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 pilot year 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 pilot project, running for one year, aims at implementing a traceable and sustainable cocoa bean supply chain for cocoa beans from Papua New Guinea. 1’100 fine flavor cocoa farmers are organized in farmer groups of approx. 25 farmers around fermentation 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 responsible labor practices. 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. A needs assessment will be conducted to analyze other community needs.

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. Further, the project is also evaluated by an external and independent party.

Serving the mission of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation
The project puts coconut farming families from the Solomon Islands 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.

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