

GHANA COCOA PLATFORM

1ST PLENARY SESSION AND NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE



Akisa Hotel, Accra, 27 and 28 November, 2013

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1.0 Introduction

The Ghana Cocoa Platform (GCP) organized its First Plenary Session and National Cocoa Stakeholders Conference on 27th-28th November, 2013, at the Alisa Hotel in Accra. The theme for the Conference was “Ensuring An Effective Knowledge Platform For A Sustainable Cocoa Sector”. The GCP is a joint initiative of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and industry partners. The purpose is to enhance public-private dialogue and joint action planning to support a scaling up of sustainable cocoa industry in Ghana.

2.0 Day 1 Opening

The opening session was chaired by Mr. Sona Ebai, Chief of Party of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF). In his opening remarks, the Chairman thanked the UNDP and COCOBOD for making the establishment of the GCP a reality. He also thanked Solidaridad for its past effort at bringing players in the industry together before the establishment of the GCP. He then congratulated the National Coordinator of the GCP and officially welcomed her to the position.

In his address, the Chairman said that about 70 percent of global cocoa is produced in the western and central African regions; therefore, interventions such as the GCP in Ghana is not wrongly placed as it is important for long-term sustainability of the commodity. He said globally demand for cocoa is on the increase and Ghana has a responsibility to ensure sustainable supply of the commodity. He appealed to all stakeholders to commit themselves to achieving the goal of the Platform.

The Deputy Chief Executive for Operations of COCOBOD, who stood in for the Chief Executive, gave the Welcome Address. He also thanked the UNDP for such initiative. He remarked that this action of UNDP is an indication of its commitment to promoting cocoa sustainability. He was hopeful that the platform would provide the necessary forum to build consensus on the main issues that affect the cocoa sector.

He mentioned the following issues for consideration by the platform:

- the need to promote sustainable use of the environment,
- the need to have appropriate incentive structures for cocoa farmers, and
- the need to improve livelihoods of farmers.

3.0 Goodwill Messages/Remarks

Goodwill messages were delivered by three personalities including the Deputy UNDP Country Representative, the Technical Advisor of the WCF and the Deputy Netherlands Ambassador, on behalf of the Ambassador. The Deputy UNDP Rep. said, despite interventions so far, the industry was facing challenges with regard to sustainability and productivity and called on the platform to help find solutions to them. He appreciated the efforts of all other partners in making the establishment of the platform possible.

The WCF Technical Advisor was happy to see the platform finally born and hoped it is a new moment of great promise for the cocoa sector. He said his organization also works to address issues in the cocoa sector in western and central Africa, including interventions like the Cocoa Livelihood Program, ECOS Program (an educational program), CocoaLink and the WCF Africa Cocoa Initiative. He said these are all initiatives aimed at the long-term sustainability of the cocoa industry in the African region. He entreated the GCP to come up with ideas to tackle the issues affecting the cocoa sector in Ghana.

On his part, the Deputy Ambassador was also happy to witness the platform grow in the last three years since it was last started by Solidaridad. He stressed the need to train cocoa farmers to be business-minded in their operations and to see their farms as businesses. He thanked all the partners for the organization of the plenary.

4.0 Presentations

1. Sector Briefing: Towards Sustainable Cocoa Production in Ghana” – Mr. Emmanuel Opoku, Dep. Director (Research) COCOBOD

The presentation by the Deputy Director concentrated on policy interventions initiated by COCOBOD to ensure increased cocoa production. He said, the overall policy of the Board is to increase cocoa production to earn more for the nation and farmers. He mentioned some of the interventions as the introduction of pests and disease resistant planting materials; mass spraying for the control of diseases, and pricing system that paid the farmer up to 70 percent of cocoa fob prices.

According to the Deputy Director, there has been supply response to the policy interventions. In the last decade, Ghana’s cocoa production has doubled, increasing from around 400,000 metric tons to about 800,000 metric tons per annum.

He was however of the view that these measures have resulted in an increasing cost structure and wondered if the growth in production could justify the escalating costs. In order to control costs, ensure input supply/distribution sustainability and introduce efficiency in the industry, he suggested a policy shift in cocoa subsidy and proposed the adoption of a post-production subsidy, instead of what pertains at the moment. Under his proposal, cocoa farmers would be expected to pay market prices for inputs and new technologies. The COCOBOD would then agree with farmer organizations to set a production benchmark for cocoa farmers to achieve. Farmers whose annual production met the benchmark will then be paid a premium for their effort.

He concluded by inviting the platform to consider his proposal, alongside others, by increasing dialogue among all stakeholders to identify all the issues, the differences in opinions and find a meeting point. He also invited the platform to address the following:

- ✚ interests of all stakeholders along the chain must be taken on board so that income opportunities are sustainable for all,
- ✚ the social and environmental conditions of cocoa growing communities must be improved to support sustainable cocoa production, and
- ✚ to explore and introduce measures that maximize benefits from new market trends like certified, traceable, organic and fine flavor cocoa.

2. “A Decade of Private Sector and CSOs Contribution to Cocoa Sustainability” – Mr. Isaac Gyamfi, MD, Solidaridad West Africa

The presentation was delivered on behalf of the MD by Dr. Hendrik, an official from Solidaridad. He was of the view that Ghana’s increased cocoa production has partly been as a result of coordination of efforts between civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector (PS), over the years. Among the support provided by CSOs and the PS are research and dissemination of research results to cocoa farmers, provision of cocoa extension services to the farmers; supply of inputs; provision of labor saving technologies and training on cocoa certification. He advised COCOBOD to improve and expand its coordinating role to ensure improvement in cocoa productivity and production.

