Project Factsheet

Project duration: October 2018 – September 2019
Implementation partner: Olam International Limited
Further partners: Lindt & Sprüngli, FEMILIPNG
Direct beneficiaries: 2,500 smallholder 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
Papua New Guinea

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 farms (e.g. pruning tools, suitable fertilizer). This second pilot year of the 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
This second pilot year of the project aims at implementing a traceable and sustainable cocoa bean supply chain for cocoa beans from Papua New Guinea. 2,500 fine flavor cocoa farmers are organized in farmer groups of approx. 25 farmers around ferments 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.
In addition, based on needs, funds are invested in the distribution of farming tools like hand pruners and in seedling nurseries, to supply farmers with quality planting material.

Basis the results of the community needs assessment which was conducted in 2018, the project supports some communities with investments into the improvement of the water infrastructure and medicine supply. 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 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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