences between cocoa growing countries. The path and the timing were different for each country, he said. Flavor and quality could point the way

and be the foundation to a sustainable future. Differences in flavor had historical roots and value and had to be protected. He noted that with the African Cocoa Initiative programs funded by USAID in partnership with WCF, flavor labs had been established in Ghana, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Côte d’Ivoire. The complex nature of cocoa flavor had defied standardizing, he said.

Edward Seguine emphasized the need for communication, learning and understanding in establishing consistency in products and said the future of flavor and quality was bleak without them. With the diminishing impact of quality across the globe, flavor origins had been lost. But he said the Cocoa of Excellence Program begun in 2009 had led to the International Standards for the Assessment of Cocoa Quality and Flavor (ISQF), aimed at providing a common language for clear communication and understanding throughout the cocoa value chain. The ISQF provided benchmarks that specified flavor attributes and characteristics of flavor.

Brigitte Laliberté pointed out the free availability of cocoa standard protocols developed by ISQF. She said the potential for superior quality had been created through the implementation of quality-enhancing production and post-harvest production practices. ISQF had led to the promotion of excellence, common language and definition, capacity and institutional support and an enabling environment. Virginie Detournay emphasized the value the cocoa tracing program had brought to farmers by supporting higher quality and allowing them to achieve a higher income.

Francisco Gomez said that over the last 100 years Luker had established a unique Colombian blend flavor. Luker selected and bred cocoa planting materials to meet the desired flavor profiles and delivered them to farmers to maintain the original Luker cocoa flavor. Farmers were paid premiums for following good agricultural practices and post-harvest processes including fermentation and drying to maintain consistency, enhance quality and add value. Simran Bindra also said his company followed strict protocols and paid farmers premiums to ensure consistent flavor and quality of cocoa beans.

Massimiliano Wax said creating value was not just about knowledge and communication, but also about strategy: knowing what you want and how you want to create the desired value. At Rizek, knowledge was cascaded down to the farmers in terms of terroir, microbiology, taste, good agricultural practices, methods of fermentation and drying. For innovation, he said Rizek focused on the application of microbiology and biochemistry, developed clones that stood out in terms of yield and taste and had established a bank for the scientifically accepted genetic materials of cocoa.

MODERATORS

Ama Mogyabun
Tachibana

Laura Sweitzer
TCHO

SPEAKERS

Simran Bindra
Kokoa Kamili

Issiaka Coulibaly
CAVA COOP-CA

Virginie Detournay
Puratos

Francisco Gomez
Luker Chocolate

Gary Guittard
Guittard Chocolate
Company

Koffi Eric Kouame
Capressa

Brigitte Laliberté
Alliance of Bioversity
International
CIAT

Edward Seguine
Seguine Cacao Cocoa &
Chocolate Advisors

Massimiliano Wax
Rizek

Day 2: Plenary Sessions

MODERATOR

Kristy Leissle
Master of Ceremony

SPEAKERS

Joseph Boahen Aidoo
Ghana Cocoa Board

Michel Arrion
ICCO

Alex Assanvo
Côte d'Ivoire Ghana
Cocoa Initiative

Christine McGrath
Mondelēz

Opening Plenary

Christine McGrath spoke of Mondelēz's commitment to empower cocoa communities and to tackle the root causes of farming family poverty. Kristy Leissle introduced the session and called for participants' thoughts on challenges and strategies to achieve a living income for cocoa farmers.

Alex Assanvo detailed the Côte d'Ivoire Ghana Cocoa Initiative mission to provide in-country leadership to improve the incomes and living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families. He said the Initiative would work toward the distribution of value in the cocoa sector. Sustainability had a price, he said, as child labor, poverty and deforestation were all linked. The Initiative was aimed at resetting the dialog on living income so that all players were working toward the same goal.

The Ghana Cocoa Board's Joseph Boahen Aidoo spoke of the three pillars of cocoa sustainability—ensuring child work and not child labor, a healthy environment and adequate farmer remuneration. He stressed the importance of farm children working on their family's cocoa farms in order to ensure the future of cocoa farming itself. Common standards for deforestation were important because some players continued to damage the environment, including cutting down trees in other countries. Aidoo said Ghana subsidized its cocoa farmers if the price fell below a certain level, but long-term subsidization may not be practical. While all sector players agreed to the Living Income Differential, some players are purchasing discounted cocoa, he said.

Michel Arrion discussed supply management. He said between 1997 and 2020 there were cocoa surpluses 60 percent of the time. The value of cocoa dropped by 30 percent over the same time period. Within the last five years most cocoa production increases had come from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. He said there were two kinds of supply quotas: production quotas and export quotas. Production quotas limited the amount of cocoa each farmer could produce but small farmers would be forced out of business. Export quotas would result in stock piling of cocoa. He said in that case country governments would continue to pay farmers but would not necessarily be able to sell the cocoa.

European Union Due Diligence: A New Era of Cocoa Sustainability?

Koen Doens said that he saw progress toward achieving sustainability for cocoa for three reasons: transformation was actually under way, the focus on creating shared value was taking root and he saw incentives to achieve this together. He said past experiences with soy and cattle indicated that it was possible, if private and public sectors worked together.

