PRODUCING 1,8 TON COCOA PER HECTAR WITH FARM REVITALIZATION

4 EASY WAYS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION THROUGH SOIL REVITALIZATION

9 BENEFITS: Zero Waste Cocoa Production System
EDITOR’S NOTE

One of the most important natural resources that cover much of the earth’s surface is soil. Most life on earth depends upon the soil as a direct or indirect source of food. Plants are rooted in the soil and obtain nutrients from it. Animals also get nutrients from eating the plants on the soil. Soil is home of many organisms such as seeds, spores, insects, and worms. The contents of soil change constantly and there are many different kinds of soil. It forms very slowly and is destroyed easily, so it must be conserved in order to continue to support life.

Our soil resource can be compared to a bank where continued withdrawal without repayment cannot continue indefinitely. As nutrients are removed by one crop and not replaced for subsequent crop production, yields will decrease accordingly. Accurate accounting of nutrient removal and replacement, crop production statistics, and soil analysis results will help the producer manage fertilizer applications.

To grow good crops, most farmers need to fertilize the soil. Fertilizing increases crop yield, and the improved crop growth maintains and even builds soil structure and the quality of the soil. If things aren’t done properly, however, there can be negative impacts. We will show you, how important it is to restore nutrients to the soil; how to do it and how to maintain it so that no more land is damaged. (IPR)

Happy reading!

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Soil Fertility Renovation

From the late 19th century until just before 1977, the land area of cocoa in Indonesia is less than 15 thousand hectares and mostly located in Java. After 1977 there was a new development on a large scale cocoa in Sulawesi and Sumatra in particular. Cocoa development is very fast and now it’s been more than one million hectares.

If calculated, cocoa plantations in Indonesia from the results of large-scale development have been outstanding for more than 35 years. Now when we come to the farms and meet with the farmers, many of those who have experienced the glory of the early 1980s complained that the current cocoa farming is not like it used to be. At that time farmers could produce high production by planting any kind of cocoa planting material, even without fertilizer. It occurs due to high levels of soil fertility.

At the beginning of the expansion, many farmers grow cocoa in newly opened forest lands, so that the level of fertility was still very high. Community interest in cocoa farming was too expanded, until eventually spreads into lands that even do not fit to plant cocoa.

Leaching of nutrient elements

Let’s see how many nutrients are depleted for more than 35 years. When the pods are also taken out of the farm, then the amount of nutrients that are taken will be greater in number, namely 35 kg N, 6 kg P, and 60 kg K (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) for every 1,000 kg of dry beans. This suggests that the K absorption by cocoa pods is high (see table above).

In 35 years, for every hectare, it has been drained as much as 1,225 kg of N or the equivalent of 2,7 tons of urea fertilizer; 210 kg of P or the equivalent of 1,0 tons of TSP (triple super phosphate) and 2,100 kg K, equivalent to 4.2 tons of KCL fertilizer (potassium chloride). This is an incredible amount of nutrients taken from cocoa plantations.

Of observations in the field many cocoa farmers barely fertilize their farms. Ironic, because cocoa farmers who also own paddy fields, will fertilize their fields as recommended. So if cocoa plantations are not nurtured, you can imagine how big the depletion of nutrients taken from the soil. Therefore, do not be surprised if many farmers are complaining that the plants do not grow well after planting.

Soil fertility renovation

Reduction of nutrient elements from the soil not only brought out together with cocoa yield, but also through a variety of processes as shown on picture on the right. From research it is known that nutrients can be brought out of the farm through harvest, evaporation, erosion, mudslides, fixation, leaching, groundwater flow, and immobilization.

Meanwhile, the inclusion of nutrients to the farm can be through fostering, litter (dead organic material from twigs and leaves that can be used as crop fertilizer), rain, rain seepage, and irrigation absorbed by plants from soil.

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<th>COUNTRY</th>
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Easy Ways To Do Soil Fertility Renovation:

MANAGEMENT OF WASTE & LITTER >>

Out of cocoa farm there are quite a lot of wastes that can be used to maximize the nutrients utilization. The most important are cocoa pods, pruning outcomes, as well as litter. A large amount of farm waste and litter should be returned to the farm, and only a bit of waste and litter may be taken out of it.

Wastes can be turned into compost by placing them into holes made in the farm or put into a rorak.

Waste & Litter can be turned to the farm, and only a bit of waste and litter may be taken out of it.

MANAGEMENT OF SOIL & WATER >>

Greatest nutrient loss can be caused by water runoff, erosion, and landslides. Mulching one of the best ways to cover the ground; it improves the ability of litter and the decomposition of dead plants in doing soil absorption. For cocoa plantations, dense canopies can be mixed with mulch in an open area; this makes smaller water runoff.

Construction of terraces on sloping land can be merged with the manufacture of rorak to reduce the speed of water runoff.

Mulch should be applied at the end of rainy season. Besides, mulch can also be used to reduce the loss of water during dry season.

Increasing the ability of fertilizer can be done by taking into account the type and dose of fertilizer, also note on how the fertilization applied, the time of application, and a place of fertilization. Research showed that the mix of organic manures can also improve the ability of artificial fertilizers. (IPR)

MANAGEMENT OF FERTILIZER >>

Fertilization is an important part in cocoa cultivation at this time, because it plays a role in maintaining and improving the quality of cocoa farm. But usually fertilizer uptake by plants is not maximized, whereas the applied fertilizer is quite large.

