



## STCP Alliance Regional Executive Committee 2006 Meeting – Accra

The Executive Committee of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) Alliance met on September 7th through 8th, 2006 in Accra, Ghana to review and adopt the 5-year Phase II Program strategy as a follow-on to a Pilot Phase launched in October, 2002.

The meeting in Accra brought together key stakeholders from across the region to work together towards developing a regional vision and the future base for a sustainable cocoa economy (Photo 1). Stakeholders included private and public sector representatives from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria, the global cocoa industry, producer alliances, donors, and research. The stakeholders were presented with the framework of a 5-year regional strategy for STCP with respect to increasing farmer income and contributing to agricultural sector growth.



**Photo 1:** Participants at the STCP Alliance regional executive committee meeting in Accra (Ghana), in September 2006.

Recognizing the accomplishments of STCP in the Pilot Phase and the specific views expressed by the various country representatives, WCF and the global cocoa industry, and USAID, the Executive Committee of STCP notes and resolves that:

- \* The STCP partnership has been an important innovation from which stakeholders have derived significant value.
- \* The activities and accomplishments of STCP are appreciated in the different partner-countries and STCP

should thus continue its significant contribution to the cocoa sector.

- \* Individually, representatives from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria, WCF, global cocoa industry, USAID, and IITA affirmed their support for a 5-year Phase II program starting October 2006. WCF and the global cocoa industry and USAID are already committing funds.

- \* The Phase II program will be reviewed to assess the wider implications of scaling up proposed innovations and to ensure that they contribute to farmer income and overall agricultural sector growth in the respective countries.

- \* The phase II program will be aligned with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) as formulated by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the regional economic communities (e.g. ECOWAS).

- \* The Phase II programmatic activities will be prioritized and discrete results and performance indicators identified to ensure that the largest impacts are achieved with the available resources.

- \* Other public and private development investors and donors, national, regional, and international organizations are invited to join forces to build on the successes of STCP in West and Central Africa.

The Executive Committee agreed to meet again in six months in Cameroon to review the progress on the implementation of the core program of STCP and to deliberate on a still-to-be determined policy issue of regional significance for a sustainable cocoa economy.

*Reported by S. Weise (IITA/STCP)*



## Cocoa Production Improves in West Africa under IITA/STCP Project

“Farmers who participated in the farmer field school (FFS) scheme on integrated cocoa crop and pest management - initiated in Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria - recorded between 15 to 40% yield increase while pesticide use by these farmers decreased by 10 to 20% during the pilot phase (2003-2005)” of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) managed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

These were the words of Dr. Stephan Weise, STCP Regional Manager, while speaking at Sabongida Ora, Edo State (Nigeria), at the beginning of a four-week Farmers’ Field School (FFS) training program for cocoa farmers and extension workers (Photo 2). Dr. Weise who spoke through Ms. Irena Byrina, of IITA Contracts and Grants Office, said the STCP has strengthened 15 large farmer cooperatives through training and technical support with potential outreach to over 31,000 farmers in the cocoa producing countries. He said that STCP had demonstrated that through group sales, and more transparent and direct transactions, farmers can receive 5-15% higher farm-gate prices on their produce.



**Photo 2:** Participants at the opening of a four-week training workshop held at Sabongida Ora (Edo State, Nigeria).

Edo State Deputy Governor, Chief Mike Oghiadomhe represented by the State Commissioner for Agriculture, said the government embraced the FFS as the ideal extension approach in cocoa production and marketing in order to improve the living standards of farmers in the State. He said it was for this reason that the State government accepted to collaborate with IITA/STCP and other stakeholders to enhance cocoa production in the area. He said in addition to the N10m1 paid to the National Cocoa Development Commission (NCDC), the State government has also paid N4.4m to support the FFS.

Earlier in a speech, Dr. Chris Okafor, STCP-Nigeria Country Manager, described the FFS as participatory extension approach which encourages farmers to make

their own discoveries about farm management practices, improve their understanding of crop and pest management systems, as well as reduce their dependence on costly external inputs. “FFS seeks to improve farmers’ observational abilities, knowledge, and decision-making capacity to solve their own production problems, and using innovation in extension delivery which responds robustly to local needs and resources” said Dr. Okafor.