The MD said there was even a greater need now for stronger partnership between the private and public sectors, and was hopeful that the platform will help achieve that. He called on the COCOBOD to enhance its role in creating an enabling environment for private sector initiatives to thrive. He mentioned capacity building as one area where COCOBOD, CSOs and PS may collaborate to strengthen capacity of field staff. He assured the platform that his organization will continue to work with it so as to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of resources.

In his conclusions, the MD charged the platform to:

- ✚ explore how access to inputs may improve in favour of farmers doing certified cocoa, in order to make better impact, and
- ✚ explore what incentives and policies could be put in place to promote technological innovations in the sector.

3. “Building an Effective Platform: The Role of Stakeholders” – Mrs. Rita Owusu-Amankwah, National Coordinator (NC), GCP

The presentation of the NC centered on the need for all stakeholders in the cocoa industry to commit themselves to addressing the myriad of challenges militating against sustainable cocoa industry in Ghana.

Among the challenges listed were:

- ✚ inadequate extension services
- ✚ weak institutional structures
- ✚ poor infrastructural support including inaccessibility of cocoa growing communities
- ✚ farmers inability to follow good agronomic practices
- ✚ environmental threats including destruction of cocoa lands through illegal mining activities and deforestation
- ✚ poor or lack of access to agricultural financing and the cost of borrowing, and
- ✚ lack of resources (human and funding) in the cocoa industry.

She said given the importance of the cocoa industry in Ghana, stakeholders must collaborate and work together, through the platform, to find solutions to the many challenges. She said research had shown that it would be possible for Ghanaian cocoa farmers to achieve productivity levels of 800 to 1,000 kgs per hectare, instead of the present 400 kgs, if the challenges are appropriately addressed. She was hopeful that the platform will provide the

right forum to seek solutions towards the long-term sustainability of the cocoa industry in order to reduce negative impacts on the environment, enhance farmer productivity, increase incomes and generally improve socio-economic status of all operators in the cocoa value chain.

She mentioned that all stakeholders have roles to play to make the objective a reality. The role of the stakeholders is to work hard in the platform process and activities, stay committed, share their knowledge and look for the best for the future of the sector. The hard work comes when the action plan has been implemented. It will require expertise, knowledge sharing, networking, resources mobilization and the interest that the sector should thrive. The Ghana Cocoa Board, the lead agency on this Platform, she said, is expected to show commitment by putting the necessary mechanisms to implement the joint decisions of the Platform so as to enhance its relevance and credibility.

4. “Enhancing Public-Private Partnership Dialogue on Cocoa Sustainability Through Ghana Cocoa Platform” – Mrs. Rita Owusu-Amankwah, NC, GCP.

The presentation provided the reasons for the establishment of the GCP. Traditionally, cocoa sector policy formulation and implementation had been the sole mandate of the public sector, represented by the COCOBOD. In view of this, interventions by other private sector participants were not fully recognized by the public sector, resulting in duplications and inefficiencies.

Therefore, what the platform seeks to do is to provide the forum to bring all stakeholders in the industry together to build national consensus; and by so doing, better coordinate interventions by all the stakeholders and align them with sector development strategy. According to the NC, the GCP is not a project; instead, it is adopting an “all hands on deck” approach in finding solutions to grow the cocoa industry.

She presented the governance structure of the GCP; which includes a National Steering Committee, a Platform Plenary within which is centered the Platform Coordination Unit and Technical Committees. Below are the proposed roles of all stakeholders:

- National Steering Committees:

This will be made up of representatives of stakeholder organizations and its roles will include:

- ensuring the institutionalization of platform output,
- ensuring that support to facilitate platform process is progressing, and
- identifying strategic or operational changes needed by the platform.

- Platform Plenary

Platform Management Unit - PMU)

The Plenary is made up of stakeholder organizations of the GCP, each with representatives who serve the interest of their organizations. The PMU is the secretariat that would provide administrative support to the GCP. The roles include:

- coordination and technical advisory services to platform participants,
 - supervising output-based consultancies,
 - approving proposals from TCs, and
 - approving action plans.

- Technical Committees:
 - develop technical papers and recommendations, and
 - develop action plans

The GCP had set itself a 3-year duration to institutionalize stakeholder discussions and coordination in the industry. She presented a work plan and activities to be pursued during the period and gave a budget breakdown of how much it would cost to achieve this objective within the timeframe and reminded stakeholders that funding of GCP is the responsibility of all members. According to the NC, a total budget of US\$1,266,720.00 was required for the 3-year period, broken down as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget(in US\$)</u>
First	495,040.00
Second	383,040.00
Third	388,640.00

So far, total amount raised from stakeholders amounted to US\$361,000.00, leaving a funding gap of US\$905,720.00. Contributors include Mondelez Cocoa Life US\$100,000.00; WCF/ACI US\$105,000.00, and IDH US\$156,000.00. She then appealed to all stakeholders to make contributions towards the budget.

