Cocoa farmers from Papua New Guinea are provided with suitable training in agricultural, environmental and social topics. In order to improve their livelihoods, agricultural and community development is fostered.

**Context**
Over 85 percent of Papua New Guinea’s population lives in rural areas and most depend on small-scale agriculture for their food and livelihoods. Cocoa, next to coffee, is the most important cash crop, providing critical income for more than half a million households. Yet, smallholder cocoa farmers 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 (e.g. pruning tools, suitable fertilizer). This project tries to overcome these barriers by providing the necessary training, as well as agricultural and community development activities to foster change. It is also important for this project to aim for overall improvement in farmer livelihoods and this requires working on social and environmental issues in cocoa communities in the medium term.

**Project Content**
The two year pilot project which started in 2018 was successful, appreciated and valued by the farmers involved in the project. We therefore decided to upscale and extend the project during the next three years to cover more farmers while integrating learnings from the pilot years. With this project, the partners aim at implementing a traceable and sustainable cocoa bean supply chain for cocoa beans from Papua New Guinea. 4,500 fine flavor cocoa farmers are organized in farmer groups of approx. 25 farmers around fermentary owners and trained by extension officers in good agricultural, environmental and social practices with particular focus on productivity, including the use of inputs and improved planting material. In training sessions, the farmers will for example be trained on harvesting, conservation of natural resources, integrated pest and disease management or...
social topics like responsible labor practices and gender based violence. The farmers are trained throughout the season through theory based class lessons and practical field lessons on selected demonstration plots.

For farmers participating in the Program since minimum two years, the trainings offered are extended to individual coaching (basis segmentation), financial literacy and savings training and recap trainings basis farmers’ needs.

In addition, based on needs, funds are invested in the distribution of farming tools like hand pruners, cocoa and shade tree seedlings, community infrastructure investments (e.g. water, schools) and environmental friendly solar dryers.

The project is accompanied by a monitoring and performance management system for the participating farmers. Further, the project is also evaluated by an external and independent party.

Serving the mission of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation

The project puts cocoa farming families from Papua New Guinea in the center, and touches upon two of the focus areas of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:

1) Training and capacity building to create the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers to improve their farming practices

2) Agricultural and community development activities foster an enabling environment and remove constraints farmers face to improve their practices are removed.

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