

## FOOD SAFETY

- Sustainability also means giving priority to Food Safety.
- The Global Food Industry is taking strategic decisions that align with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Embedded in these goals is the Food Safety System.
- Sustainable Cocoa Beans must also meet International Food Safety Standards.
- Hence, our continuous cutting-edge research into Pesticides and Pesticide Use Patterns; and emphasis on Farmer Training Programmes to ensure the effective, efficient, and responsible use of pesticides; as well as the proper disposal of pesticide containers.
- Furthermore, significant investments have, and continue to be made at the QCC Research Department aimed at improving the analysis of pesticide residues, mycotoxins, MOSH-MOAH, and insect infestations in cocoa beans.



# Traceability Issues

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- COCOCOD has been operating a manual national traceability system that can trace all cocoa from the district depot to the port of shipment.
- Through the drop marks affixed on graded and sealed cocoa, each bag of cocoa can be traced to the district depot.
- However, the current system does not allow cocoa to be traced from the district depot to the plot of land that produced the beans.
- COCOBOD is developing an improved electronic national traceability system through the Cocoa Management System (CMS).
- This will ensure 100% first mile traceability from the farm/plot of land to the port of shipment.
- This will ensure that we can trace our cocoa beans throughout our direct supply chain.

# Traceability Issues

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- The first component of the National traceability system , which involves the establishment of a reliable farmer database (farm mapping and enumeration), has been completed.
- Cocoa farmers have been registered and given a unique identification number.
- There will be information sharing system that allows private sector to leverage on the national traceability system developed by COCOBOD.
- Protocol and SOP for the process is being developed.

## CHALLENGES TO SOURCING SUSTAINABLE COCOA

- **Economic issues:**

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- Discounting of country differential by buyers after the introduction of the LID.
- There is diversification in sourcing as some companies have changed their sourcing strategy by sourcing cocoa beans from other countries to avoid payment of the additional US\$400.



## CHALLENGES TO SOURCING SUSTAINABLE COCOA

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- **Economic issues**

- Productivity remains low compared to other producing countries.
- Diseases and pests infestation remains a challenge especially in the Western North region where Ghana sources most of her cocoa.
- Ageing cocoa farmers also remains a key challenge. The average age of a cocoa farmer in Ghana is 55 years.
- Over-aged cocoa trees has also contributed to the low productivity of cocoa in Ghana.



## CHALLENGES TO SOURCING SUSTAINABLE COCOA

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- **Social issues:**

- Misconceptions of the international community on issues of Child Labour.
- High opportunity cost of labour due to competing labour demand.



## CHALLENGES TO SOURCING SUSTAINABLE COCOA

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### Environmental Issues:

- The key contributors to deforestation and forest degradation are lumbering and illegal felling of trees for timber. The initial destruction of the forest by the illegal felling of trees facilitate the entry of agriculture activities.
- Illegal small-scale mining also opens the forest and facilitates degradation of forest resources.
- Climate change has become a global phenomenon and needs critical attention due to its effect on our cocoa farming.



## CHALLENGES TO SOURCING SUSTAINABLE COCOA

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### Food Safety issues:

- Usage of unapproved agrochemicals by farmers.
- Non-adherence to recommended pesticide dilution and application rates.
- Accidental use of trucks previously used to cart hazardous substances.





## POSSIBLE AREAS OF COLLABORATION

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Further collaboration with ITOCHU on cocoa sustainability and traceability will require:

- Regular visits to Japan to familiarize with the ITOCHU Corporation residue analysis procedures.
- Submission of reports (feedbacks) on cocoa residue analysis to COCOBOD. This is to ensure improvement in the residue analysis procedures in Ghana.
- COCOBOD would appreciate support by ITOCHU Corporation and JICA in the rehabilitation of its over-aged and diseased farms.
- ITOCHU should advocate for more support.
- Value addition: Establishment of cocoa processing plants in Ghana in order to access the 20% waste for the production of fertilizer and other products. This will help to reduce the importation of fertilizers.
- Cocoa Management System: Possible collaboration in the operationalization of the new cocoa traceability system.
- Re-equipping of Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) Laboratories.




## CONCLUSION

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- Ghana is committed to ensuring that cocoa is sustainably produced and sourced.
- Government through COCOBOD will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders in a concerted effort to address challenges of sustainable cocoa production and ensure transparency in the cocoa value chain.



An aerial photograph of a dense green forest. A dirt road winds through the trees, leading to a building under construction with a red roof. The scene is framed by a white border with a thin green inner line. Two black horizontal bars are positioned on the left and right sides of the frame.

THANK YOU.....AND  
LETS ALL WORK

**TOWARDS OUR  
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

