Abidjan 2016 Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus Communiqué

Building on previous technical consultations including the 2013 Grand Bassam recommendations, we, the main cocoa producing countries of West and Central Africa, met in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire on the 28th of October 2016. We commit to moving from research to action in the fight against the Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus. The meeting participants evaluated previous efforts to control the disease and the impact and spread of Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus in our region.

The meeting noted the alarming spread and increasing virulence of the disease in the region that risks affecting the estimated four million smallholder cocoa farmers in the sub-region whose livelihoods depend on cocoa. It is therefore extremely urgent that we commit as countries and farmers to put in place a regional plan to control and eventually eradicate the spread and impact of the virus in the region.

This effort further commits to:

- Establishing aligned national programs in each country to fight the disease; and
- Supporting the development of a detailed regional plan based on strong action-oriented collaboration to fight the disease.

We further call upon our development partners, the scientific community, the private sector and other partners of goodwill to adequately resource this effort.

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Conseil du Café-Cacao (CCC), Côte d’Ivoire
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