5. Setting Operational Modalities – Draft Operational Mechanisms for Platform Members” – Mrs. Rita Owusu-Amankwah, NC, GCP

The presentation was an oral summary of the hardcopy document that had been circulated during the session. The document is an operational manual of how the platform would work. It is divided into 7 sections as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction
2	Platform Definition
3	Platform Vision, Goals and Objectives
4	Principles to be observed by Participants
5	Code of Conduct
6	Criteria for Platform Participation
7	Dialogue, Structure and Mechanisms of Platform

In her presentation, the NC said that the document sets out the principles that would bind platform participants. On principles, she said there was the need for participants to respect each other’s views; tolerate each other; use persuasion instead of putting pressure on others; all stakeholders must be committed, and further take steps to implement all proposed actions assigned to their entities.

On dialogue and structure, she proposed that there would be three meetings per annum. The first two would be technical sessions while the third would be a bigger stakeholder meeting. Four technical committees are to be formed to provide experts in the development of a national plan of action. The committees would be formed around four thematic areas identified by the document, including Extension and Productivity; Environmental Issues; Crop Financing, Marketing and Pricing, and Social Protection.

Three Groups were later formed to discuss the document and make proposals for its finalization.

6. “Setting Indicators and Generating Expected Outputs for Ghana Cocoa Baseline Study” – Mr. Michael Ekow Amoah, COCBOD Focal Person

The presenter informed participants that the GCP intends to commission a study to have a baseline of the cocoa industry. His presentation centered on the draft terms of reference (TORs) for the baseline study.

He said the objective of the study was to analyze the cocoa supply chain including the socio-economic situation of cocoa farmers and other operators in the chain as well as the environment, with the view of identifying factors that may negatively affect the sustainability of the industry. Accordingly, the baseline study would be expected to provide in-depth understanding of current status of Ghana’s cocoa industry in relation to sustainability and to establish and define measurable benchmarks or indicators for the industry.

A Consultant is to be recruited to carry out the assignment with the following tasks:

- Identify and review current policies and interventions (public and private) in the cocoa sector geared towards the sustainable development of the sector.
- Develop a comparison matrix of various sustainability initiatives in the cocoa sector and identify the divergent and convergent features.
- Identify constraints and opportunities for improving the livelihoods of cocoa farming families.
- Identify how current interventions are influencing cocoa production systems as well as the productivity and livelihoods of cocoa producers.
- Propose indicators for monitoring and evaluating implementation of action plans.
- Analyze various data basis, studies and surveys to obtain the necessary facts and figures for the analysis of social, economic and environmental aspects of cocoa production.
- Identify the environmental impacts of cocoa production.
- Identify public and private sector interventions in the cocoa sector.
- Conduct stakeholder analysis to determine how they could be more involved in the sustainability of cocoa farming.

6.1 Comments on Presentations/Suggestions for Actions

- There was a general appeal from a farmer representative to stakeholders to consider translating their presentations into the local language for the benefit of their members. This was accepted and many of the presenters summarized their presentation in the Akan language.
- Many contributors lauded the birth of the GCP as a good initiative and urged the platform to work hard to achieve its objectives.
- Some contributors were worried that the presentations centered on production, to the neglect of other activities in the chain and other important considerations in the industry. The following were suggested:
 - farmers need to be assured that when they increase production, they would make more money.
 - the GCP should consciously work towards improving the cocoa value chain and not just the production.

- the GCP may also consider giving representation on the Steering Committee to some operators in the chain.
- There was the worry that from the presentations, cocoa data quoted by presenters varied. It was suggested that the platform endeavor to unify cocoa data in the country.
- On the budget and its shortfall, an appeal was made to stakeholders to graciously contribute towards funding of the GCP programs and activities.
- A participant suggested using some members of the Technical Committees for the baseline study instead of Consultants. But it was explained that the members were busy people who will not be available.
- Several contributors were worried about the environmental impact of “galamsey” and de-forestation and their long-term effect on cocoa sustainability. Participants suggested that Minerals Commission and the Forestry Commission be invited to sign on to the Platform. But it was revealed that the two institutions have representatives on the Platform. It was further suggested that:
 - chainsaw operators must be registered by Forestry Commission and obliged to practice afforestation.
 - youth groups be strengthened and supported to enter into tenancy agreements, as a way of protecting community/cocoa lands.
- A farmer representative expressed his frustrations over the several conferences that farmers have been invited to and yet not much action has been taken. He advised that for the Platform to be effective, it must work hard to address farmer challenges.
- Some farmer representative was worried about weak extension services, indicating that they hardly see COCOBOD extension officers. It was explained by other contributors that cocoa extension is now left in the hands of licensed buying companies (LBCs) and this needed to be addressed. The platform took note and indicated that the technical committee on extension will deal with this challenge.
- A participant urged the platform to explore innovative ways of making the GCP itself sustainable after its 3 years of existence.
- A contributor suggested that issue of domestic consumption of cocoa be included in the baseline study.
- Another contributor also suggested that a group of experts must be put together to carry out the baseline study because if only one Consultant is commissioned for the study, results/recommendations could be biased.
- The platform was reminded that there had been past interventions that collapsed. There was therefore the need to investigate the causes of the collapse to serve as lessons.
- Again, there was need to study existing literature on cocoa because many contain useful information. The Cocoa Manual developed by COCOBOD, for example, can be very useful even though it has not been utilized fully yet.

7.0 Group Work

Participants were put into three groups to consider various aspects of the Draft Operational Mechanisms. Each group selected its own Chair and Rapporteur who recorded the proceedings and each group presented its ideas and the end of the group work. Below are the groups and the aspects of the document that they discussed.