Hosted and managed by IITA, the STCP is a collaborative initiative of the public and private sector operators aimed at improving the economic and social well being of smallholder tree crop farmers in West Africa. The World Cocoa Foundation and the global cocoa industry, and USAID have been primary supporters of this effort. Working with partners (including farmers and producer organizations, the global chocolate industry and cocoa trade, donors and development agencies, policymakers, national governments, and research institutes such as the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, IITA/STCP has been spreading its activities to cover all cocoa producing states of Nigeria.

*Reported by Taye Babaleye (IITA)*

### STCP at the 15th International Cocoa Research Conference in San Jose (Costa Rica)

The 15th International Cocoa Research Conference (ICRC) of the Cocoa Producers Alliance (CoPAL), held from October 9 to 14, 2006 in San Jose, Costa Rica was attended by three representatives of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), namely Dr. Denis Sonwa and Messrs. Isaac Gyamfi and Pierre Tondje (IRAD). The Conference theme was: “Cocoa Productivity, Quality, Profitability, Human Health and the Environment”. Pierre Tondje presented a paper entitled “Evaluation of *Trichoderma asperellum* (PR 10, PR11, PR12, 657-9) as biological control agents of *Phytophthora megakarya* the causative agent of black pod disease on cacao”, while Denis Sonwa and Isaac Gyamfi participated in several Conference discussions. Key among the discussions were the sharing of STCP experience in cocoa agroforests in Cameroon and, the on-going efforts in developing and validating new knowledge dissemination approaches on cocoa using participatory cocoa production videos through video viewing clubs. The Conference recognized the need for more research efforts in social and economic issues around cocoa production technologies. The success of STCP in adapting the farmer field schools for training was hailed and encouraged.

*Reported by I. Gyamfi and D. Sonwa (IITA/STCP), and P. Tondje (IRAD)*

## World Cocoa Foundation Awards STCP-Ghana Country Manager

Isaac Gyamfi, STCP Country Manager for Ghana has been awarded by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) at a reception, after the WCF Bi-Annual Partnership Meeting held in Washington D.C., USA on October 4, 2006. He received a plaque in recognition of his dedication to Sustainable Cocoa in West Africa (Photo 3).

Isaac Gyamfi was awarded alongside four other persons from Southeast Asia, South America, Latin America and the USA for their support to cocoa development. Gracing the award occasion was a high powered delegation from Ghana who attended the WCF bi-annual meeting, in the persons of the Ghana Ambassador to the USA, His Excellency Dr. Bawuah Adusei; Honorable Akosua Frema Osei Opere (Dep. Minister for Manpower and Employment); Mr. Isaac Osei (Chief Executive, Ghana Cocoa Board); Mrs. Agnes Kyei Frimpong (Ag. Dep. Director of Research, Ghana Cocobod) and Mr. Andrew Akrofi (Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana).



*Photo 3: Isaac Gyamfi with his award poses for picture with Bill Guyton, President of the World Cocoa Foundation.*

Mr. Gyamfi recognized and appreciated the support of WCF and its industry membership, Government of Ghana, the tenacity of the cocoa farmers and the excellent team spirit among the STCP country and regional staff with a strong administrative support from IITA. He claimed to receive the award in behalf of all and hoped for a continued support by all stakeholders for the STCP as a key industry cocoa effort in West/Central Africa.

*Reported by I. Gyamfi and S. Weise (IITA/STCP)*

## Roundtable Held in Monrovia to Discuss Re-Vitalizing Liberian Cocoa Industry

STCP Liberia with the Liberian Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Tennessee hosted a roundtable meeting on May 26, 2006 to deliberate the current problems facing the Liberian cocoa sector and identify possible solutions. Participants consisted of 35 individuals including Liberian Agriculture Minister J. Christopher Toe, a delegation from the Liberian Produce Marketing Company (LPMC), Mr. Joseph Sesay from the United Nations Mission in Liberia, a representative from the Liberian National Legislature, Forestry Development Authority, Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), STCP-Liberia Project Manager as well as others from the public and private sector in Liberia (Photo 4).

The roundtable facilitator, Dr. Michael Wilcox, Assistant Professor at the Agricultural Economics Department (University of Tennessee), described the focus of the meeting as an opportunity “to share experiences and to assist the Ministry of Agriculture as they develop policy initiatives geared towards enhancing cocoa production and fostering the creation of markets that would provide fair prices for all actors in the marketplace, especially farmers.”