The European Union (EU) had launched a sustainable cocoa initiative amid efforts to build on a series of policy dialogues between value chains stakeholders and producing countries. These talks generated several takeaways:

- The top priority was to ensure a decent living income for cocoa farmers
- It was essential to promote sustainable agricultural practices, especially agroforestry
- Development cooperation and finance would play a key role in transforming the sector
- We needed to agree on sustainability standards with monitoring systems and traceability
- On the demand side, EU consumers were paying increasing attention to sustainability
- When we looked at EU regulations, they clearly presented requirements and challenges but they were real opportunities

Doens saw three areas for action:

- Funding: A package of budget support and technical assistance to implement these recommendations in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Cameroon was being designed.

MODERATOR

Francis West
Shift

SPEAKERS

Isabelle Adam
Touton

Julia Christian
FERN

Koen Doens
European Commission

Abou Dosso
Côte d'Ivoire Embassy to
the European Union

Heidi Hautala
European Parliament

Regis Meritan
European Commission

Sena Siaw-Boateng
Ghana Embassy to the
European Union

- Legislation and regulation: There was an important EU move on deforestation in November. These initiatives will bring new standards for products accessing the EU market.

- Sharing expertise and know-how: Working with producing countries to conform with future standards.

He said the EU had the responsibility and was also in a crucial position to play a critical role with the current momentum.

Heidi Hautala, said that right now was make it or break it time for the planet and for humanity. The COP deal brought important steps but collective political will was not enough. The green transition was accelerating and the private sector needed to be ready. Food production was a critical issue that needed to be on the agenda. The EU would soon publish proposals for sustainable corporate governance with a due diligence mechanism. This piece of legislation will ensure that companies' supply chains are free of environmental and human rights externalities. Deforestation regulations would follow. Voluntary cooperation and industry initiatives were needed alongside legislation.

Francis West, moderating the discussion, said apart from various efforts to ensure responsible business practices, the main focus now was on a human rights and environmental due diligence proposal to be published in December. It was not clear what the EU proposal would look like, although there was agreement on the fact that it should reflect United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The core of UN Guiding Principles was: a risk management approach that looked across the value chain to find risks, act on the findings and engage with effective stakeholders. He stressed that business was calling for the EU to introduce the legislation.

Regis Meritan said that years of talks between Europe and the cocoa producers prompted by very low prices five or ten years ago had resulted in a stronger sense of trust among all the stakeholders. He said the work of the past year had paved the way for turning the new regulation into an opportunity. "We want to agree on the fact that we need a new product which will also increase the price for farmers," he said, but it was important to specify what are the elements of this new product.

Julia Christian said the regulation should not simply clean up the EU market. It was necessary to impose regulations in the overall market and with a broader objective. She wanted to see partnership agreements, with the EU and producer countries sitting down and reaching agreements that would result in specific roadmaps. These agreements needed to look at other issues such as land tenure and address the challenges for smallholder farmers and how they can comply with regulations. There should be participation by civil society and farmers and a new focus on the low and unstable price.

Isabelle Adam said she believed the new regulation could contribute to building a competitive playing field and clarify regulations for business. She enumerated key principles for due diligence: legal certainty; the need for sector-specific guidelines; the need for measurable minimum standards to be implemented by companies; the need for companies to be penalized if they did not comply; transparency and reporting should not be used against companies.

Ambassador Abou Dosso noted that several outstanding issues still had not been fixed, including child labor. He said talks over these issues had strengthened the voice of producing countries and also shown that the rights of cocoa farmers are human rights. Poverty among the farmers was directly linked to child labor and deforestation, he said, and we have to face these problems. National traceability was essential.

Day 2: Plenary Sessions

EU Due Diligence: A New Era of Cocoa Sustainability? [Cont'd]

Ambassador Sena Siaw-Boateng said the costs of regulation could not be borne by cocoa farmers. Economic pressure generated by stricter regulations could negatively affect the cocoa sector. The legislation must take into account that we are not living in normal times, with the Covid-19 pandemic. "We are all resetting our development agenda," she said. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire introduced the Living Income Differential (LID). It will create the economic foundation to address human rights and environmental issues, she said. "And we need EU regulation to support us in this," she said, for instance, by stopping companies circumventing the LID.

Adam said it was vital to work collectively and everyone had a role to play. This meant listening to farmers, looking at the living income agenda, fostering farmer organizations, helping farmers become resilient to climate change and work on alternative crops and income streams. Christian noted two important points for the upcoming EU regulation: It was vital that the civil liability provision be included as an essential enforcement mechanism and all companies needed to be covered, with no exceptions such as small and medium-sized enterprises.

It's All About Traceability

In an introductory video, Kwabena Assan Mends discussed the effects of climate change on his cocoa farm. For the past three years excess sunshine had destroyed flowers, reducing the harvest and this year the season was further delayed because of high rainfall. He said many trees were being cut and illegal loggers were even removing trees on his farm. Kwabena spoke about how deforestation exacerbated climate change because the amount of rainfall was affected by trees being cut.

Ethan Budiansky said Mends' testimony aligned with the COP26 priority of addressing climate change by tackling deforestation. He said that traceability was fundamental: it was critical to understand where cocoa was coming from, all the way from aggregation to the farmer level. He said panelists would discuss what is happening in traceability, particularly in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and, ultimately, how it impacts the farmer.

