Improving Institutional Capacity to Mitigate Trade Barriers due to High Cadmium Levels in Cacao

The cacao produced by Andean countries has a strong reputation for high quality. However, the soils are naturally more enriched in cadmium (Cd) concentrations compared to other producing regions in the world. This issue is highly sensitive from a socio-economic perspective since 90% of the production in the hands of poor small-scale farmers.

This project aims to improve the institutional capacity in Colombia and Ecuador to manage Cd concentrations in cacao and cocoa products using a coordinated solution based on regional collaboration. It focuses on three expected results:

(1) harmonise methods for cacao sampling and measurement of cadmium levels in cocoa and soils according to international standards; thereby preparing the countries for adequate inspection and potential certification/accreditation programs;

(2) improve mapping baselines and mapping capacity for zoning of vulnerable areas in the two countries, based on harmonised methods and data on cadmium levels in cacao beans; and

(3) develop scientifically sound and context-relevant guidelines on good agricultural practices that lower cadmium levels in cacao.

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Status
Awaiting

Project Value (US$)
$617,999

STDF Contribution (US$)
$516,989

Beneficiaries
Colombia
Ecuador

Implementing Entities
KU Leuven

Partners
International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
Wageningen University & Research
Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria (AGROSAVIA)
Escuela Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL) Ecuador