*Photo 4: Participants of the Liberian Cocoa Sector Roundtable outside of the Liberian Ministry of Agriculture.*

The two-day meeting commenced with the development of a baseline PESTLE and SWOT analysis of the Liberian cocoa sector. Issues regarding the current political, economic, social, technological, legal and environmental factors that may facilitate or constrain the re-vitalization of the cocoa sector were considered. A variety of best practices and lessons learned were then presented by Dr. Victor Halim Iyama of the National President Cocoa Association of Nigeria, Research Manager Charles Kukah of Ghana’s COCOBOD, Chief Executive Philip Sigley of the Federation of Cocoa Commerce Limited based in the UK, Prof. Eric Tollens of the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, and Dr. Jim Gockowski from IITA. Finally, several possible action steps were identified. These included cocoa market

liberalization, the dissemination of price information, development of institutions to enforce internationally recognized cocoa quality standards and maintain quality control and the formation of farmer groups (Photo 5).



**Photo 5: Dr. Eric Tollens discusses the outlook for the Liberian cocoa industry with Roundtable participants in Monrovia.**

STCP Liberia's current FFS efforts were recognized and the basis for a key recommendation aimed at, according to the final report, "reviving or creating a productive and sustainable research and extension program that will promote capacity building and provide backstopping to all cocoa market participants will facilitate market development and ameliorate production."

The roundtable served as a launching point for current STCP-Liberia extension and research efforts. Farmer Field School activities continue in Nimba County and research is focusing on understanding the Liberian farm households and cocoa markets. In conjunction with the University of Tennessee, fieldwork began in October with the surveying of 36 villages throughout the three major cocoa growing counties of Bong, Lofa and Nimba. This baseline survey will provide researchers with information regarding current farming conditions, the availability and use of a broad range of agriculturally related technologies, current farmgate prices and constituents of household income among other important agronomic and economic indicators. Upon the completion of the fieldwork and data analysis, policymakers will reconvene in Monrovia to revisit the outcomes of the first roundtable and set an agenda for continuing, modifying and introducing recommended action steps.

At the moment, the proceedings from the roundtable is being used by a Joint Provisional Board set up by the Liberian Government to, vis-à-vis present realities, review the functions and responsibilities of the Liberia Marketing Corporation (LPMC) which has de jure monopoly over the domestic purchase and export of tree crops. The STCP-Liberia Project Manager was selected by the Government to be a member of this board.

*Reported by Alicia English and Michael Wilcox (University of Tennessee), and McArthur Pay-Bayee (IITA/STCP)*

## STCP and SOCODEVI Identify Partners for the "Food for Progress 2005" Project in Cameroon

On 18th to 22nd September 2006, the Canadian non-governmental organization, SOCODEVI and STCP-Cameroon [PAP2CP] alongside their local NGO-partner, ODECO organized the second phase of a training workshop on "Creation and Development of Cooperatives" at the Humid Forest Ecoregional center of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Yaoundé. The workshop aimed to finalize the approval process of a systematic action guide for the capacity building of farmers' organizations and cooperatives, which was developed by SOCODEVI.

Attending the workshop were representatives of some local NGOs and public institutions selected and retained as project's partners in the domain of capacity building in the course of the implementation of the "Food for Progress 2005" project (FFP05), sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (Photo 6). The program envisages to support public services and private structures (civil society organizations, NGOs and others), producers' organizations, small and medium size enterprises in building their capacities and creating cooperatives. These organizations were chosen based on proposals they submitted to the project after the first training workshop on capacity building that was held in Yaoundé in May 8-12, 2006.



Photo: Gilbert Ndimasa

**Photo 6: Participants of the training workshop on capacity building of farmer organizations and cooperatives, organized by IITA/STCP and SOCODEVI, in Yaounde (Cameroon).**

The workshop organizer, Jonas Mva Mva, Country Manager of STCP-Cameroon was assisted by a number of resource persons from SOCODEVI-Canada, SOCODEVI-Côte d'Ivoire and ODECO-Cameroon.

Presiding at the closing ceremony of the workshop, the Officer in Charge of IITA-HFC, Mr. Aboubakar Yacoubou hailed the participants for their dedication to the ideals of STCP-Cameroon as it executes the FFP05 and reminded them of the role they have to play after such a training workshop. Attestations were issued to the trainees at the end of the workshop.