Benjamin Emmanuel Walker said that traceability is very important because it guaranteed access to European and American markets. He talked about how the Conseil du Café-Cacao had conducted a traceability study and mapped the stakeholders in the value chain, allowing them to map two million acres of cocoa. Now they can move forward with a census by producing maps and distributing them among farmers. The Conseil du Café-Cacao was now designing an online information system for the traceability platform and designing the physical traceability identity markings that will be placed on cocoa bags.

Emmanuel Opoku said tracing cocoa from the producer to the buyer had been a priority for Ghana and the country had emphasized traceability as world demand had increased in order to guarantee transparency in the supply chain and Ghana's cocoa quality. Stressing its commitment to fight deforestation, he said Ghana's cocoa only comes from lands approved for agricultural use. He said the country was now identifying farms and using a tracking system for tracing production from individual farmers to the buyer. Starting in October 2022, every bag of cocoa in Ghana would have a tag that could trace it back to where it was grown.

Olivier Zwolsman said Ferrero's view was that traceability was an overall quality driver for their consumers. To achieve this they sourced the majority of their beans raw and processed them in their own facilities. They had also been mapping farmer groups and tracking farmers in their supply chain. By doing this, Ferrero had established where and who they are sourcing from, which was the starting point for traceability and enabled them to drive positive change for farmers and their communities. Additionally, he mentioned that the draft forest regulations from the EU highlighted that traceability was the first step for mandatory due diligence.

Stéphanie Kadio addressed the issue from the perspective of supplier companies implementing traceability on the ground. She said Cargill wanted to achieve 100% traceability by 2030. The goal was to increase traceability in the supply chain and improve cocoa farming practices and community wellbeing. She said technology was at the heart of the strategy to build traceability back to the farm level. Cargill had developed its CocoaWise digital portal to document and obtain cocoa origin information and this traceability data was transferred throughout the supply chain. She said that this tool helped Cargill achieve and identify progress to stakeholders, including customers. The portal also allowed customers to connect directly with the cocoa communities.

In addition to internal systems, she said Cargill collaborated with third party verification and certification organizations, which allowed it to track the impact of sustainability, establish a baseline, and communicate progress.

Aboudramane Traoré of Cayat, a cocoa and coffee farming co-operative based in Côte d'Ivoire, addressed the challenges and benefits of traceability for farmers. He said Cayat worked with Cargill's systems which required digital inputs from farmers, so the people who implement the project needed to be trained on these tools.

MODERATOR
Ethan Budiansky
World Cocoa Foundation

SPEAKERS
Kwabena Assan Mends
Emfed Farms

Stéphanie Kadio
Cargill

Emmanuel Opoku
Ghana Cocoa Board

Aboudramane Traoré
Cayat

Benjamin Emmanuel
Walker
Conseil du Café-Cacao

Olivier Zwolsman
Ferrero



Day 2: Plenary and Breakout Sessions

It's All About Traceability [Cont'd]

He said traceability benefitted farmers and cooperatives because it helped create more efficient management. Although it could be challenging, the cooperative and farmers could better track expenditures, allowing the farmer to have more credibility and access to microcredit. He said that traceability helped the cooperative to access international markets.

Opoku said that now that the traceability system had been developed it needed quality data. He said traceability would help farmers make their activities visible and give them improved access to credit, buyers, and stakeholders. Improved traceability also allowed farmers to receive greater technical support because they could track their progress. The content management system database had all the information about the cocoa they sold and their credit history so farmers can be more informed. Opoku also said COCOBOD monitored transactions to identify illegally purchased cocoa.

Walker noted that public-private collaboration had played a key role in developing Côte d'Ivoire's national traceability system. He said that Côte d'Ivoire and the Conseil du Café-Cacao had a long history of collaborating with the private sector, and this collaboration was important from the start. He mentioned that the Conseil du Café-Cacao would make relevant transactional data available to all stakeholders in the supply chain. He said that after implementing the traceability tools, the Conseil du Café-Cacao would need to clarify the participation of the private sector going into the next phase to ensure all farmers were participating. He said that the private sector had already invested in the existing system and would reinvest, making the funding mechanism clearer going forward.

Zwolsman said the framework for action had united public and private stakeholders on sustainability efforts and the Cocoa & Forests Initiative showed a clear willingness to collaborate. He said the framework for action had accelerated traceability work because it showed a sense of urgency to address deforestation from the private and public sector. He said sustainability efforts should address both the social and environmental concerns and that establishing a national traceability system was the foundation for these efforts. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative action plans helped establish actionable commitments and mutual expectations for companies and governments. Zwolsman said companies and governments could combine their efforts around the government census and the company mapping activities to move the national traceability system forward.

Traore addressed the challenge of improving and implementing traceability systems on the ground, stressing the need to give producers the time and training they needed to learn the new digital tools. He noted that the cooperatives provided training for farmers on how to collect data, and said many tools and solutions were available to help them.



Resilience By Working Together: Farmer Organization Case Study



The session started with a [film](#) where Assata Doumbia recounted her experience leading the ECAM cooperative in Côte d'Ivoire. She said that she had established a good rapport with farmers, drawing them into the decision-making processes. It had also been important to establish good financial, business and technical partners. ECAM worked with three chocolate companies and ECAM had been certified with Fairtrade since 2017.

