

Key topics as plenary topics for the Next Generation cocoa symposium:

1. Attracting and empowering youth and women to cocoa production (Land tenure system and its effects on cocoa production; Input supply and credit):

Papers under this should address:

- Comparative analysis of what is available and what could be done within countries / region and the globe, models / lessons from within or other regions;
- Access to land , input d, finance , business training; Impact assessment of past training;
- Farm diversification and knowledge on integrated cocoa agriculture
- Community development

2. Rehabilitation and intensification of plantations for sustaining cocoa productivity:

Papers should address:

- Inventory studies on cocoa orchards, area and ages of existing land under cocoa cultivation
- Need for planting materials for supporting services for rehabilitation and intensification
- Possible / available on-going projects on rehabilitation
- What are the next approach – in terms of research

3. Risk mitigation plans for pest, pathogens, climate change and soil nutrient depletion:

Papers should address:

- Impacts, management and pre-emptive measures of biotic stresses on cocoa in the region;
- Impacts, management and pre-emptive measures of abiotic stresses on cocoa in the region;
- Integrated soil fertility management and future research

4. Resilience of cocoa farms and farmers through food security, income diversification and environmental stewardship

Papers under this should address:

- Production and environmental effects
- Diversification for food security

- Cocoa waste and by-product valorization
- Family / business farming

5. Improving cocoa quality and value in the region

Papers should address:

- Pathways to minimize contaminants in cocoa (OTA, FFA, PAH, Heavy metals, Pesticides residues)
- Diversifying cocoa flavours and bean characteristics in relation to different environments (Pre- harvest (genotypes, environment, etc)and post harvest (fermentation, drying, storage, processing, etc) conditions)
- Valorization of cocoa production (from bean to bar)

6. Enhancing knowledge exchange for improved adoption of research findings/technology

Papers under this should address:

- Participatory research to bridge knowledge gaps in cocoa value chain
- Gaps evaluation/analysis in technology transfer
- New means of communication (smart phones, demonstration, sharing experience, etc.)
- Farmers field day, demonstration plots, incentives through free planting materials, inputs, etc.