*Reported by G. Ndimasa (IITA) & J. Mva Mva (IITA/STCP)*

## IITA/STCP and the Cameroon “National Office for Cocoa and Coffee” Train Farmers on Information Systems

Forty seven participants representing various farmers' organizations, partners of the “Tree Crops Production, Marketing and Livelihoods Project (PAP2CP)” attended a three-day training workshop on market information systems, in October 17th, 2006 at Mengang in the Centre Province of Cameroon (Photo 7). The workshop was organized by IITA under the auspices of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) in collaboration with the National Office for Cocoa and Coffee (ONCC) of Cameroon. The workshop's theme was “The Importance of an Information System for Farmers' Organizations” and its principal objective was the creation of a collaboration network between PAP2CP and ONCC.



Photo: Gilbert Ndimasa

**Photo 7: Cross section of trainees during one of their practical sessions.**

The workshop was organized within the framework of activities being implemented under the “Food for Progress 2005 (FFP05)” project, sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the Centre and Southwest provinces of Cameroon, in a bid to fight rural poverty. It is expected that the knowledge acquired from the workshop shall reinforce the decision making capacity of peasant farmers; thus increasing their ability to ensure increased revenue.

The workshop trainer, Richard Adzogo drilled the participants on the creation and functioning of information collecting centers, evolution of information systems, institutional justification of information systems, a number of practical exercises on the use of informative documents and the role of different media (radio, television, newspapers) in an agricultural information system.

At the end of the training, an evaluation was carried out where farmer-participants expressed their satisfaction for the organization of such a workshop and promised to translate all their newly acquired information management skills into practical use during the next cocoa commercialization season.

*Reported by G. Ndimasa (IITA) & J. Mva Mva (IITA/STCP)*

## Extending Cacao for Biodiversity Conservation

The Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) in collaboration with Mars Incorporated, World Agroforestry Centre (WAC), Conservation International (CI) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) through the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) organized a workshop on “Extending Cacao for Biodiversity Conservation” from 14-18 August 2006, in Kumasi, Ghana. More than 20 participants from research institutions (national and international), development organisations, chocolate industry, bilateral cooperation, and private sector attended the workshop. The workshop program comprised power point presentations, group discussions and a field visit.

The workshop participants discussed how current cocoa production systems/models used in West and Central Africa could impact negatively on biodiversity conservation.

At the end of the workshop the participants unanimously declared the “Kumasi Quorum”. The “Kumasi Quorum” (see document next page) provides broad perspectives on future actions that need to be considered by all stakeholders to assure biodiversity conservation in present and future cocoa systems, in the production landscape of West and Central Africa.

*Reported by D. Sonwa and I. Gyamfi*



# KUMASI COCOA QUORUM - *Theobroma cacao*: the Tree of Change

**E**xcited by the potential to improve cocoa agroforestry systems;

Aware of the global under-investment in cocoa development, and the links between productivity, biodiversity and diversification; and

Concerned by the unnecessary destruction of natural forest for cocoa cultivation, and the dwindling returns to small-scale cocoa farmers;

We, the 40 participants from 8 countries attending the CSIR-FORIG/Mars, Incorporated sponsored Cocoa Biodiversity Workshop (14th - 18th of August 2006), recommend the following actions in representing our views of national cocoa agencies, national research institutions, international research organizations, NGOs, plant researchers and, the private sector. The Quorum resolve to progress the following with respect to more sustainable cocoa systems, and call on others to endorse and participate in a comprehensive and integrated approach to cocoa development in West Africa. Specifically, to support the goals to intensify, diversify and make more biodiverse cocoa agroforestry systems and their associated landscapes, we seek change with respect to:

## **Policy, Regulation and Natural Resource Management**

- to mainstream cocoa production into land-use planning and policy
- to halt destruction of forests for cocoa production
- to ensure a supportive policy environment exists for sustainable cocoa and companion industries
- to maximize the community/household use and storage of water resources
- to promote ways to cope with changes in existing rainfall patterns.

## **Cultivation Practices**

- to provide demand-driven science to address farmers and other stakeholders problems
- to grow fewer cocoa trees with higher per tree productivity and profitability
- to free up existing agricultural land under unproductive cocoa for other enterprises and conservation
- to reinforce cultivation practices that are not detrimental to natural habitats and their biota
- to support profitable small-scale input enterprises, including tree nurseries
- to provide better access to improved germplasm for both cacao and companion species

- to increase soil fertility and reduce soil mining.

## **Incentives, Investment and Institutions**

- to harmonize efforts through horizontal and vertical integration of stakeholders activities
- to exploit avenues for payments for environmental services
- to test incentive payments for biodiverse companion planting
- to strengthen the market chain for complementary enterprises.

