



Fine & Flavour Cocoa Farming

What do we do?

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance is promoting and facilitating the development of fine and flavour cocoa production in west and central Africa. FCA is one of the leading organization that that is pushing forward fine and flavour cocoa farming businesses in the following countries; Cameroon, Ghana and Ivory Coast, where we are providing a range of services to farmers who are interested in becoming organic cocoa producers.

To make sure that Fine and Flavour Cocoa production can be expanded, particularly within Africa, FCA work with interested partners such as major chocolate companies, government and research institutions to reach the following objectives:

- Sensitize and recruit talented young men and women into Fine and Flavour cocoa farming
- Provide training and build their capacity in organic farming
- Promote research and extension services
- Build partnerships to promote local and international marketing of organically grown cocoa bean
- Increase awareness and attract support for organic cocoa farming, particularly in West and Central Africa.

To achieve this, FCA is also involved in lobbying and advocacy to raise awareness and visibility for fine and flavour cocoa, thereby attracting support and investment from the private and public sectors.

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance engages with governmental institutions such as the Ghanaian COCOBOD, NCCB, Le Conseil du Café-Cacao, Cameroon's National Cocoa & Coffee Board (ONCC) and the Ministry of Agriculture in these countries to promote organic cocoa farming and to liaise with international buying partners.

How do we do it?

Organic fine and flavour cocoa farming can only appeal to farmers when it offers a good opportunity for them to be able to sustain themselves, their families and the development of their local communities. Therefore, our main objective is to promote local and export marketing of organic cocoa beans from these countries. To facilitate this, several initiatives have been developed:

Smallholder Grouping & Market Linkage

To better facilitate training, capacity building, market access and sufficient supply volume, smallholder farmers interested in fine and flavour organic farming will be grouped using methods developed by FCA and implemented by local representatives. Grouping will ensure that farmers have access to the necessary inputs, skills, knowledge and markets, contributing to the professionalisation of cocoa farming.

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance will identify suitable markets for these groups, linking them directly to our existing interested partners across the globe. FCA exclusive fine and flavour organic channels will continue to establish partnership with collaborating organizations, bridging the gap between producers and consumers in the market for organic cocoa.



Supply Chain Development

At international level we work with partners to help build a sustainable supply chain, through sourcing their cocoa bean from various local organic fine and flavour farmer groups and cooperatives who are complying with international rules. This is done through profiling the export groups (farmers) and identifying appropriate import companies to which the former could be linked. We initiate and monitor this linkage by providing key information and support to both the exporter (farmers) and importer (companies) based on fair production and consumption. Therefore, Farmgate Cocoa Alliance engages in services that include:

- Feasibility studies
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Organic processing and marketing capacity building
- Value chain development
- Development of internal control and quality management systems

Training & Capacity Building

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance is committed to building and enhancing capacity of fine and flavour organic cocoa farming at various levels within the cocoa sector, ranging from production to export and processing. Therefore, Farmgate Cocoa Alliance offers services to farmers and partners including:

- Hands-on farmer training
- Access to inputs and tools
- Development of training materials
- Sensitization workshops
- Facilitation of farmer/consumer exchange visits

Hands on farmer training is offered on the following key topics:

- Organic production principles
- Fine and flavour technical topics
- Soil fertility management
- Water management
- Pest, disease and weed management
- Post-harvest handling
- Internal controls and quality management
- Conducting farm assessments and activity planning
- Input production / acquisition

Who does it?

We provide highly skilled specialized trainer(s) using experts from our member and partner organizations from leading fine and flavour regions (Caribbean Community and Latin Americans). Consequently, we are able to meet specific needs in fine and flavour organic cocoa farming with our experienced team. The training is offered to farmers at free of charge or in others at an affordable rate.



Specialized and tailor-made services are also provided to individual groups/companies after an in-depth evaluation of the specific group needs and constraints that may require a tailored response in any of the fields mentioned above.

Certification

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance work with certification bodies based on recommendation by our consumer partner(s).

We provide a number of other services in other areas such as training aimed at building capacity and compliance levels to applicable standards among producer and exporter groups, including Internal Control Systems (ICS) and Quality Management Systems (QMS).

For more information please contact us at

info@cocoa-alliance.org