Group 1:

Operational modalities

Expected outcomes

Feedback into policy process

Priority thematic areas

Group 2:

Principles of the platform

Code of conduct

Criteria for participation

- ✓ application
- ✓ registration
- ✓ behavior of participants

Priority thematic areas

Group 3:

Dialoguing process

Structure

Organization

Technical support

Effective coordination and post plenary steps

Priority thematic areas.

7.1 Feedback From Group Discussions

7.1.1 Group 1.

The following were the suggestions of group 1, to be considered in the draft document:

- ✚ that the Introduction section of the document must capture achievements of platforms already operating in other countries
- ✚ that the key word “sustainability” must be clearly defined in the introductory section of the document
- ✚ that in all the document the words “supply chain” must replace “production” and “marketing” because the platform seeks to coordinate policies and interventions in the entire chain
- ✚ that the General Principles section must highlight key words like “cross cutting issues”, “a participatory process”, and “generate positive change through a planned and coordinated efforts”
- ✚ that the Vision of the GCP must read “The vision of the platform is to engage multi-stakeholder discussions, building consensus and actions to improve sustainable cocoa supply chain”
- ✚ that the Goal must read “To advocate for relevant action for a sustainable supply chain”
- ✚ that under the thematic area Extension and Productivity, issues to be considered must include who is responsible for providing extension; funding of extension; uniformity of extension message; monitoring of extension; input supply and distribution; input availability and accessibility; alignment of cocoa production/productivity data, and rehabilitation programs
- ✚ that under thematic area of Environment Issues, critical issues to be considered must include illegal mining, felling of trees, integrated land use, and impact of interventions on yield

- ✚ that under thematic area of Finance, availability and the cost of credit must be considered.

7.1.2 Group 2

Group 2 made the suggestions below:

- ✚ that under Principles of Platform section in the document, “mutual respect” must replace the word “respect”
- ✚ that platform must insert the words “All must have equal access”
- ✚ that under Code of Conduct section replace the words “accept others point of view” with the words “to respect others point of view”
- ✚ that the words “to avoid partisan politics in the discussion” must be inserted
- ✚ that under the Membership section, to include development partners, donor organizations (to replace project partners) and traditional authorities in cocoa growing areas
- ✚ that under Registration, allow for on-line registration and have criteria for membership
- ✚ that under thematic area of Social Protection, include child labor and promotion of domestic consumption of cocoa.

7.1.3 Group 3

This group’s suggestions included the following:

- ✚ that the document must specify the decision making process of the platform and further that the plenary be made the highest decision making body of the GCP
- ✚ that the purpose of the plenary be explained in the document
- ✚ that the plenary meetings be reduced to two per annum
- ✚ that a constitution be drafted to spell out roles of stakeholders
- ✚ that meetings of technical committees be flexible instead of fixed and that membership of the committees be decided by the plenary
- ✚ that under thematic area of Social Protection, promotion of domestic cocoa consumption must feature and that cocoa drink must be part of the school feeding program

8.0 Selecting Potential Thematic Areas/Issues for TCs of GCP

Before the end of the first day’s session, the Lead Facilitator read through the thematic areas as agreed and accepted by the plenary. Below are the main areas touched:

Extension and Productivity

- who is responsible for cocoa extension
- funding of cocoa extension
- uniformity of extension message
- monitoring of extension staff
- input supply and distribution
- input availability and accessibility
- proper alignment of cocoa data
- cocoa rehabilitation programs
- soil fertility
- certification

Environmental Issues

- illegal mining
- de-forestation
- integrated land use
- yield response to past interventions

Crop Financing Marketing and Pricing

- access to credit
- cost of credit
- infrastructure

Social Protection Including Labor Issues

- child labor
- domestic consumption of cocoa
- social amenities in cocoa growing communities

9.0 Closing

The day's deliberations ended at 17.03 hours.

10.0 Day 2 Opening

Day 2 session started at 08.45 hours, after the Lead Facilitator called the meeting to order. He then proceeded to recap the previous day's deliberations. This was followed by a presentation by the Ghana Cocoa Program Manager (GCPM) at Solidaridad.

11.0 Presentations

11.1 Taking Stock of 2013 Actions” – Mr. Vincent Frimpong Manu, GCPM, Solidaridad

This presentation provided information on what actions had been taken since the last stakeholder meeting in 2012, then organized by Solidaridad. The actions centered on extension, research and certification.

For extension, the following actions were taken:

- ✚ WCF used COCOLINK to train 40,000 farmers. COCOBOD is expected to take over the farmer training from next year.
- ✚ Solidaridad and AGROECO trained 10,000 farmers.
- ✚ CRIG undertaking extension project with WCF.
- ✚ Using CCE curriculum, WCF/SWF/COCOBOD trained farmers on good agricultural practices (GAP).
- ✚ SWA trained 40,000 farmers in 35 districts.
- ✚ SWA scaled up training on farmer groups.
- ✚ AGROECO/SWA intensified disease control and collaborated with seed production unit (SPU) of COCOBOD to get planting materials for farmers.
- ✚ Trained and encouraged farmers on separation and boundary tree planting.

- ✚ Conducted auditing of biodiversity hotspots and replanting of trees with WCF defining and setting indicators for biodiversity and SWA and GDI collaborating in this regard as well.
- ✚ WCF collaborating with SWA and using videos to encourage farmers to adopt GAP.
- ✚ Forest Trends/ICUN initiated climate smart cocoa project.
- ✚ COCOBOD developing drought and disease resistant materials.