The Kumasi Cocoa Quorum recognizes the need for improvements in the legislation concerning natural resources, especially the ownership of land and trees. We call for action to establish procedures to establish farmers' ownership over planted and naturally regenerated trees on their farms as an essential incentive for increasing tree cover in cocoa farming landscapes.

Change demands clear logic and planning to build the future for the cocoa farmers in West Africa. Importantly it needs recognition at the level of Millennium Development Goals, CAADP, and National Poverty Reduction Strategies. All stakeholders will need to participate in the decisions to determine the best paths for the future. No single sector can be expected to bear the sole responsibility or burden for change - it must be a collective effort. The knowledge and experience to move forward and achieve targeted growth are within our reach. We, the Kumasi Cocoa Quorum state emphatically that current cocoa farming systems cannot be as productive in the future decades without planned, agreed and concerted efforts of all sectors. Therefore, it is imperative that we collectively act now to foster the appropriate changes for the future. Cocoa has been and will continue to be the lifeblood of millions of West African farmers. We cannot abandon their future!

## **QUORUM constituent institutions :**

ASNAPP, CERGIS, CI, CRIG, CSIR, FLD, FORIG, ICRAF, KNUST, Mars Incorporated, MOFA, Samartex, SNV, STCP-IITA.

## The UpCocoa Project launch

On 7 and 8 November the Upcocoa Project (Cameroon) was launched in a meeting held at IITA in Yaoundé. The project aims at upgrading the capacities of cocoa farmers and their organisations, enabling them to create and manage a professional and sustainable business for their production.

The Officer in charge of IITA Cameroon, Mr. Aboubakar Yacoubou, opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants to IITA and wishing them successful deliberations.

The meeting brought together the partners in the project: The Institute for Sustainable Commodities (ISCOM), RABO Bank/RIAS (International Advisers on cooperative organisations and credit worthiness), the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP/IITA), Masterfoods B.V./Mars Inc. (a Dutch-based multinational confectionery company with expertise on sustainable production methods), ADM Cocoa bv (the Dutch branch of an international cocoa processor experienced and interested in working with cooperative farmer organisations). Moreover, five local farmer organisations in Cameroon took part in the gathering.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop a work plan for the coming months and discuss the involvement of cooperatives in the project. As an overall criterion, the meeting emphasised the need for an entrepreneurial approach focusing on adding value and creating a sustainable flow of income to the farmers.

Mr. Teun Wolters (ISCOM director and project manager) stated that the Upcocoa project is aimed at "inclusive thinking". The project should be based on mutuality and be beneficial to all stakeholders in the supply chain. The different partners made presentations on their different institutions and explained what they intended to contribute to the project.

STCP Cameroon will contribute through its knowledge of the project area, its existing field partners, experience with farm field schools and farmer organisation strengthening, and the network of relations it already has in the country.

ADM Cocoa bv will share its experience in cocoa sourcing acquired in Cameroon and other African countries as well as its technical expertise (such as in product quality and logistics) as primary cocoa processor.

Masterfoods/Mars Inc. will share expertise in the field of sustainable production methods based on research in different countries, as well as its experience and research in the field of quality improvement.

RIAS will advise the project on how to realize a viable cooperative organisation and how to obtain access to financing.

ISCOM has experience in organizing farmers in Ghana and Kenya, which is helpful in shaping and managing the project.

The present representatives of farmer organisations made a significant contribution by pointing at the real needs of the farmers and their present efforts to organise themselves.

The final steps to decide on the inclusion of a number of farmer organisations will involve various meetings with their members, assessment of their potential and willingness to comply with organisational and professional requirements, resulting in the signing of a collaboration agreement by March 2007.

The project is largely financed by a donation from the Cocoa Buffer Fund/Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture (LNV). STCP/IITA, ADM Cocoa bv and Masterfoods B.V./Mars Inc. will make substantial in-kind contributions.

*Reported by T. Wolters (ISCOM)*

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This is the quarterly Newsletter of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program for West and Central Africa, produced by the Regional Office in Yaounde, Cameroon. The STCP Management would welcome any contributions/suggestions.

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The core STCP Platform, which is managed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), is supported financially by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the global chocolate industry and trade associations represented by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), and Masterfoods. To get a full list of additional support provided by development investors and the private sector to specific STCP associated activities, please contact the STCP Regional Office through [stcp-wca@cgiar.org](mailto:stcp-wca@cgiar.org).