Lionel Axel Kadja listed the main qualities of successful cooperatives: they were created by an individual; they are oriented to satisfying the needs of their members; they face up

to challenges for those who are in need, for instance with financial access; and they have a collective entrepreneurial spirit. As an example for West African farmers, he cited the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia, where they had faced similar challenges of productivity problems and weak business management to those faced by farmers in Côte d'Ivoire today. He said in Colombia they had worked together and formed their own research institute as well as a foundation to ensure stable prices to support smallholders. He asked: "What has made the difference in Colombia and would need to change in Côte d'Ivoire?" He believed it was the talent gap – People in Colombia went to business school. Coffee producers went to work in the sector with technical skills. It was important to work between different generations to change the sector. "We need to have an elite, the best educated people. They need to be proud of working in cocoa," he said.

Grace Ingrid Kassi summarized the main factors that made a strong cooperative: the quality of the cocoa beans; good traceability, to manage the supply chain and know the actors involved in it; good governance to ensure each member has a well-defined role and that the supply chain is transparent; and sustainability—paying attention to the environment and the fight against child labor. From a technical viewpoint, she said to create well-structured, strong cooperatives there had to be an analysis to identify different types of cooperatives and their needs. "After the diagnosis, we must analyze what we can do for each cooperative based on its characteristics," she said. To establish quality and traceability there had to be a strong management system and training of personnel, including on environmental issues. There had to be strong collaboration between members.

Me Kouakou said Côte d'Ivoire had a new strategy for cooperatives, including a diagnosis to evaluate each cooperative as weak, medium or strong and adopt new training for each one. The main elements of a good cooperative were: good governance; social performance; quality of service and improving daily life conditions. The Conseil had identified several action areas: to remediate the cooperative environment by reducing the number of cooperative organizations through mergers; to reinforce the technical capacity and management, including using digital tools; to bring logistical support for producers; and to have general inspections to make sure there is good financial management. The diagnosis identified a very high percentage of inactive cooperatives, and they were invited to merge to create a higher performing entity.

Emmanuel Nii Tackie-Otoo said the Ghana Cocoa Board objectives were to facilitate common grounds for the engagement of major stakeholders in the cocoa value chain, to build the capacity of cooperatives, help streamline the activities of stakeholders, and serve as an effective medium for delivering information to cocoa farmers. He enumerated COCOBOD's support for cocoa cooperatives, including business and technical training.

MODERATOR

Youssef N'Djoré
World Cocoa Foundation

SPEAKERS

Assata Doumbia
ECAM

Lionel Axel Kadja
TechnoServe

Grace Ingrid Kassi
Cémoi

Me Kouakou
Conseil du Café-Cacao

Emmanuel Nii Tackie-Otoo
Ghana Cocoa Board

Day 2: Breakout Sessions

MODERATOR

Ethan Budiansky
World Cocoa Foundation

SPEAKERS

Leonardo Bonanni
Sourcemap

Alan Kroeger
Satelligence

Rob McWilliam
Earthworm Foundation

Yakubu Mohammed
Ghana Forestry Commission

Jan Dirk Wegner
ETH Zurich

Caroline Winchester
World Resources Institute

Breakthroughs in Satellite Imagery for a Healthy Planet

Ethan Budiansky opened the session with a brief background on the Cocoa & Forests Initiative as it neared its fifth anniversary and outlined company and government efforts to stop deforestation using satellite monitoring tools.

Rob McWilliam said there were three key considerations when deforestation alerts were being developed: forest mapping (identifying where the forest is today); temporal and spatial resolution (how often you want alerts to best manage the flow of data, and how precise and accurate do you want it); and detecting degradation (a good indicator that something needs to be addressed). He discussed how to detect degradation using optical data, radar data and other ways including aerial vehicles, drones, GPs etc. All these technologies have their strengths and challenges, they can also be used together. It was important to decide what you are trying to detect (degradation on the canopy or widespread deforestation) before selecting the technology and to be aware that deforestation alerts can be confusing (there may be false positives and false negatives). He mentioned two innovations: high resolution data captured in space that is helping detect where reforestation is occurring; and using data to improve carbon calculations. He said it was vital to co-design with local communities how the areas would be monitored and the application of the data on the ground was in their hands.

Yakubu Mohammed said that in Ghana, where deforestation is due to cocoa, they had developed a way to look at the cocoa system by segregating cocoa from natural forest, and segregating the agroforestry and monocrop systems. This supported the policy of moving from the monocrop system to the agroforestry system by locating the different kinds of growth. He talked about the benefits of cocoa agroforestry (climate smart and more environmentally friendly). He outlined methods used to make the shift: combining optical and radar observation data, pixel harvesting, algorithms, but more importantly engaging the people. An online mapping platform had been introduced to host, display, analyze, and share spatial data. He said this was a collaboration between the government and the private sector.