For research, actions taken included:

- ✚ CRIG developed a research policy document; conducted trials on agro-forestry systems, and carried out assessment of natural ecosystem.
- ✚ Cooperation fostered among SWA/COCOBOD/WCF to train CSSVD and IBC staff and 40,000 farmers trained in UTZ certification.

For certification:

- ✚ COCOBOD developed regulatory framework.
- ✚ GCP established.
- ✚ RA certified 46,108 hectares.

11.2 Comments/Reactions on Presentation

A few concerns were raised on the presentation.

- ✚ First, some contributors gave the information that, a few organisations such as Cocoa Merchant, Olam, Kuapa Kokoo and Adwumapa Buyers are training farmers on certification with Cocoa Abrabopa along training 11,000 farmers. The presenter admitted the contributions but declared that he couldn't have given such information without clearance from the parties.
- ✚ Second, a contributor wished to know if certification is an agenda of the COCOBOD; and if so, how transparent is the exercise. The answer was that it had been an initiative of the private sector and that certification has in-built protocols/mechanisms for transparency.
- ✚ Third, another contributor wanted to know how COCOBOD was regulating and monitoring certification exercises. The Board indicated that it had come out with a document for regulation/monitoring.

12.0 Panel Discussions

There were in all a total of five panel discussions on the 2nd day of the plenary session. Each panel had a Speaker who made a presentation on the relevant topic; a team of panel members who commented on the speaker's presentations, and a moderator who facilitated the session. Each speaker was allotted 25 minutes for presentation while each panel member had 5 minutes for his/her contribution. Finally, participants were allowed some 10 minutes to comment on each panel discussion.

12.1 "Technology and Knowledge Transfer in Ghana's Cocoa Sector" Rev. Dr. Asuming Brempong, University of Ghana.

The Presenter re-emphasized the importance of Ghana's agriculture/cocoa on the overall economy of the country. Agriculture employs 40-50 percent of labor force; about 2.8 million households in the sector, with 500,000 in cocoa alone. He therefore called for massive public and private investments in the sector in order to achieve desired results. He was of the view

that investments are still low, resulting in lower use of technologies. For example, irrigation is hardly practiced and fertilizer use is 8kg/ha which is comparatively woefully inadequate.

He was of the view that both traditional and modern technologies are used in cocoa production but the modern methods are limited. He commended CRIG for its effort in this regard. The modern methods included CODAPEC mass spraying; hi-tech hybrid seedling, and fertilizer use. Unfortunately, not many cocoa farmers can access these technologies. He recalled a survey conducted in 2008 in which 73 percent of cocoa farmers did not have contact with extension, a condition that limited their access to new technologies.

In the absence of strong extension, cocoa farmers depended on other sources for critical information. In the same survey under reference, it became apparent that cocoa farmers had four main sources of information, including personal, public, private and mass media, indicating limited use of the internet and telephones. A little over 54 percent of farmers had information from personal sources.

Unfortunately, farmers do not seem to trust credibility of the media. First, because they are unable to ascertain the credibility of persons they listen to. Second, because the mass media has no feedback mechanisms; and thirdly, because there is no means of seeking clarification.

He proposed specific actions for the consideration of GCP to improve technology transfer and dissemination to cocoa farmers. They include:

- ✓ Advocate for increased investments in developing new cocoa technologies and effectively disseminating such information. There can be no alternative to this.
- ✓ Because private sources of information are crucial for cocoa farmers, it must be targeted and improved, such as more attention being paid to farmer field schools.
- ✓ Radio and other forms of media can be very important sources of information for farmers; and therefore, must be encouraged, targeted for investment and promoted.
- ✓ Technology transfer must be self-sustaining.

12.2 Panelists Contributions

- CRIG is working to educate farmers on the use of hi-technologies. For example, with funding from the EU and Calibauts, CRIG is introducing new technology for cocoa fermentation through use of trays, which is said to have several advantages.
- CRIG is also training cocoa farmers on other ways of processing cocoa waste, for example. This technology being funded by WCF will help farmers earn extra incomes.
- In collaboration with local artisans, CRIG has developed simple pruners and motorized vehicles to carry cocoa from farms, and cocoa breakers are also under production.
- The challenge for CRIG however is lack of funding to expand and disseminate the new technologies.
- The Suame Magazine Industrial Development Organization (SMIDO) is working with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) to produce/mechanize potable and farmer-friendly equipment for smallholder farmers.
- COCOLINK is piloting a scheme to increase use of mobile phones to transfer information to cocoa farmers. In 2011, the scheme covered 15 communities and currently covers over 1,000 communities, involving over 40,000 farmers.

- By the same technology, COCOLINK is also able to connect the farmers to extension officers. Furthermore, use of voice messages is being piloted, covering 9,000 farmers. COCOBOD is expected to take over the program in 2014, for expansion.

12.3 Open Floor Contributions

- SMIDO was commended and encouraged to speed up its technology development.
- Tray fermentation was recognized as being useful and effective. It uses very little plantain leaves and fermentation is complete within four days.
- It became known that some cocoa farmers now use plastics rubber for fermentation and a contributor wanted to know its appropriateness. The response was that the practice does not affect cocoa quality.

1.3 Summary of First Panel Discussions

A participant asked a general question as to whether cocoa has a future in Ghana. The response from the Moderator and the Speaker was positive. The Moderator expressed confidence that there are technologies available and urged GCP to explore measures to have them transferred to farmers and other stakeholders.

