Project Factsheet

Project duration: October 2018 – September 2019; and October 2019 – September 2022
Implementation partner: FUPAROCA, INC
Further partners: Lindt & Sprüngli, Rizek Cacao S.A.S.
Direct beneficiaries: 985 cocoa farmers
Focus areas covered: creating the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers; fostering an enabling environment and removing constraints

Sustainable Fine Flavor Cocoa Program
Dominican Republic

Context
Cocoa is one of the most important economic, social and ecological crops of the Dominican Republic. It is one of the principal sources of income of the rural areas with more than 40,000 producers, 80% of which are small and medium (≤5 ha). The Dominican Republic is characterized by high quality fine flavor cocoa produced mostly organically, considered as contributing to the forest cover of the country. In general, cocoa cultivation is characterized as unprofitable. Among the productive technical factors affecting this situation are, a) low productive efficiency, b) loss of the potential value of cocoa and c) poorly diversified systems. a) The low productive efficiency is affected mainly by low yield and high production costs. At the national level, the average yield is 361.4 kg/ha of dry cocoa. b) Loss of quality potential or loss of cocoa value is affected by poor management during harvesting, postharvest and high levels of intermediation that reduce the price of cocoa on the farm. c) Little on-the-farm productive diversification, low productivity of associated crops and non-utilization of the ecosystem services account for little generation of alternative income. This has discouraged generational renewal and together with the lack of basic services in many of the communities contributes to increase the levels of poverty in these areas.

This is why Fuparoca and the Lindt Cocoa Foundation have the objectives of improving the livelihoods of 985 cocoa-producing families of the Northcentral and Northeast regions of the Dominican Republic. The project started as a pilot in 2018, and is now scaled up with a long-term project.

Project Content
The Program will contribute to enhance the income of 985 small and medium farmers and their families through increasing the productivity of the farms of beneficiary producers. The outcome envisioned from improving the physiological condition of the farms is an increase in production. At the same time, the Program will promote and

About the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:
The Lindt Cocoa Foundation was founded 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
develop several activities associated with improving the living conditions of inhabitants of the communities at large. It will encourage savings and develop initiatives to generate alternate income which, in addition to increasing the productivity of cocoa, shall contribute to enhance the living conditions and food safety of the families in these communities. The Program will be implemented in the Northcentral and Northeast regions of the country.

The activities will be focusing on training of farmers, farmer investments and community development. In 2018, the farmers participating in the programme will be trained on Good Agricultural, Environmental and Social Practices, with the plan to extend the training on topics like financial management, alternative income generating activities, administrative management and entrepreneurship and natural resources and biodiversity. Another important element is the rehabilitation and renovation of cocoa farms, whereby each farmer will receive grafted seedlings, grafts and technical support to renovate 0.5ha of their farms. Further, households will be trained on availability and quality of household water and receive water filter distribution to purify water.

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 during the individual monitoring visits of farmers on their farms. 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 the Dominican Republic 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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