

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 1 June 2021 15:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Ghana's cocoa production prospects in an ever-changing world
CONVENED BY	Prof. Irene S. Egyir, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, University of Ghana
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16451/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Ghana

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

115

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

60 19-30

30 31-50

25 51-65

0 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

80 Male

35 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

29 Agriculture/crops

3 Fish and aquaculture

4 Livestock

10 Agro-forestry

13 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

20 Education

Communication

10 Food processing

7 Food retail, markets

7 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

2 Nutrition

5 National or local government

Utilities

10 Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

5 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

5 Large national business

2 Multi-national corporation

15 Small-scale farmer

10 Medium-scale farmer

5 Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

35 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

5 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

3 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

30 Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

We use word of mouth (informal way of communicating) to make all participants aware of the principles of the summit and why it is important for all to acknowledge the principles.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Through the use of the breakout rooms; we were able to allow participants speak freely and this help in building trust.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Having the principles of engagement in mind helps to ensure that the discussions are down to earth and capture the real issues on the ground concerning our food systems.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The major focus of our independent dialogue was to examine the cocoa production of Ghana in an ever-changing world. The discussions were largely to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current cocoa production value chain, given new world trade participants, new use of land (galamsey) and emerging call for healthier food. Cocoa (*Theobroma Cacao*) is a plant from which we obtain raw beans which is used for chocolates, other confectionary and cosmetics. In Ghana it is produced in the forest zones by smallholder households. Its production is rain dependent and it is harvested twice a year (September to November and May to July). It is a major export crop, which trade is controlled by the Ghana Cocoa Board. The concern that triggered the dialogue was the announcement of China's entry into the cocoa world market and the internal issues bothering on shifting of cocoa land for gold mining, unfavorable policy around input distribution and output market price, limited innovation as well as limited adoption of research results by farmers.

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Policy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Human rights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |

MAIN FINDINGS

The Ghana Cocoa Board admitted that China's entry into the cocoa supply chain has aroused some concerns among Ghanaians although it is insignificant. The Board further admitted that industry managers response strategies to quell threats were necessary. The Board stated categorically that several economic, social and environmental measures were underway to maintain Ghana's competitive advantage in the world cocoa trade. Ghana Cocoa Board and its subsidiaries are focused on mitigating climate change and other environmental sustainability threats through cocoa agroforestry practices, climate smart cocoa production and irrigation. To boost productivity and enhance economic advantage and sustainability, hybrid seedlings, efficacious pesticides, fertilizers, good agricultural practices (GAPs), domestic consumption as well as domestic processing of cocoa is being promoted. For social sustainability, cocoa farmer pension scheme and other livelihood improvement schemes for cocoa farmers are being implemented along the cocoa value chain in Ghana; child labor issues are also being addressed by the use of CMS-a very robust system for tracking the progress of children so as to expose early child labour signals, prevailing child labour, child-trafficking and child slavery. Persons/ farmers found culpable to the offence of child labour in cocoa production are referred to the Ministry of Employment and Labour relations and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social protection for remediation. With respect to technological advancement in addressing key cocoa production bottlenecks, the Ghana Cocoa Board is using digital technologies and innovations such as GPS to collect and manage farmers bio data. However, the Ghana Cocoa Board express the need for bridging the gap between the cocoa industry and academia so as to increase the opportunities for research, innovation and development that are key to improving and strengthening Ghana's cocoa sector.

For policy- there is the need to go beyond production to focus on value addition or commercialization

For input marketing, improvement in the supply of new varieties of cocoa seed, mechanized equipment, security of cocoa land and availability of trained extension officers and availability of credit facilities were called for.

For research and innovation-the cocoa research institute of Ghana and other universities and crop based research institutes were called upon to up their game in developing new seed varieties, protectants and cocoa products.

For farmers- There is need for government and private sector to support the local economy within which the farmer carries out production and marketing activities.

Why fear China? China is doing something different to obtain premium price, which is more than double what Ghana has ever attained. So Ghana should change its strategy as well.

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KEYWORDS

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✓	Innovation		Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

Policy-

Urgent actions required:

Go beyond productivity and look at value addition or commercialization

Marketing strategies

Increase marketing and awareness creation by COCOBOD

Develop more markets beyond the local and traditional markets

Go beyond bulk cocoa production to specialty cocoa production

Accompanying policy implementation framework to ensure efficiency of the policy

Ways to assess progress:

Monitoring and evaluation

Achieving the objectives of the policies (Cocoa sector development strategy 1(2000/01 to 2009/10); Post CSDS 1

Development (2010/11 to 2016/17) and CSDS 2 (2017/18-2026/27)

What our organization will do:

Advocacy

Organizing conferences

Dialogues etc.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

Research-

Participants were of the view that Ghana COCOBOD needs to assemble and engage top-notch researchers and experts to tell them the impacts of policy based on scientific research findings. In that way, Ghana COCOBOD will be aware of the ground situation and work with business intelligence.

Further and urgent actions required are concerned with re-bagging, digitalization and newer methods of irrigation, which is critical in improving Cocoa production due to recent climate change challenge.

It is also important to include product differentiation as a way of remaining competitive instead of worrying about China's entry.

Ways to assess progress:

Research critically and try to find new ways of doing things. We should monitor and evaluate all policies established. We should think through thoroughly to know the problem and what possible solutions that will work.

What our organization will do:

We will continue to engage in programmes and dialogues so as to educate the public on these important food system (Cocoa) issues.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

Markets-

Urgent actions required:

Developing local markets while strengthening international markets

Strengthening of internal market systems and linkages; farm and marketing inputs (e.g jute sacks) should be made readily available.

Trade in inputs should be lucrative to encourage investors into that market

It is important to study China's trade strategies and learn from them.

How to assess progress:

We should measure premiums on quality products (Cocoa).

We should determine extent of value additions annually

Change in the attitude of farmers towards operating cocoa farms as business and expanding investments

What our organization will do:

GAAE and University of Ghana will collaborate with COCOBOD to undertake more research in cocoa international trade.

GAAE will map the LBCs and partner their association for occasional policy dialogues.

GAAE will adopt more demand driven research approaches and work with farmers to share and exchange knowledge and advocate for farmer livelihood improvement.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

Farmer response-

Urgent actions required:

Farmers involvement in cocoa policy making should be more visible through effective engagement.

Innovative value addition to cocoa beans or its waste products by farmers will create new streams of income generation so as to maximize their cocoa market diversification strategies.

Cocoa farming should be made attractive to the youth to prevent them from migrating into cities.

Increase the use of mechanized farming and innovations to promote agricultural mechanization in cocoa farming especially equipment for breaking cocoa pods. Also, providing personal protective equipment in case of any occupational hazard such as snake bites.

How to assess progress:

More youth involvement in cocoa farming.

Significant improvement in the welfare of cocoa farming household.

High efficiency from cost management by farmers.

Increase in the price of produce by farmers.

Bringing new products from cocoa.

Cocoa farming becoming a sustainable business.

What our organization will do:

Our organization would be a major link between farmers and policy makers. Building confidence and encouraging high involvement of farmers in improving cocoa production in Ghana.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The major area of divergence remained whether China's entry into the world cocoa market was a threat. While the lead industry player, the Ghana Cocoa Board held the view that China's entry into the cocoa supply chain was insignificant, so not a global threat, majority of the participants maintained the view that COCOBOD should take China serious.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Independent Dialogue Link**
<https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16451/>