12.4 “Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability and Cocoa” – Dr. Rebecca Asare, Forest Trends.

The Presenter indicated that both climate change and deforestation are major threats to cocoa production in Ghana; and therefore, the country cannot afford to consider them as business as usual. She said it was unfortunate that despite the importance of cocoa in Ghana’s economy, the country has the lowest yield in the world, estimated to be less than 400kg/ha. Although hi-technologies developed in Ghana have made positive impact, they have not benefitted all farmers.

She was worried about Ghana’s forest reduction and its future implications for the cocoa industry. According to her, Ghana’s forests reduced by 2.8 percent between 1996 and 2000, 6.1 percent in 2011, and by 4.3 percent in the last 25 years.

Among the threats listed were: lack of landscape level planning; degraded soils; pests; diseases; limited access to inputs; conflicting national policies. She then advised that these threats could be turned into opportunities. Global cocoa market, for example, is demanding climate smart commodity and the technology is available to do this in Ghana. She cited the case where farmers could be encouraged to plant trees in cocoa farms to promote afforestation.

She proposed three models for consideration by Ghana to ensure sustainability of the cocoa value chain and urged the GCP to advocate for their adoption. These included:

- Extension + Access to Inputs and Resources = Adoption of Climate Smart Practices (CSP) = Yield Increases
(ie. make extension efficient/effective and improve access to inputs and resources to enable farmers adopt CSP and eventually increase yields on a sustainable basis).
- Yield Increases + Land Use Planning + Measurement Report and Verification (MRV) = Reduced Deforestation
(ie. to ensure that land use planning is strongly promoted and monitored to ultimately save the forest in a regime of yield increases).

- Yield Increases + Reduced Deforestation = CSP = Sustainable System/Supply (ie. when yield increases and reduced deforestation have been achieved, they would lead to adoption of climate smart practices and sustainable cocoa supply situation).

She said, in isolation, no single policy measure can effectively promote sustainability; therefore, there is the need for a sector-wide interventions.

She then proposed specific actions for consideration by GCP as follows:

- ✓ Identify technologies available and make them available to cocoa farmers.
- ✓ Public and private sectors must work with cocoa farmers and traditional authorities to agree on steps to save the environment to sustain cocoa production.
- ✓ With the coming into being of the GCP, cocoa sector policies must be adequately aligned.
- ✓ Shading must be encouraged on cocoa farms because it is critical to the survival of cocoa farms and soil recycling. Accordingly, cocoa farmers must be encouraged to promote afforestation by planting trees. Trees on farms must be viewed as bonus for the livelihood and sustenance of farmers and the cocoa sector.
- ✓ Explore ways to develop and encourage smart farmers to operate climate smart eco-system.

12.5 Panelists Contributions

- Technologies to mitigate negative effects of climate change are already available and there is no need for new ones. Two technologies available are shaded cocoa and high tech inputs (CODAPEC). Already, CRIG has embarked on the development of drought resistant materials.
- Climate change has serious impact on sustainability of livelihoods, it is therefore important to talk about climate smart issues and deal with them.
- It is important to start educating cocoa farmers on the benefits of shade trees. They improve plantations and gives extra incomes as well.
- Use of timber as shade may be problematic because of the logging process; therefore, low hanging fruit trees could be more appropriate.
- Although cocoa farming has been a driver of deforestation, it could also be an opportunity for re-forestation. Government has reviewed ownership policy on timber and wildlife species to favor farmers so farmers can take advantage.
- The new law, Act 617, addresses ownership of trees grown by the farmer on cocoa farms as well as naturally grown trees which grow on cocoa farms.
- But farmers need education and training to understand climate change and practice interventions to mitigate negative impacts.
- Benefits of shade trees go beyond carbon. Carbon is only a bonus; actually, shade is an important component in cocoa ecosystem.
- Carbon trading is cost effective on 50,000 hectares and more; therefore, carbon may not be useful for smallholdings.
- For now, cocoa farmers are still planting in new areas (about 68 percent) and another 36 percent are re-cycling.

12.6 Open Floor Contributions

- Important to expedite action on farmer education in climate change so that they can appreciate the value of shade trees for immediate adoption. But a participant

questioned the rationale behind asking farmers to acquire permission to plant timber trees and urged GCP to take it up, including educating farmers on which trees to plant.

- A contributor suggested that studies be carried out to demonstrate the value of climate smart cocoa on the market.
- The use of harmful chemicals and complicated land tenure systems were raised. Some participants called for national policies to protect cocoa farmers from complex and expensive tenancy agreements. On the issue of harmful chemicals, participants called on GCP to help promote and encourage organic cocoa.

12.7 Summary of Second Panel Discussions

In his summary, the Moderator urged GCP and all stakeholders to take climate change issues seriously as a way of ensuring sustainable cocoa industry in Ghana.

12.8“Impact of Mining and Illegal Logging on Cocoa Sustainability” – Mr. Albert Nantoma, Ghana Chamber of Mines (GCM).

The Speaker represented the Chief Executive of the GCM. In his presentation, he said his organization represents the interests of large scale mining firms doing legal operations. Therefore he could not answer questions on illegal mining operations. He admitted that mining competes with cocoa for land; therefore in some instances, mining firms have helped cocoa farmers by providing them with alternative lands, hybrid seeds and other inputs to carry out their economic activities.