Leonardo Bonanni, whose company specializes in mapping for the cocoa sector and data analysis of satellite imagery, talked about how important this year was for supply chain mapping after new regulations by importers related to child labor and deforestation. Now companies are required to maintain a map of their supply chain. His role was to provide the data that brands use to communicate their environmental and social programs to the government or to the public. He outlined four key steps of supply chain mapping and due diligence: supply chain mapping and compliance; transaction traceability and verification; risk assessment and corrective actions; and disclosure and on-demand reporting.

Caroline Winchester discussed deforestation risk assessments, which she defined as a useful tool for companies to identify where to engage in their supply chains. She outlined some best practices to keep in mind: make sure it is aligned with commitments, is independently reviewed and accessible, is comprehensive and comparable, and that the tool is kept current. She showcased the example of the Palm Risk tool from the palm oil industry that helped companies prioritize not only within their own supply chain but also helped drive engagement across companies. She mentioned the aligned deforestation risk assessment under development that is designed to identify where cocoa deforestation will happen next year. That gives stakeholders and companies an opportunity to react and stop it from happening.

Jan Dirk Wegner described using satellite imagery to compute high carbon stock (HCS) maps. They were working on satellite data to produce an accurate high carbon stock map, that is publicly

available and can be updated every two months. This technology allowed to predict the canopy top height in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

Alan Kroeger told the panel how the cocoa sector could make use of carbon monitoring. He explained how it is measured, starting with height data, field data and satellite data put into artificial intelligence models that produce a carbon stock assessment. This could be done on a global level. Producers and companies could use this to measure carbon emissions from deforestation in their supply chain, measure carbon captured on farms via agroforestry, and reduce and offset their supply chain emissions. Carbon monitoring took us beyond deforestation data with a new dimension of carbon loss and gain, Kroeger said. It was possible to measure cocoa-related emissions when it comes to land use change, one of the main emission sources for cocoa companies. This satellite data could measure progress and show where to focus future interventions. He said it was important to pay farmers to reduce liability and increase carbon assets.

Brazil's Cocoa Recovery: Overcoming Challenges for a Sustainable Comeback

Pedro Ronca described cocoa production in Brazil. He said although there was a strong enabling environment for agribusiness, this was not the case for cocoa. He discussed the opportunities Brazil had for sustainable production and the large potential consumer market. In the main producer states of Bahia and Pará, production was allowed in preservation areas as a mechanism for reforestation. He stressed the importance of building partnerships and promoting cooperation between the actors in the chain as part of the CocoaAction Brasil initiative. Other advances were the recent publication of a report on the economic viability of cocoa production in different models, the Cocoa Sustainability Curriculum, the restructuring of CEPLAC, growing investments made in the cocoa chain, as well as the Cocoa Project 2030.

Carina Pimenta's presentation focused on strategies to leverage the volume of agricultural credit in the cocoa chain. She highlighted the importance of increasing the availability of credit linked to technical assistance from farmers, to guarantee the payment of contracts. Small cocoa farmers, who make up the majority in Brazil and whose land ownership was uncertain, had difficulty accessing resources in general; subsidized rural credit was essential, she said. There were obstacles: banks had little knowledge of the farmers' situation and the relationships between the two were limited. Conexus sought to unlock the main bottlenecks and build innovative arrangements to solve these problems. Rural credit alone would not solve all problems for farmers, but it needed concerted action to be effective.

Adriano Venturieri presented preliminary results of its research on cocoa in Pará in the Amazon region, where it sought to identify the size and location of cocoa areas. More than 90 percent of the areas were agroforestry systems (SAFs), which made it hard to analyze satellite images, and on-site analysis was needed. He said 70,000 hectares of cocoa areas had been mapped by August 2019 and over 99 percent of the mapped areas were outside protected areas. Areas that produced cocoa deforested less than properties without cocoa, he said, and the study showed expanding cocoa would bring big benefits to farmers and to the environment.

Adriana Reis highlighted the great variety of Brazil's cocoa areas, discussed the origin certification initiatives and addressed issues such as traceability, sensory profile, quality and fine chocolate. She reinforced the great opportunity that Brazil had and highlighted the fact that all the production is absorbed by the market. She showed that the quality chocolate business has been growing very fast, encouraging the payment of premiums for quality.

MODERATOR

Pedro Ronca
CocoaAction Brasil

SPEAKERS

Carina Pimenta
Conexus

Adriano Venturieri
Embrapa

Adriana Reis
Cocoa Innovation Center

Day 2: Breakout Sessions

MODERATOR

Virginie Mfegue
World Cocoa Foundation

SPEAKERS

Fabrizio Arigoni
Nestlé

Ranjana Bhattacharjee
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

Florent Clair
UPL

Jeanne Coulibaly
Oyolola
World Bank

Sanja Fabrio
SwissDecode

Joseph Kouassi Kouame
FIRCA

Jean-Philippe Marelli
Mars Wrigley

Faruk Kwansah Nyame
Ghana Cocoa Board

What a Cocoa Virus is Teaching Us About Sustainability

Virginie Mfegue opened the discussion about lessons for sustainability from the serious spread of CSSV (Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus), which she said was creating despair among West African farmers. She said strategies to prevent CSSV included fighting deforestation, diversification and agroforestry.

