



Presentation
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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
 - Multi stakeholder Platform
 - Third party voluntary Cocoa Certification
 - Income Diversification
 - Child Labour & Labour saving techniques
 - Gender issues
 - Youth in cocoa
 - Conclusion
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Introduction

- ▶ The importance of the theme ***Next Generation of Cocoa Research for West and Central Africa*** cannot be overemphasized.
- ▶ This is because the cocoa sector has over the years been deprived of a comprehensive, well integrated tailor made research that guide the sector stakeholders.
- ▶ Again there has not been any initiative that is geared towards bringing researchers together to share information and best practices for effective learning and management of resources.



Effective Multi-stakeholder Platforms

- ▶ The emerging rural development paradigm entails new agricultural practices as well as necessitates a new approach to policy-making and the steering and control of rural development (Wiskerke et al., 2003).
- ▶ Lack of strategic linkages among partnerships leads to excessive multiplicity and fragmentation of the governance system and limits the potential for up scaling.
- ▶ The disjointed manner of interventions in the cocoa sector has been documented (Owusu-Amankwah, 2015).
- ▶ Global cocoa actors are convinced about the role an enhanced partnership could play as a way forward to achieve sustainability.
- ▶ Establishment of partnership platforms in some of the producer countries is an indication of acceptance on the part of national stakeholders to work together.
- ▶ However they must be seen as effective platforms, driving sustainable change in the sector but not another mere 'talk shops'.
- ▶ Effective PPP requires strong management and coordinating teams that ensure
 - ▶ Inclusiveness
 - ▶ equal opportunity of participation
 - ▶ balanced representation of all user groups
 - ▶ balance of power in decision-making among stakeholders,

Third Party Voluntary Cocoa Certification

- ▶ This is becoming a vital way for regulating development in the sector through the promotion of a range of new governance and production guidelines and code of ethics as symbols of quality and ethical practices in the global cocoa business
- ▶ This is seen as filling the regulating hole in response to the global pressure in view of the inadequacy of the state in regulating the environmental and social relations.
- ▶ However, should not replace public regulations.
- ▶ The state should be able to count on constituencies consolidated by private initiatives to defend existing state regulations and to lead the search for more sustainable practices.
- ▶ Under these conditions, private regulatory initiatives working in tandem with public regulations can reinforce and extend social justice and environmental sustainability in production, trade, and consumption arenas (Bitzer 2012) to prevent fragmentation, confusion among farmers and duplication.



Income Diversification

- ▶ Evidence shows that farmers are diversifying into either farm, non-farm or both farm and non-farm activities but the extent of diversification by the farmers is not high enough (Owusu-Amankwah, 2015) to move them out of poverty.
- ▶ However, the farmers who diversified are better off than those who do not diversify at all.
- ▶ Empirical evidence has shown that non-farm diversification yields better incomes than farm diversification.
- ▶ Stakeholders must work together to make cocoa farming lucrative again.
- ▶ It means that there is the need to deal with issues such as
 - ▶ land tenure system which turns to fragment land that make cocoa farming not sufficient for better livelihood
 - ▶ replace unsustainable farming practices with improved seedlings
 - ▶ timely delivery of appropriate inputs
 - ▶ manage the effect of climate change
 - ▶ build the capacity of actors especially farmers.



Child Labour

- CL is multifaceted problem and requires multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral inputs.
- In addition to focusing on social protection, the betterment of economic conditions for the improvement of the communities and the broader socio-economic situations in the country are the broadest policies implied here.
- Empirical evidence indicated that CL is very much linked with farmers' livelihood in the sense that enhanced livelihood, all things being equal, translates into enhanced child welfare,
- Yet the interventions in the sector have hardly linked the two
- A key research gap that is known and critical in this area is research into the extent and nature of child trafficking and modern slavery practices so that stakeholders can tackle the problem head on if it exists.



Labour Saving Techniques

- ▶ Invention of simple and safer equipment and appliances that will be affordable and easy to use will reduce the health risk in farming, and thus reduce the worst aspects of CL where it is used.
- ▶ This implies the development of simple ergonomic tools, such as pod-pickers, for instance, to reduce strain on the back due to continuous bending by allowing producers to stand while picking.
- ▶ Tools for pruning and opening cocoa pods and means to transport loads such as tricycles, would be simple interventions with direct and indirect benefits, including reduction of CL.
- ▶ Economic incentives are suggested to induce the private sector to innovate and invest into these with rural labour as focus.
- ▶ This will move the cocoa production system to a more contemporary entrepreneurial farming system (Van der Ploeg, 2009) that blends the local and traditional with global and modern agricultural systems to promote both farm and non-farm activities for sustainable income.
- ▶ This can operate to undermine the undesired aspects of CL while still allowing for the possibility of a healthy, communally contextualised child work.

Gender Issues

- ▶ Discuss to ensure that both men and women actors are fairly treated and rewarded. Because cocoa production is seen by many as a male dominated occupation, there is the need to mainstream gender and also empower women to fully participate



What will make cocoa production attractive to the Youth?

- ▶ It is well known that cocoa farming is dominated by old and aged people with the average age of 55 years. Various factors account for this situation but the bottom line is that cocoa farming is not attractive to the youth. Whiles some of the factors are obvious, some will have to be researched into in order to appropriately motivate and entice the youth into cocoa production.



Conclusion

- ▶ The Issues raised are just a tip of an iceberg.
- ▶ The issues that confront the cocoa sector especially, Africa are enormous
- ▶ What are the role of researchers and stakeholders in all these?
 - ▶ As researchers our role will be to develop the capacity to provide independent, honest and critical thoughts that can guide the sector into sustainability and wealth creation for all actors.
 - ▶ It is essential to determine methods to address the specific sector needs or requirements as well as share information for the collective growth of the sector.
 - ▶ **We will only be successful in achieving sustainability when the relationship between research and innovation is fully developed.**



Thank you for
your attention

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- It undertakes comprehensive multidisciplinary research, training, consultancy and advisory services related to community and organization development.
- SED Consult is made up of seasoned consultants who have gained both national and international recognition in development consultancy, with special expertise in rural and urban development, research and project planning and management. It has excellent reputation for training and capacity building.