

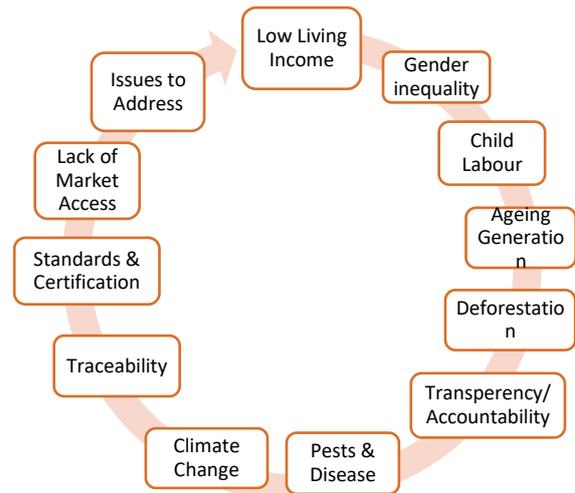


COCOA FARMING AS A BUSINESS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

A strong cocoa farming community depends on the strengthened, economic and social viability of smallholder farmers, it is therefore a prerequisite to cocoa farming development. It plays an important role in ensuring that farmers and stakeholders have access to improve the situation of the cocoa supply chain, using proven technologies and that farmer concerns and needs are properly addressed.

Smallholder farmers are struggling to keep up with new trends, finding themselves at a disadvantage due to high costs of inputs and tools, they also lack bargaining power. The smallholders need to be sensitised and educated to focus on efficient farming operations that are cost effective and reliable.

Smallholder farmers also need access to efficient market chains that they can rely on to sell their cocoa beans at competitive and stable prices as smallholders face major disadvantages in their business.



Farmgate Cocoa Alliance engage with governments of cocoa exporting countries to encourage and promote fine flavour and organic cocoa farming. Smallholders farming in west and central, Africa continues to face challenges that is also hindering their capacity to become economic dependence. Prominent among these challenges are low cocoa price, climate change, deforestation and lack of bargaining power to make the price for their crop, and lack of direct market situations.

Coupled with bad infrastructure, weak farmers voice at national and international level, lack of farmers involvement in research and sustainability initiatives, and lack of investment opportunities. Below are also some of the challenges which are very common at the farmgate level include:

- Low production due to lack of modern farm inputs, such as hybrid seed, fertilizers, herbicides, better irrigation on farm and lack of mechanization of cocoa farming.
- Poor postharvest handling and limited value addition to cocoa products insufficient cocoa farming manpower and skills
- No access to credit and generally low funding both at national and household levels
- Lack of diseases and pests controllers
- No or limited access to better sustainable farming knowledge to help improve quality and increase production.
- Zero knowledge or access to information against emerging agricultural threats to such as climate change and deforestation.

Income and Tax

Cocoa farmers are entrepreneur and therefore, should be able to pay taxes to the government. Due to the lack of recognising cocoa farming as a business farmers are not participating to develop the economics of their country. Based on a defined, cocoa sector, farmers will be able to register their farms as business and can contribute to the growth of their country.



They will be able to produce and sell their cocoa crop directly to their partner, with payment being made through bank to bank transfer, paving the way for them to benefit from financial services and become responsible business entrepreneur and contribute to the development of community. This way will also make it possible for cocoa producing governments to benefit from revenue generation from farming and cocoa bean buyers.

Urban Migration

Professionalising cocoa farming will facilitate better opportunities for cocoa farmers to represent themselves at cocoa platforms as business people and cocoa farming as a profession will have much prospects as it will guarantee a stable income for farmers. This encourages young educated people to take up cocoa farming as a profession, reducing the rate at which youths are migrating to urban centres or even abroad in search of work.

This will effectively reduce urban migration rate from millions of jobless educated locals as they can't have a better livelihood from cocoa farming with the experience of current farmers, that leads to better economic activity and development in cocoa communities, stabilising a sustainable cocoa production to meet future demands.

Linkage to Direct Market

Since, farmers can only be encouraging farmers to embrace organic cocoa farming with the idea that it will sustain them, their family and bring development to their communities our main objectives is to promote local and export marketing of the produced organic cocoa bean and end products from these countries. To achieve this objective, several initiatives and services have been developed.

Access to Pension and Insurance

Current system in the cocoa sector only works for the few, it does not offer much assistance to the vast majority of sector partners such as, cocoa farmers and farm workers who are trying to build a better livelihood today and in their retired future. Policymakers in cocoa sector including governments should pursue steps to ensure that farmers and farm workers across the globe have access to pension insurance which will benefits them after retirement.

Access to Sustainable Living Income

Cocoa farmers must be able to live happily from what they produced, it is undisputable fact that the wages of coco farmers and farm workers is not enough and therefore, have to be increased. Currently cocoa farmers and farm workers get only 3% of the profit gained from the sale of a bar of chocolate worldwide. The situation is even worse among smallholders who small quantity and as a result do not have access to market as they farm in remote areas.

Access to Employment

To support young men and women in cocoa community to become Service Providers, so they can support and deliver farm services to the aging farmers. This can be done through identifying appropriate and talented young people who will be train. They will also have the capacity to monitor farm activities and help bridge the gap between unorganised remote smallholder farmers with buyers.

Encourage & Promote Fine-Flavor / Organic

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance is committed to building and enhancing capacity of organic cocoa farming at various levels within the cocoa sector ranging from production, export and processing. We also offer services to farmers and partners such as, training, trade, research, extension and monitoring of activities. other serveries are:



Assess and provide farmers training, inputs and tools, Develop and provide training materials, organizing sensitization workshops, Facilitating exchange of visits between farmers and consumers.

We provide high skill specialized trainer(s) using experts from our members and partners organization from leading fine and flavour regions (Caribbean Community and Latin Americans) by such, providing and addressing specific needs in organic cocoa farming from experience team. The training is offered to farmers at free of charge and in some situation on affordable cost. In addition to offering subsidized services to farmers such as:

- Training in organic cocoa farming
- Project management
- Organic market promotion
- Market linkages
- Designing and developing Internal Control Systems
- Designing and developing Internal quality management
- Training on organic production, processing and marketing
- Feasibility studies
- Cost benefit analysis
- Value chain development
- Training needs assessment
- Modern organic production practices
- Locally produced organic farm inputs
- Technical advice on pest and disease management
- Training and advice on sustainable farm weeding and clearing methods
- How to conduct farm assessment and plan farm activities

For more information about this project and how you can become a partner or to support our work, please kindly contact us using one of the following contacts:

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