

The position of women in the West African cocoa sector

Facts and Figures, Obstacles and
Opportunities

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Oxfam and Cocoa

- Involved in cocoa since 2006
- Campaigning on sustainable cocoa with Dutch companies and supermarkets
- Working with companies and farmer unions in Nigeria and Indonesia
- Dialogue with Mars, Mondelez and Nestle on improving position of women in the cocoa sector in West Africa

Cocoa West Africa General

- 3 million small scale farmers, 2-3 hectares each, very low yields, average 500 kilo per hectare
- Volatile prices, low farm gate prices, low income (below poverty line)
- Low level of organization and bargaining power
- Not enough support : training, credit, farm inputs

The Gender Gap in Cocoa

- Women work 20 hours per week more than men (cocoa, foodcrops, domestic work)
- Very few women farmers own land
- Less access to training and credit
- Yields much lower than male farmers
- Less control over income from cocoa
- Less voice and membership of co-ops

Business Case (why investing in women pays off)

- Women produce better quality than men
- Women's income is spent on family and farm
- Women will manage farms of the future, because of male migration to towns
- Healthier families means healthier communities and continuity in cocoa farming
- **But : living income requires higher prices !**

What works in cocoa and gender

- Long term engagement with communities
- Pay attention to cocoa, foodcrops and domestic work
- Literacy, leadership training and organization building
- Understand and adapt to priorities of women
- Do not be afraid to tackle “sensitive issues” (land ownership, control over income)

What can be done ?

- Farmers
- Producing Countries Governments
- Companies
- Consuming Countries Governments

FARMERS

- Farmers need to better organize at all levels, from local to international, increase bargaining power, demand fair share of the cake
- Men and women need to share workload, income and assets more equally

Producing country governments

- Plough back tax received into the sector
- Create enabling and supportive environment for cocoa farmers
- Address the gender gap (property rights, extension, credit)

Companies

- Commit to 100% sustainable cocoa
- Move beyond isolated projects
- “Know and show” gender commitment

Consuming countries

- Facilitate international dialogue on price setting and living income
- Address market concentration
- Set up global commodity fund to plough back money into the sector

- THANK YOU

- Some pictures to follow



Farmer Field School



Harvest



Drying and Bagging



Farmers Day