In an opening speech, Jeanne Coulibaly Oyolola discussed the socio-economic implications of CSSV, describing it as a threat to cocoa farming and a problem at the macroeconomic level. It was causing a major drop in yields and could kill a farm in less than five years. She said the threat was exacerbated by global warming and that the projected increase in temperatures would reduce the sustainability of current cocoa areas. She also said the spread of the virus was encouraged by changes to natural ecosystems caused by deforestation. The World Bank supported Côte d'Ivoire's government efforts on cocoa sustainability and forest restoration which included a focus on controlling CSSV. Activities included: an uprooting program; research and surveillance; a landscape approach; climate smart-cocoa systems; and analytics. Oyiolola said it was important to establish what type of public/private partnership would be necessary to control the virus and how a landscape approach could help address the linked challenges of deforestation.

Jean-Philippe Marelli discussed in detail the different threats and types of viruses in the main cocoa growing areas of West Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia. In Latin America, there was frosty pod and black pod, in West Africa there was CSSV (black pod) and in Southeast Asia there was black pod and vascular streak die-back (VSD). He said CSSV's symptoms included shoot, stem and root swelling, red vein banding, leaf chlorosis, defoliation and round pods. Susceptible cultivars died within three to four years after infection. Marelli said the viral complex was transmitted through several species of mealybugs and the asymptomatic phase could last four to eight weeks. A new in field tool allowed for detection in under 60 minutes. Prevention methods included cut and replant programs, discarding infected lots in nurseries, and mealybug control using fewer toxic chemicals.

Sanja Fabrio described the DNAFoil test the company had developed to detect the disease caused by CSSV, explaining how it could detect cocoa swollen shoot-causing agents in asymptomatic leaves. It covered several virus species clusters prevalent in Côte d'Ivoire in one reaction. The test could be adapted to new mutations, could be performed in field conditions by nonscientists and was performed using a portable device which returned the results of up to seven samples in an hour. The organization was currently working on external independent validation in Côte d'Ivoire and there was a plan to commercialize the test kits in January 2022. Monitoring of seed and clonal gardens for early detection had been undertaken as well as surveillance in non-infected areas.

Fabrizio Arigoni said Nestlé was focusing on two main approaches to the problem: preservation of cocoa diversity and combating cocoa diseases. He said they were collaborating with international research institutions on virus and fungus diseases and enumerated the facilities and competencies Nestlé was bringing to the fight.

Ranjana Bhattacharjee said agroforestry systems provided the systematic integration of suitable and valuable non-cocoa species and other plants in a cocoa farming venture. There were three benefits of cocoa agroforestry: agronomic, economic and environmental, which helped enhance soil fertility, erosion control and a longer productive lifespan for the trees in the system. The approach could reduce global warming through carbon sequestration, mitigating threats of climate change such as drought, flood, and heat waves.

Faruk Kwansah Nyame said Ghana, using data collected between 2006 and 2017, had estimated that 17 percent of the cocoa-growing areas were infected by CSSV but the most recent survey indicated this had grown to 30 percent, showing how quickly it could spread unless it was addressed. He said treatment was outsourced to service providers responsible for cutting down diseased trees. COCOBOD was responsible for providing aboricides, recruitment of contract staff and measurement of farms before and after treatment. There has been a collaboration with the private sector for the 2021/2022 planting season. Achievements included the planting of cleared areas with temporary shade and permanent shade trees and areas planted with early bearing, disease-tolerant hybrid cocoa seedlings. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire had joined forces to fight the virus by sharing information on sustainable cocoa production and removing affected trees.

Florent Clair highlighted UPL's cocoa sustainability journey and their approach to control the Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus (CSSV). He said over the last six years, UPL has been investing in research and development of new biosolutions products, offering good pest and disease control while preserving the environment and biodiversity.

Beyond Finance: How Savings Groups Empower Communities

Using research conducted in Nigeria and Uganda, Thomas de Hoop discussed how savings groups had helped cope with the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many groups disbursed all their funds to help members but suspended meetings in the lockdown. He mentioned some policy lessons: in the short term, African governments could support savings group members who faced sharp reductions in income and savings with cash transfers, vouchers, and/or food transfers. Savings groups could partner with and support governments by investing in national tracking systems of women's groups. In the long term, integrating savings groups into social protection programs could have broad longstanding benefits. It was important to prioritize women's leadership in the community response to COVID-19. He noted that savings groups may not always be the right vehicle for solving poverty in all populations. There was a need to distinguish between different policy instruments for different target groups. Instruments like cash transfers can help the poor stay above the poverty line in the wake of crisis.

Lieke Guinée explained that ETG had established Beyond Beans to implement its sustainability programs for its clients. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) group about 15-30 people who save and earn interest. They were a central part of ETG/Beyond Beans community development work. Beyond Beans had so far supported the set-up of 130 groups in Ghana, 25 in Côte D'Ivoire and 11 in Cameroon. They were a suitable platform for other interventions based on trust and their high representation of women and non-cocoa farmers. They required very little initial investment and once they were set up require little support. Guinée mentioned two related initiatives – GALS (Gender Action & Learning System), which involves participatory and visual tools, financial planning, promoting gender equality and shared decision making and CHILD – (Child- Household interventions for Learning and Development), which has a role in sensitization on what child labor is and why it is harmful and promoting remediation activities. Asked about cultural challenges to the initiatives, she cited past experiences which discouraged members of a community from joining the VSLAs and low literacy rates especially among middle aged and older women.

