

Beneficiary

Cocoa farmers, agro-dealers, processors and traders in Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea

Led by

CABI, with the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute, the Malaysian Cocoa Board, the Papua New Guinea Cocoa and Coconut Institute Ltd., and the ICCO

Time-frame

November 2013 – April 2016

STDF funding

US\$652,851 (total project value US\$945,280)



DRIVING KNOWLEDGE ON FOOD SAFETY IN COCOA ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA

The safe trade gap

Cocoa is a vital source of income for thousands of small-holder farmers across Southeast Asia but their livelihoods have been threatened by low productivity and a decline in exports. Consumers worldwide have raised concerns about food safety along the cocoa supply chain, from pesticide residue levels to contamination, which has led to growing legislation and regulations. Countries in the region – Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea – faced critical challenges to meeting food safety standards and were at risk of losing access to high-value markets in Europe, the US and Japan.

Partnership approach

Across Southeast Asia, dynamic public and private partnerships came together led by CABI, working with national institutions including the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute, the Malaysian Cocoa Board, the Papua New Guinea Cocoa and Coconut Institute Ltd., as well as ICCO and CropLife Asia. The project developed a regional approach to train facilitators including farmer leaders, extension officers, agro-dealers and processors, and to promote good practices at the farm and post-harvest. At the same time, publicity campaigns used online and audio-visual materials to reach groups along the cocoa value chain. Activities were adapted for the local context and impact surveys measured how training was driving knowledge and skills development on food safety.

Results

- Over 650 extension officers, farmer leaders, agro-dealers, traders and processors were trained and showed increased knowledge of Good Agricultural Practices, pest and disease control, post-harvest practices and regulations.

- Master Facilitators in Malaysia and Indonesia built up skills on safe cocoa practices to train trainers, which helped to disseminate improved knowledge more widely.
- Cocoa farmers reported that 90% of the major problems with growing cocoa had decreased and farmer leaders highlighted a fourfold increase in cocoa yields, 18 months after the baseline survey (Ranau, Malaysia).
- Over 90% of cocoa farmers chose to remove and bury diseased/black pods and up to 100% of agro processors were storing beans in sacks in warehouses (Sulawesi, Indonesia).

Sustaining impact

- As a spill-over effect, farmers better understood the importance of using protective clothing and equipment and how to safely use branded chemicals to manage pests and diseases.
- Training modules were included in the Malaysian Cocoa Board's Advance Course of Cocoa Technologies to increase farmers' productivity and cocoa quality.
- Opportunities exist to scale up activities across Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea, using the Farmer Field School approach, and build capacity along the cocoa value chain.

"All of the training materials are very useful for cocoa farmers. We will apply them for producing high and quality cocoa beans, and to obtain UTZ certification. Now I understand the importance of wearing hats and masks for protection when the chemicals are applied".

Ekio Santoso,
cocoa farmer,
East Java

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