He proposed the following specific action areas:

- ✓ Community members must be pro-active in preventing and combating illegal mining.
- ✓ Stakeholders in mining and farming need to dialogue and collaborate for the mutual benefit of both sectors.
- ✓ Mining must be done in a very responsible manner in order to protect the environment.

12.9 Panelists Contributions

- It emerged that up to about 80 percent of timber comes from illegally logged trees and farmers need to be sensitized to assist in preventing illegal logging.
- Expansion of certified cocoa production is helping to curb illegal logging and planting in protected areas.
- Government must set fixed rates to be paid as compensation to farmers on use of their lands for mining.
- Government must help enforce its own policy of allowing farmers to work on farmlands that are un-used by mining companies in their concessions.
- Artisanal and small scale gold mining creates more jobs than large scale mining, although the former creates environmental problems; therefore, dialoguing is needed for small scale mining to be done more responsibly.

12.10 Open Floor Contributions

- The Forestry Commission and Minerals Commission must collaborate in helping to resettle farmers whose lands have been given out on concession.
- There is need for statistical data to know exact acreage of farmlands taken over by mining companies in order to make informed decisions.
- The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Minerals Commission must be invited to participate in the Platform.
- A participant wanted to know why a mining company collapses after 5 years of operation and departs without reclaiming the degraded land. It was learnt that mining companies pay reclamation bonds for such purposes.

12.11 Summary of Third Panel Discussions

In his summary of the discussions, the Moderator reminded participants that even legal mining destroys the environment and that government must work to address this development as well.

12.12 “Youth Participation in Cocoa Production – Projecting into the Future” – Mr. Franklin Cudjoe, President, IMANI

The Speaker concentrated his presentation on the level of participation of the youth in cocoa; what it would take to stimulate their involvement in the industry; what factors inhibit them from engaging in cocoa production, and whether there would be any impact if the youth got into cocoa industry.

He used the 2014 budget statement as basis to conclude that there is little effort, if any, on the part of government to encourage the youth to go into the cocoa industry. The budget statement under reference made no provision at all for youth participation in the cocoa industry. It rather made provision to create youth employment in photography in the tourism sector.

All interventions to attract the youth into cocoa have been private sector initiatives. He cited the case of Cadbury Ambassador Program and Barry Callebaut initiatives to attract young men and women into the cocoa industry.

He said it was not easy for the youth to find themselves in the cocoa industry because they have challenges that need to be addressed. Some of the challenges include the complex land tenure system that does not favor the youth; deforestation which is leading to decreased agricultural lands, and lack of social amenities in cocoa growing communities. He was of the view that more needed to be done if Ghana wishes to attract the youth into the cocoa sector.

He challenged the GCP to:

- ✓ Explore interventions that could make cocoa production attractive in order to attract the youth.

12.13 Panelists Contributions

- Panelists agreed that there were no schemes available that could motivate the young ones into the cocoa sector.

- Again, farmers do not have social security schemes, no insurance and no pension schemes to cover them at old age, another situation that discourages the youth from entering into cocoa business.
- Inflation and exchange rate fluctuations have led to rising input costs and not many of the youth can afford to enter into cocoa production without the necessary financial support. Furthermore, the mass spraying exercise has become unreliable of late.
- Potential young farmers must see cocoa production as business. MGI Microfinance is already operating in rural communities and giving loans to farmers.
- MGI proposed a two-way approach of financing young cocoa farmers. The first is to pay for technology so they could access technological packages for their cocoa operations. Second, is to facilitate partnerships among the youth to go into large scale commercial production.
- Young brilliant students may be identified in schools and supported/encouraged to go into cocoa research.

12.14 Open Floor Contributions

- Farmers are slow in adopting technologies and have low yields that perpetuate their poverty. Resolving these may attract some youth into cocoa.
- Cocoa Abrabopa has pension schemes for its farmers but farmers fail to pay their contributions. It is important to educate farmers adequately to see the benefits of such schemes in securing their future. Youth may be attracted to cocoa farming once they know their future is secured.
- It is important to educate the youth to understand that they could become cocoa farmers even after their high education.
- In our effort at attracting the youth into cocoa, Ghana must avoid practices that encourage child labor.

12.15 Summary of Fourth Panel Discussions

In summarizing the discussions, the Moderator challenged the GCP to put in place practical mechanisms for attracting the youth into the cocoa industry.

12.16 “Scaling up Sustainability Standards in Cocoa-Institutional Framework, Infrastructure Readiness and Funding” – Mr. Rahul Gopinath, Head, Amajaro Africa.

The Speaker started the presentation by confirming that funding, adequate infrastructure and effective institutional capability are the three key drivers of sustainability.

He admitted that so far, these ingredients seem to be missing in the cocoa industry and called for the need to strengthen them. He wondered why after several years of cocoa production infrastructural support is weak. For example, the road network in the Western region, which is also the lead cocoa producing region, is very poor and cannot be ignored any further. He was happy for the establishment of the GCP. According to him this must provide the platform for strengthening institutions in the cocoa industry in Ghana.

He suggested that:

- ✓ Capacities of all operators in the value chain must be built to promote efficiency and long-term sustainability of the industry.

- ✓ Financial institutions must be encouraged to provide medium to long term credit for developing relevant infrastructure and build capacity of institutions in the industry.