Aisha Rahamatali said savings groups had a lot of impact in communities and CARE believed they could be scalable. Savings groups were not only a platform for women's economic empowerment but also a platform to help communities achieve social, economic and political outcomes. The savings group model was established in 1991 and today there are 23 million members globally. The model had also been adopted in the agribusiness sector and the financial sectors.

MODERATOR

Rita Owusu-Amankwah
Ghana's Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

SPEAKERS

Thomas de Hoop
Evidence Consortium on Women's Groups

Lieke Guinée
ETG - Beyond Beans

Aisha Rahamatali
CARE

Alan Beugré
Côte d'Ivoire Agency for the Promotion of Financial Inclusion

Clarissa Kudowor
Bank of Ghana

Day 2: Breakout Sessions

Beyond Finance: How Savings Groups Empower Communities [Cont'd]



Governments were the most promising path for creating savings groups at scale. This also presented an opportunity for them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. VSLAs could help governments achieve a number of overlapping priorities

including economic growth, financial inclusion, social protection, resilience, gender equality and health.

There was a need for a holistic approach for governments to ultimately scale VSLAs and have bigger impact. Policy/program analyses and stakeholders mapping were underway to understand the state of implementation of pro-savings group measures in countries that have adopted them. She said some governments were using the savings groups model as a graduation path. For example, in Rwanda, the government under the National Social Support Program had included pension schemes through savings groups to enhance health insurance.

Clarissa Kudowor said in Ghana there were five pillars reinforcing the national financial inclusion development strategy to increase the financial inclusion rate of 58% to 85% by 2023: financial stability; access, quality and usage of financial services; financial infrastructure; financial consumer protection; and financial capability. Asked how Ghana was spreading digital financial services when many poor people did not have cellphones, she cited the GhIPSS platform as one that targets the poor. The bearer of an e-zwich card was not required to have an account or own a mobile phone, she said. Access had been extended beyond bank branches. Transactions could be operated offline, and it had lower transactional costs.

Alan Beugré described the national financial inclusion strategy in Côte d'Ivoire for 2019-2024 period. It was developed to manage challenges to access formal services through a participatory process with public and private sector. The main objective was to improve the level of financial inclusion from 60 to 77 percent. It focused on: reaching vulnerable and excluded populations; promoting access to digital financial services; improving access to financing and credit by women and better deployment of financial services in rural areas; increasing financial education; encouraging actors in the informal sector who need help in digitization; better supervision; developing a more inclusive tax strategy.

How Land Tenure Can Save Forests in Cocoa Communities

Youssef N'djoré spoke of the consideration WCF is giving to land tenure in developing a sustainable cocoa strategy and said the session would focus on three areas: efforts to document land rights in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana through government-led or multi-stakeholder initiatives; the connection between land and resource projects within Cocoa & Forests Initiative commitments; and initiatives to strengthen land governance.

Mercedes Stickler gave a detailed presentation on the complex land tenure challenges for cocoa

farmers in West Africa. She asked why the issue was so fundamental for farmers, many of whom having customary rights or tenancy, and the overall impact on deforestation. She highlighted some strategies to tackle the issue: help governments digitally map and demarcate forests, particularly protected ones; help landowners and tenants clarify and record their existing land use agreements and negotiate terms for replanting; help authorities map and record customary land ownership rights; and target any financial/technical assistance for replanting to ensure it benefits farmers. She said the World Bank was committed to supporting stronger security and more sustainable and inclusive cocoa production and outlined three related projects in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Stickler said there was a growing understanding and awareness that land tenure security was important in forest protection, but what was lacking was implementation and measures to record and map both forests and cocoa land parcels.

Nana Ama Yirrah described the two systems existing in Ghana: the formalized state land tenure system of statutes, legislation and regulations; and the informal customary system governed by unwritten rules, which applies to about 80% of the land. She said the two merged at the point of land rights documentation, registration, and land use planning where state laws applied irrespective of the land system. Whereas traditional leaders had absolute control over the acquisition and disposal of land under their jurisdiction, the state system was responsible for registration, planning and overall public documentation of all lands. The implication was that in any attempt to acquire a parcel of land for any purpose, one would most likely deal with the traditional authority for the land and then deal with the state system for the registration and planning issues. In that respect, the same laws on documentation, registration, and land use planning applied to all lands. Yirrah pointed out that there were as many customary laws as there were traditional area jurisdictions in Ghana. Documentation was the key to securing land.

Ana García-Morán spoke about the Côte d'Ivoire Land Partnership (CLAP) and how industry leaders were putting land tenure at the heart of cocoa sustainability. She said CLAP was laying the ground for a scalable solution to the land tenure issue by working through companies and at the community level. She said CLAP was inviting more companies and donors to join and increase the impact of the partnership.

Raphaelle Peinado explained the differences between land titles, land certificates and land use contracts and between individual and collective land certificates. To support building a scalable and inclusive model for land tenure it was important to: raise awareness among farmers about land certificates; look at the issue through a gender lens; closely involve rural land tenure committees and village land tenure committees; promote collective land certificates, where appropriate; and coordinate closely with local authorities that have pre-existing work plans. She cited as obstacles: farmers can be very skeptical about land tenure; proving customary rights to farms is a long process, and many farmers do not have the necessary documentation; many women cannot access land certificates on their own, and their ownership is tied to their husbands' customary ownership. There was a need for a coordinated approach through which different initiatives could interact closely and it was important to be mindful of the social and community dynamics around land tenure.

