



Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

KEYNOTE – „Living Income for Cocoa Farmers and Child Labor Free Cocoa – What follows from the EU Cocoa Talks?“



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Alex Assanvo, Secretary Executive of the Initiative Cacao Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana, shared the perspective of cocoa producing countries with the guests in his speech. He explained that in the countries of origin, cocoa is a commodity that creates fundamental values and is an important economic option for the people. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana have taken important steps such as the adoption of the African Regional Standard for Sustainable Cocoa (ARS 1000) to advance sustainability in the sector. Assanvo added that cocoa is still associated with poverty,

however, which is why it is time for change that also creates opportunities for cocoa farmers on the ground. He stressed the need to produce sustainable cocoa. However, he said, a prerequisite for this is that cocoa farmers earn a decent income: "We see the right to earn a living income as a human right." Therefore, the implementation of the Living Income Differential (LID) is a top priority for the Initiative Cacao Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana. The LID is a key element for more sustainability in the cocoa sector: "Imbalance in the value chain – only 6% of the value creation is in the producing countries – is a threat to sustainability," Assanvo said. Overall, he said, there is too much focus on production in the value chain, and many actors are not familiar with the mechanisms of the market, which is why they are often not questioned. "We have missed a point: The trade in physical cocoa only accounts for 10-15 per cent of the world market on the stock exchange. The rest is speculation and a business. If we want to think about sustainability, we need to evaluate all elements – from production to market, to the final product – and take sustainability aspects into account," he added. This requires the cooperation and coordination of all actors along the value chain. Assanvo explicitly welcomed the cooperation of the national platforms for sustainable cocoa in Europe as well as the upcoming EU legislation, which represents a great opportunity to advance sustainability. A systemic change in the cocoa sector is needed, "business as usual" is not possible to achieve the goal of a paradigm shift towards sustainable cocoa production

The recordings of the event can be found [here](#) (keynote A. Assanvo from 25:00).



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