



FarmGate
FOUNDATION
Better Life, Better Crop

Report FGF Stakeholders Meeting

Building an Inclusive Bottom Up Cocoa Supply Chain That Work for Everyone

DATE AND LOCATION

8 december 2017

Trivium, Derkinderenstraat 2-8, Amsterdam. The Netherlands

Report FGF Stakeholders Meeting

Building an Inclusive Bottom Up Cocoa Supply Chain That Work for Everyone

Executive Summary

1. Meeting objective

The main goal of the meeting is introducing the Bottom-Up activities developed by FarmGate Foundation (FGF,) that will bring long-term solutions to solve cocoa farmers issues on the ground. Aim of the Bottom-Up Approach is to bring pertinent stakeholders together and work towards a common agenda that will bring about real and long-lasting change in the cocoa sector.

2. Participants

The target groups of this Stakeholder Meeting were mainly key actors in the global cocoa supply chain, FGF/WCFO Board Members and workers of FGF. The meeting was attended by representatives from: Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cocoa trading and chocolate companies, Certification organizations, Research institutions and Cocoa Farmers Representatives.

3. Key outputs / results

The meeting met the above objectives. The stakeholders had the opportunity to share their ideas and visions regarding the proposed Bottom-Up Activities of FGF and World Cocoa Farmers Organization (WCFO). Participated stakeholders agreed on the need to have a transparent, accountable, sustainable global cocoa supply chain. In addition, the various stakeholders also had the opportunity to share their thoughts on FGF proposed integrated information sharing platform and database.

4. Follow up

FGF is going to compile and finalize the detailed reports of the projects which will be disseminated among the stakeholders in the cocoa supply chain. The results and comments that emanate from the stakeholder meeting will be taken into account.

FGF is in a process of contacting the stakeholders about their willingness to collaborate in the proposed projects.

5. Meeting organizers / facilitators

The meeting was facilitated and supported by FNV and IDH. FNV is the Netherlands trade union confederation. IDH work on programs and initiatives that aim to improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers.



Introduction

1. Context

At present, the cocoa sector is at a key crossroad where the decision must be made on how to move forward to pursue a sustainable and successful sector. FarmGate Foundation and the World Cocoa Farmers Organization are convinced that the challenges in the cocoa sector can be solved when cocoa farmers are included in solving issues in the sector. FGF is therefore pushing forward to bring pertinent stakeholders together to work towards a common agenda that will bring about real and long-lasting change in the sector. This agenda will work towards the creation of a highly efficient, coordinated and sustainable sector with social, economic and environmental benefits that can bring success to all involved, from bean to bar.

FarmGate Foundation invites cocoa supply chain stakeholders to come together and collaborate with long-term vision, implementing projects developed by FarmGate Foundation, based on the FGFs' Bottom-Up RoadMap. The key projects include: (1) Grouping the Smallholders Cocoa Farmers and (2) Real-Time Data Platform: information sharing platform/database initiative and the results of a farmer-level poll carried out by FarmGate Foundation.

With commitment from all key stakeholders, these two projects can achieve a sustainable and profitable cocoa supply chain for all stakeholders.

The meeting was made possible by the Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FNV) and Sustainable Trade Initiative IDH. The stakeholder meeting, which took place on the 8th of December 2017 was hosted by FGF in the Netherlands.



The stakeholders meeting gathered participants, which represented key stakeholders in the global cocoa supply chain and these include:

- Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- WCFO Board Members
- Cocoa trading and chocolate companies
- Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging
- Civil Society Organization from Germany
- Civil Society Organization Kakaoplattform Switzerland
- Certification organizations
- Research institutions
- Cocoa Farmers Representatives

2. Main objectives

The meeting aimed to:

- Bring together FGF staff, WCFO Board Members and other stakeholders in the sector.
- Introduce long-term projects, developed by the FGF/WCFO, that can make it possible to address issues affecting cocoa farmers.
- Discuss the long-term vision of FGF/WCFO and the possibilities / next steps for collaboration on the proposed projects.