12.17 Panelists Contribution

- The Cocoa College must be upgraded and strengthened, perhaps to tertiary status, to train cocoa workers to be more competent.
- Roles of all players in the industry must be recognized and supported by the GCP to be more efficient and effective. For example, the long delays in discharging cocoa at the ports must be addressed, as a matter of urgency, old transporting trucks must be replaced and cocoa off-loading must be professionally done.
- Encourage formation of farmer organizations, train and support them to be vertically integrated to the national level, to make them sustainable and influence policy.
- To ensure sustainability, complex tree tenure and land tenure systems, difficult share cropping arrangements, gender discrimination and corrupt practices at cocoa purchasing points must all be addressed.
- Cocoa consumption is key to sustainability and must be promoted. There appears to be too much concentration on production.
- Encourage and ensure that planting of shade trees by farmers is adhered to.

12.18 Open Floor Contributions

- Ghana must promote other uses of cocoa eg. soap making, to create more jobs and provide extra incomes to farmers.
- Infrastructure in cocoa growing communities must be improved to support the industry.

12.19 Summary of Fifth Panel Discussions

The Moderator warned that Ghana cannot talk of cocoa sustainability when the basic infrastructure and institutional support are absent and where funding is inadequate in an industry where majority of the operators are relatively poor. He called on stakeholders, especially Government to address these issues with all the urgency they require.

13.0 Way Forward for the Ghana Cocoa Platform (GCP).

The National Coordinator took participants through the next stages after the First Plenary. Below are the actions and timelines.

Anticipated Action	Timeline
1. Registration, including online. (For farmers, registration would be on group basis)	Starts in 2 weeks – 12 December, 2013.
2. Commissioning of baseline study(finalize TORs and recruit Consultant)	January, 2014.

3. Submission of draft report by Consultant	March, 2014
4. Open nominations for membership on Technical Committees (Check website:www.ghanacocoaplatform.org for requirements)	Opens in 2 weeks – 12 December, 2013.
5. Funds mobilization	First quarter, 2014.
6. Organize consultative meeting (processors, traders, LBCs, haulers/transporters, farmer organizations in regions and districts, civil society organizations, certifiers, researchers, government)	First quarter, 2014
7. Strengthen constituents	First quarter, 2014.
8. Second plenary: <u>Agenda</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review draft baseline study report • Present TC membership for approval • Discuss TORs for all TCs • Set timelimes for submission of TCs action plans. 	March 27, 2014(tentative)

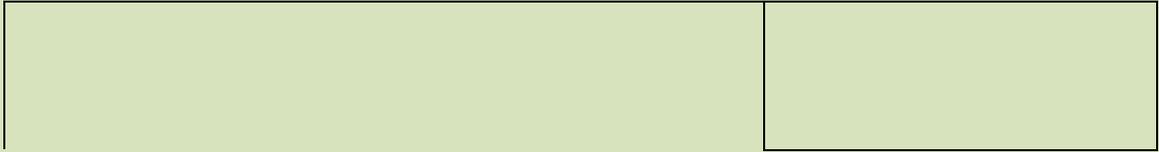
14.0 Conference Conclusions and Recommendations

The Lead Facilitator read out the conclusions and recommendations of the conference for reactions from participants. Belowe are some of the recommended actions.

Recommended Action	Responsibility
1. Review current policy on cocoa subsidy and introduce post production subsidy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COCOBOD • Ministry of Finance • GCP

<p>2. Promote/encourage certified, traceable, organic and fine cocoa to expand benefits to farmers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COCOBOD • Private sector stakeholders • GCP • Farmer organization
<p>3. Increase dialogue among stakeholders, understand their challenges and build bridges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCP • All stakeholders in value chain • Development partners
<p>4. Support and improve access of certified cocoa producers to inputs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COCOBOD • GCP • Private stakeholders promoting certified cocoa
<p>5. Strengthen and unify cocoa policy process in Ghana for more effective coordination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCP • COCOBOD • Ministry of Finance
<p>6. Promote domestic cocoa processing and consumption. (introduce cocoa drink into the School Feeding programme)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COCOBOD • GCP • Cocoa processors • Ministry of Education
<p>7. Increase investments in the cocoa industry to ensure sustainable growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COCOBOD • Ministry of Finance • GCP • Private sector operators • Financial institutions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COCOBOD

<p>8. Target and improve private sources of information for cocoa farmers.</p> <p>9. Promote and encourage climate smart cocoa/shading to meet increasing global demand and enhance agro-forestry.</p> <p>10. Encourage collaboration between Forestry Commission and Minerals Commission to support farmer resettlement schemes in mining communities.</p> <p>11. Introduce schemes to attract the youth into cocoa production.</p> <p>12. Upgrade cocoa college into tertiary institution.</p> <p>13. Encourage other uses of cocoa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cocoa farmer organizations • GCP • COCOBOD • Private promoters of certified cocoa • GCP • Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources • COCOBOD • GCP • Local traditional authorities • Ministry of Interior • COCOBOD • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Youth and Sports • Private operators in cocoa value chain • GCP • COCOBOD • Ministry of Education • COCOBOD • Financial institutions • Private operators in cocoa value chain
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15.0 Closing of Conference

15.1 Chairman Closing Remarks

The Chairman was happy for participants' sustained interest in the 2-day conference. He was of the view that the meeting had been a success and was hopeful that it had set the stage for a successful platform. He wished participants well and expressed the hope that they will participate in subsequent plenary.

15.2 Vote of Thanks

Vote of thanks was by Mrs. Serwaa Adu-Anokye of the GCP

15.3 End of Meeting

The meeting ended at 17.03 hours.

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APPENDIX: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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