Project Factsheet

Project duration: October 2015 – September 2016
Implementation partner: A&D Sanchez Cocoa
Further partners: Albrecht & Dill Trading GmbH, CORPEI, Lindt & Sprüngli
Direct beneficiaries: 1,127 smallholder cocoa farmers
Focus areas covered: creating the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers; fostering an enabling environment and removing constraints

Traceable & Sustainable Cocoa Program
Ecuador

Fine flavor cocoa farmers of three selected provinces in Ecuador are provided with suitable training in agricultural, environmental and social topics, as well as access to farm investments necessary for a professional cocoa farm management.

Context
Ecuador is the largest producer of fine flavor cocoa worldwide. Yet, smallholder cocoa farmers in Ecuador have a low productivity and subsequently low income, due to ageing cocoa trees, lack of knowledge about professional farm management (e.g. pruning, fertilizing, shade) and lack of tools and investments necessary for a professional farm management (e.g. pruning tools, suitable fertilizer). This one-year pilot project tries to overcome these barriers by providing the necessary training and access to farm investments.

Project Content
Within this project, A&D Sanchez Cocoa’s aim is to implement a traceable and sustainable cocoa bean supply chain for Nacional cocoa from Ecuador. 1,127 smallholder cocoa farmers in the provinces Los Ríos, Bolivar and Pichincha are organized in groups in order to ease the availability of farmer trainings and visits from agronomists of A&D Sanchez Cocoa.

Farmers are trained in good agricultural, environmental and social practices. The farmers receive knowledge and skills in good agricultural practices with particular focus on productivity, including use of inputs and improved planting material. Farmers have access to quality technical advice from agronomists, which enables them to create capacity to maintain cocoa farms for optimal performance.

About the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:
The Lindt Cocoa Foundation was found in 2013 and has the declared purpose of working to achieve social and ecological sustainability in the cultivation, production and processing of cocoa and other raw materials used in chocolate production.

Learn more: www.lindtcocoafoundation.org
the training sessions, the farmers will for example be trained on pruning and removing chupons regularly to obtain and maintain optimal tree architecture. The training also includes good sanitation practices on the farm to make sure that diseased or infested pods, branches and other plant material are regularly removed from the trees. The farmers are trained to maintain and plant shade trees on the farm to enhance a good biodiversity and as protection against weather risk, as well as on techniques to prevent soil erosion. Additionally, farmers are trained on responsible labor practices. Farmers further get access to adequate inputs for soil fertility management, pruning and weeding equipment, as well as disease resistant and more productive Nacional cocoa seedlings.

The project is accompanied by an extensive monitoring and performance management system for the participating farmers. A baseline farmer survey is conducted individually, and records continuously updated.

**Serving the mission of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:**

By offering smallholder farmers training and access to farm investments, the project touches upon 2 of the focus areas of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:

1) Through training in good agricultural, environmental and social practices, the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers to improve their farming practices are created.

2) Through access to inputs, equipment and fine flavor cocoa seedlings, an enabling environment is fostered and constraints farmers face to improve their practices are removed.

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