Program Structure

Program

09:30 – 10:00	Opening of door
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome speech Chair / CEO of FGF
10:15 – 10:30	Speech by the Global President of WCFO
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation of FGF “Bottom-Up-Poll” The Bottom-Up-Poll is a study document carried by FGF about the facts on the ground and a better inside on how to address grass root challenges in the sector.
10:30 – 10:45	CHOCOLATE BREAK
10:45 – 11:45	Presentation of “Bottom-Up-Roadmap” Roadmap is designed to facilitate implementation solutions that makes the cocoa sector more inclusive and sustainable.
11:45 – 12:15	Presentation of Project to “Group Unorganized Farmers” Project is designed to group smallholder cocoa farmers, so they can become sustainable producers, secure transparency, pave the way for accountability and will contribute to improve livelihoods in cocoa communities.
12:15 – 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 13:45	Presentation of Project to “Develop Real-Time Database” A Real-Time Database platform will improve traceability, trade efficiency, reduce farm and market risk, help address child and forced labour, gender discrimination, provide better inside on climate change and deforestation in cocoa communities.
14:00 – 15:00	Discussion based on the presented projects and topics Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their ideas and experience, which can be helpful to the improve projects for a real and long team benefit for all stakeholders in the supply chain.
15:00 – 15:15	CHOCOLATE BREAK
15:15 – 16:15	(Continuation) Discussion based on the presented projects and topics Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their ideas and experience, which can be helpful to the improve projects for a real and long team benefit for all stakeholders in the supply chain.
16:15 – 17:00	Light refreshment and Networking Network opportunity to establish a stronger relationship with other stakeholders in the cocoa supply chain.

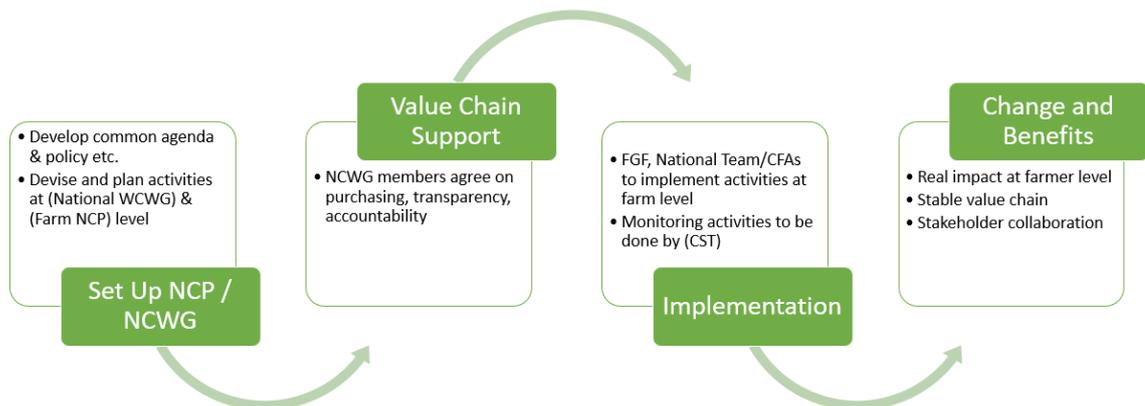
3. Flow of the meeting

The following methodological approach was used to fulfil the objectives of the stakeholders meeting.

Step 1

FGF/WCFO staff members presented the following activities to address the key challenges facing the global cocoa supply chain.