Robert O'Sullivan discussed his experiences with the USAID funded Integrated Land and Resource Governance project in Ghana. He noted that land and tree tenure insecurity were separate but connected and said documentation on its own may not resolve risks associated with customary norms. Discussing tree tenure, he spoke of removing the distinction between naturally occurring and planted trees, and giving all tree tenure to whoever holds land tenure. Tree registration should be halted – it was not economically, socially or technically viable and a poor use of resources. He said companies should continue supporting tree planting and tree tenure reform.

MODERATOR

Youssef N'djoré
World Cocoa Foundation

SPEAKERS

Mercedes Stickler
World Bank

Nana Ama Yirrah
COLANDEF

Ana García-Morán
Meridia

Raphaelle Peinado
SUCDEN

Robert O'Sullivan
GreenCollar Group

The Leading Global Event on Cocoa Sustainability



340
Participants



185
Entities



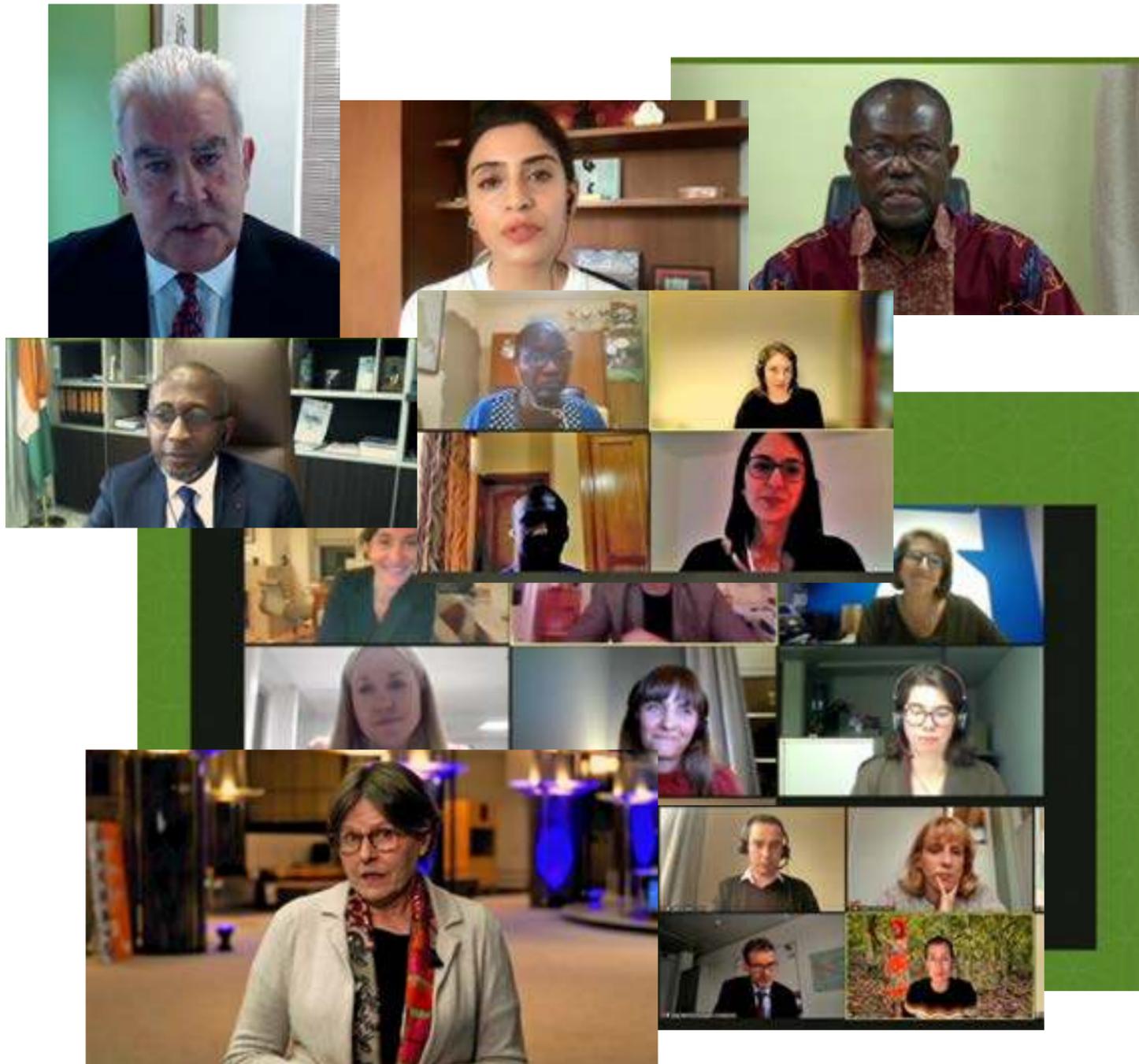
132
Speakers



38
Countries



28
Sessions



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on October 26-27 in Brussels, Belgium

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