Challenges of agro-input supply to farmers: The requisite for improved cocoa production in Nigeria


Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria CRIN Ibadan

2016 Next Generation Cocoa Research Symposium
Background

- Agricultural inputs enhance cocoa productivity
- Cocoa contributes significantly to Nigeria’s GDP
- Production is limited by poor input availability, access and affordability

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The paper provides insights to the problems of agricultural inputs supply to small scale cocoa farmers in Nigeria.

Suggests way forward to scale-up and unlock cocoa productivity.
• Requisite inputs
  □ Land
  □ Improved seeds
  □ approved pesticides
  □ Fertilizer
  □ Improved tools: Knapsack sprayers, Jute bags
  □ Loans and credit facilities
  □ Labour
  □ Information and knowledge etc.

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Challenges to input supply for cocoa farmers

- Untimely supply of inputs to farmers by government
- High cost
- Importation of pesticides
- Fertilizer production
- Inconsistent government policy
- Limited access to critical extension service
  
  EA:FF ratio = 1: 6185

Hydrocarbon Jute bags

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### Table 1: Current prices of some approved inputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>Cocoa inputs</th>
<th>Price in Naira (₦)</th>
<th>Dollar ($) equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hybrid seedlings for 1ha Fungicides</td>
<td>222,200</td>
<td>653.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ultimax plus</td>
<td>30,000 /carton</td>
<td>88.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ridomil Gold Plus</td>
<td>120,000/carton</td>
<td>352.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Actara 25 WG</td>
<td>30,000/carton</td>
<td>88.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Esiom 150 SL</td>
<td>1,100/bottle</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clear weed</td>
<td>15,000/carton</td>
<td>44.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Touch down</td>
<td>32,000/carton</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Phostoxin</td>
<td>6,000/Tin</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Knapsack sprayer CP15</td>
<td>16,000/one</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hydrocarbon jute bags</td>
<td>22,500/Pack</td>
<td>66.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Fertilizer bag NPK 50 kg</td>
<td>7,000/bag</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Market survey, 2016

@₦340 to $1 USD
Past intervention

• National Cocoa Development Committee NCDC input supply at 50% subsidy

• Cocoa Transformation Agenda CocTA/Growth Enhancement Scheme GES at 50% subsidy

600,000 hybrid cocoa pods were freely distributed to farmers

On going interventions

✔ Supply of hybrid cocoa to farmers by CRIN

✔ New policy document on Agriculture

✔ Youths’ empowerment programme via cocoa production by Ooni of Ife

✔ Credit supply of Ridomil Gold and Actara pesticides (N6m) by MOAFAK Nig Ltd to coop. farmers in Ondo State
Way forward in input supply

- Timely release of budgetary allocation for inputs before planting
- Stable government policy on input supply
- Improved GES in input distribution
- Cocoa specific fertilizer

- Collaboration with international cocoa partners: WCF, Nestle, IDH, Cargill etc.
- Formation of Cocoa Trade Development Cooperation (CTDC)
- Improved extension system for input supply

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Fig. 1: Cocoa input supply model for farmers in Nigeria

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Conclusion

• Production and distribution of cocoa inputs to farmers is key towards sustaining the demand by chocolate and beverage industries

• Public-private partnership should be properly harnessed to ensure inputs access to farmers at right time

• This will promote agribusiness and competition among relevant stakeholders
Acknowledgement

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Thank you for your attention