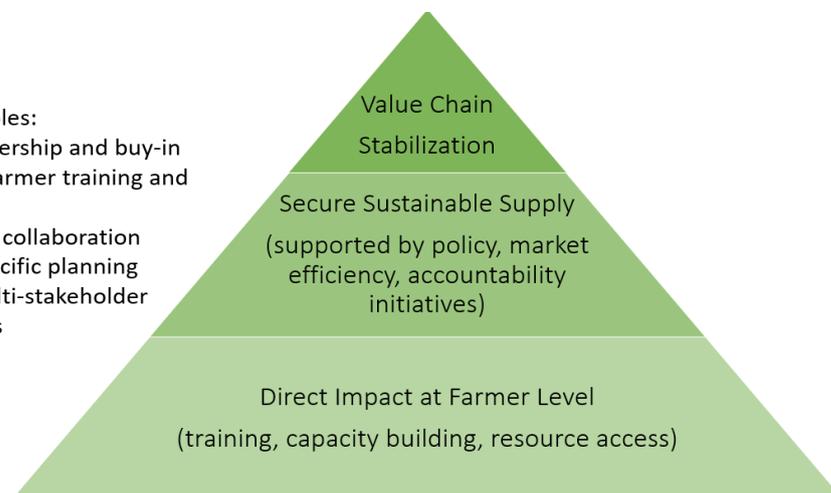
- 1) **Bottom-up poll:** the bottom up poll is a study document carried out by FGF about the current issues affecting the global cocoa supply chain and the associated supply chain members particularly the farmers. The study gives a better insight on how to address grassroots challenges in the sector. On this moment we are working to finalize the study which will be published soon.
- 2) **Bottom-up RoadMap:** the presentation shows how the RoadMap will play a role to facilitate smooth implementation of sustainable activities that will makes the supply chain more inclusive, transparent and sustainable as seen below:



- 3) **Grouping the unorganized 95% smallholder cocoa farmers:** this project is designed to group smallholder cocoa farmers, to enable them to become sustainable producers and secure better livelihoods for themselves, family and their community. It will also help pave the way for traceability, transparency and accountability and can contribute to protect and improve our environment now and the future.

Five key principles:

1. Farmer ownership and buy-in
2. Farmer-to-farmer training and extension
3. Stakeholder collaboration
4. Country-specific planning
5. Building multi-stakeholder partnerships



- 4) **Develop real time data platform and database management system:** a real-time data platform and database system will improve traceability, trade efficiency, reduce farm and market risk, help address child and forced labor, gender discrimination, provide better inside on climate change and deforestation in cocoa communities.



Step 2

Open discussions were held after each presentation. During the open discussion the stakeholders had the opportunity to ask questions about the projects and some stakeholders also share their experiences regarding the projects. Recommendations were also provided by the stakeholders during the open discussion.

Step 3

To provide space for more discussion, the stakeholders were grouped into four groups. Each stakeholders' working group were requested to brainstorm on one of the FGF/WCFO proposed projects. The different groups were asked to highlight on the overview of the projects to come up with suggestions and recommendations for improvement. The group meetings were held in a self-facilitation discussion.



4. Key recommendations from the meeting

1. Recommendations from the open discussion

During the presentations, participants had the opportunity to ask questions and through the discussions, some recommendations were made as well by various stakeholders. The results of the discussions and the main recommendations from the stakeholders include:

- As part of the use case of the data platform, the use case of the traders need to be separated from the chocolate industries.
- Clear service level agreements must be defined to support the implementation of the data platform to avoid sharing of confidential and sensitive data and information.
- Experienced back end developers and programmers need to be involved in the developing of the data platform and the database management system.
- The Roadmap need to be clear to accommodate other partners to help in the implementation.
- The grouping of the farmers need to start at a small scale.

2. Recommendations from groups discussion

The participants were divided into four groups. During the discussion, each group came up with its own recommendations, which were then discussed by all participants in a plenary session. The results of the discussions held in each stakeholder group, as well as the recommendations they came up with, are listed below.

- Research institutes need to share research updates with cocoa supply chain partners.
- FGF can collaborate with existing data platforms to develop their information sharing platforms
- FGF should discuss the Roadmap with organizations to source financial support.
- The roles of group leaders in the FGF proposed platform (NCWG and NCP) should be clearly defined.



5. Conclusion

1. Evaluation of the meeting

The objectives of the stakeholders meeting were met. The projects proposed by FGF were positively received by participants. The various inputs and discussions during the meeting helps the stakeholders to share their ideas regarding the presented projects. The participants overwhelming shared the view of FGF that the presented RoadMap and projects can lead to transform the sector into more transparency, accountability and sustainability.

2. Appreciation

FGF/WCFO are pleased to share their gratitude and appreciation to all participants who make time to attend this meeting. At the same time FGF/WCFO thank stakeholders who were not able to attend due to other obligations, but did indicate their interest about the outcome.

Next step!!!

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