The Sustainable Cocoa Production Program

Indonesia
Bustami Muhammad Sabar (60), a cocoa farmer in Pantee Rakyat Village in Southwest Aceh District. He joined an SCPP Farmer Field School in 2012 owns 2 hectares cocoa farm that has a production of 1 ton per hectare per year.
The Sustainable Cocoa Production Program (SCPP) is a large public-private partnership comprising the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Indonesia (EKN), the Indonesian Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Swisscontact, and private cocoa sector companies. The Program targets 60,000 cocoa farmers for capacity development to improve farm productivity and quality of cocoa production. Around 1,100 Cocoa Producer Groups and at least 100 Smallholder Cocoa Enterprises, at sub-district level, have been targeted for strengthening through improvements to managerial, financial, and organizational capacities. The Program also targets certification of smallholder cocoa farmers, based on international sustainability standards, in order to improve the long-term prospects of the Indonesian cocoa sector. In late 2012, the Program added a nutrition component, designed to improve 40,000 smallholder cocoa farmers’ understanding of what constitutes a balanced diet and develop household level kitchen gardens to improve consumption of nutritious vegetables. This is intended to improve the health and wellbeing of cocoa farming households, and enhance the productivity of cocoa farmers on their farms.

SCPP Target Operational Areas
A core target of SCPP is for every cocoa farmer involved in the Program to achieve productivity levels of at least 1,000 kg of cocoa per hectare per year through improved cocoa farm management. Improving the management of cocoa farms is achieved through comprehensive training in on-farm and post-harvest Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), responsible use of inputs, improved planting material, and strengthening of Cocoa Producer Groups.
Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB) pest was initially named Acrocercops cramerella but is now usually referred to as *Conopomorpha cramerella*. CPB, along with Heliopeltis and Squamura, are some of the major pests that attack cocoa in Southeast Asia and Indonesia. The damage to cocoa pods caused by the CPB larvae or caterpillar is evident in a discoloration of cocoa pod skins, becoming more apparent as the pod matures.
Root disease, is one of the common diseases that infect cocoa trees in Indonesia. It is a fungal disease and in infected cocoa farms, up to 50% of the trees can be destroyed. Damage caused by this disease is often due to a lack of understanding of how to manage the farm and prevent the disease from spreading. Another common disease that infect cocoa trees include trunk cancer caused by *Phytophthora palmivora*. Trunk cancer usually attacks the trunk of the tree, although large branches are also vulnerable to infection. These diseases are fostered by humid farms that experience frequent rainfall or in areas that often experience flooding.
One way of increasing cocoa farmer productivity is by organizing farmer field schools. Through these activities, farmers gain a better understanding on how to better manage pests and diseases through methods that are environmentally friendly, safe and inexpensive. They also can improve their knowledge on crucial techniques such as frequent harvesting, pruning, sanitation and appropriate fertilization of their farms. For example, by understanding the life cycle of the Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB), it is easier to intervene, break the cycle and prevent infestations. Gender integration is an important part of the SCPP Farmer Field School approach. Therefore, the target of the Program is for 20% of participants to be women.

SCPP is implemented in 19 districts spread across 6 provinces in Indonesia including Aceh, West Sumatra, West Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi and South East Sulawesi.
Frequent harvesting, pruning, sanitation and fertilization are some of the practices recommended during SCPP Cocoa Farmer Field Schools. Frequent harvesting is done to break the life cycle of specific pests, especially the Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB) and to help prevent outbreaks from infected pods still on the tree. Pruning is conducted to maximize the nutrient distribution within the cocoa trees and to stimulate flowering as well as repel pests. Sanitation is also intended to break pest lifecycles and reduce flooding caused by heavy rains. Sustainable fertilization is recommended to stimulate cocoa pod growth and improve the farm productivity.
SCPP is financed by SECO, IDH, EKN, and contributions from private sector companies including: Armajaro, ADM Cocoa, Cargill, Mars Inc., and Nestlé. The Program duration is from 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2015. The Program works closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) under an umbrella MoU with Swisscontact to implement its activities in Indonesia and also includes strong working relationships with the following local Government institutions:

- Department of Estate Crops and Forestry (Dishutbun)
- Department of Agricultural Extension and Human Resources Development (BPPSDMP)
- Department of Industry and Commerce (Disperindag)
- Department of Health (Dinkes)
- Department of Industry and Trade (Disperindag)
- Department for Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (Diskop & UMKM)
- Agency for Local Development Planning (BAPPEDA)
One SCPP Field School activity is to learn and develop superior cocoa clones that can produce good quality, healthy cocoa pods that are more resistant to pests and diseases. High quality cocoa beans are selected and grown in seedling nurseries. These highly productive seedlings are then distributed to group members and/or sold to other farmers, generating income for the group.
Another SCPP field school activity is to learn improved techniques for the rehabilitation of old or unproductive trees. These techniques include top-grafting and side-grafting, which can rejuvenate old trees and result in increased productivity in a shorter time than replanting.

In order to enhance the sustainability and commercial viability of the cocoa sector value chain in the target areas, private sector involvement is crucial. SCPP therefore works with selected companies who have a strong commitment to achieve sustainability in the Indonesian cocoa value chain by contributing both financially and in terms of implementation, creating strong linkages for long-term viability within the cocoa value chain.
Integration of the private and public sectors in Program activities and training courses ensures that the Indonesian Government can replicate the Program approach in the future and strengthens strategic linkages between the public and private sectors moving forward.

Coordination of the public and private sector’s agricultural extension staff and SCPP staff is crucial to achieve the levels of qualitative and quantitative outreach necessary for an improved cocoa economy in Indonesia.
One of the objectives of the program is improving the quality of cocoa beans through proper post-harvest handling, using equipment such as cocoa bean driers and appropriately fermenting their cocoa beans. The fermentation process for cocoa beans normally takes 4-5 days, ideally in perforated containers, such as a fermentation box. By keeping the beans at 46°C, the ideal temperature for fermentation, farmers can produce perfectly fermented cocoa beans that fulfill the standards of the cocoa processing industry.
60,000 farmer households will receive SCPP cocoa farming and business training, including 40,000 family members receiving nutrition training, by the end of 2015. It is targeted that more than 20% of participants in cocoa trainings and 80% in nutrition trainings will be female.
The SCPP nutrition component aims to improve the diet of targeted cocoa farmer households. This component focuses on understanding the nutritional status of households, provides advice and information on improving nutritional intake and supports the development of home gardens to grow vegetables that have nutritional and economic value.
The core activities of SCPP include the application of farming good practices and technology transfer systems through the implementation of farmer field schools, integration of nutrition and gender sensitivity, strengthening of farmer organizations through the establishment of farmer groups and improving access to markets and facilitating the certification process. In addition, the program actively facilitates access to integrated agri business financing for cocoa farmers, as well as improving business linkages among cocoa sector stakeholders and sharing knowledge through regional and national networking platforms.
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