In theory, agrifinance can be interpreted as an act of reviewing the financial side that relates to agriculture; in details, agrifinance is related to fund management activities such as the provision of agricultural inputs, production, distribution, processing, and sales.

According to Hasrun Hafid, agrifinance is the act of recognizing what needs to be funded to support farming activities. "Agrifinance is a credit and tools to meet the needs of agricultural inputs," said Hafid. The point is how can farmers managing their finances in a right way that good crops can be achieved.

Meanwhile, relations with soil revitalization, agrifinance is how farmers getting funds to restore nutrients of the farm. "Through agrifinance, farmers can balance between the use of organic and non-organic fertilizers; to press the costs, because of non-organic fertilizers are usually more expensive," said Hafid.

When the use of non-organic fertilizers is pressed, then agrifinance implies the role of organic fertilizer which is proven to be effective in restoring soil fertility.

So far there are several parties involved in providing guidance and training to farmers regarding agrifinance, such as the Bank BTPN, Armajaro, and Amarta II Program.

Parties like this are trying to find the best way so that farmers can get proper credit, especially in the case of soil revitalization. Another path taken is to provide training and guidance about the proper management of the funds, with the aim that harvest can improve at least 20%.

These parties are also filtered the farmer groups that will fit the supply chain, as well as providing tools for a smooth path to the global supply chain.

Why is bank included in agrifinance? "When we talk about agrifinance, then the bank is a financial resource which is recommended for the farmers," said Hafid. In addition, the bank is used to assist farmers in obtaining capital and buy non-organic fertilizers.

Hafid admits that today there are many farmers who do not dare to borrow capital from banks, they fear of being rejected. But there is an easy way out. “Make the cooperative, if the farmers have made a cooperative it will be easier to get credit from the bank,” said Hafid.

If farmers do not have a cooperative, first they can form a farmer group. Once the group is formed and has sufficient number of members, all they have to do is come to the cooperative agency to legalize this group. Easy isn’t it?

Closing the discussion Hafid advised, “If agrifinance executed properly, the soil will be healthy and cocoa farm will produce good fruits.” (IPR)
A QUICK LOOK ON SOIL MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Recently team of Solidaridad West Africa took a visit to CSP headquarters in Makassar, exchanging experiences about the intricacies of soil management. Here’s a brief conversation concerning the issue with Vincent Frimpong Manu, Programme Manager of Cocoa Republic Ghana.

What are the common soil fertility issues in Ghana?

First, I can say that soil in Ghana is very “tired”, because we started to plant cocoa more than a century ago. It is very expensive to carry out soil sample analysis information on soil fertility in intervention projects is not readily available. Farmers do not have information about soil fertility so they either apply overdose which means they waste money on fertilizers unduly or they do not apply fertilizers at all.

Some government institutions undertake soil sample testing but results of the analysis are usually not accessible to farmers. We need to bridge this gap. When this happen, you can imagine condition of the farmers to deal with these issues.

Any issue from outside the farm that is threatening the soil?

Gold mining, which is incidentally very close to the cocoa producing areas. We have a lot of people buying and mining concessions, they cut down the trees and some of them even do illegal mining. This has very much contributed to the loss of fertility in some cocoa growing areas due to chemical usage in mining the gold.

“EVEN THE BIGGEST COCOA PRODUCER REGION IN GHANA NOW IS CONSIDERED TO BE HAVING SOIL FERTILITY ISSUES.”

The miners do not institute any intervention to rejuvenate and restore fertility of the land. Actually in one of our projects, we lost one community; the farmers sold their small pieces of land for gold mining. This is a very big threat to cocoa production and sustainability interventions.

How do you fertilize a different soil characteristic in Ghana?

The soil characteristics in western region which produces the largest cocoa are different from those in other regions, and within a particular region it might differ from a specific sub area to another.

So, for these particular areas we simply cannot encourage farmers to pick one type of fertilizer and then apply it, which is why it is important to include such initiatives in agricultural products.

We do soil testing, get to know the characteristics of soil, and get to know which particular fertilizer would be useful. Then we can advise which quantity of fertilizer for the farmers to apply.

Different soil characteristics are also giving us different productivity percentages; this buttresses why we are engaged in soil fertility testing and analysis to know if we need to fertilize the soil in specific areas.

Currently, not many farmers use fertilizer in Ghana because of high cost and farmers complain that they have low incomes to be able to afford. The government does not subsidize fertilizer supply to the farmers, even though the distribution is not always on time and sometimes the farmers don’t get the quantity as they want.

What are Solidaridad main strategies in Ghana?

One of the main strategies is using certification; the requirements for certification provide soil management. We collaborate with state agencies, for instance now we have a project on cocoa and oil palm which include soil analysis. We take permanent sampling plots to analyse the soils to identify the soil fertility so that the appropriate fertilizer is recommended.

We also created a cocoa sustainability platform like the CSP you have, known as National Cocoa Stakeholders Platform (NCS). At this platform, Solidaridad and stakeholders meet once a year at national conference to discuss cocoa sustainability issues including soil fertility.

Last year for instance, we discussed the usage of illegal fertilizer by farmers caused by input access difficulties and presented a recommendation on how to deal with the problem. (IPR)

What they do:

TO TRAIN FARMERS ON APPROPRIATE FERTILIZER USAGE

TO FACILITATE LINKAGE BETWEEN FARMERS AND INPUTS SELLERS TO ENCOURAGE ACCESS TO INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZER

TO ENCOURAGE FARMERS TO USE RESIDUES OF COCOA PRUNES AND LEAVES TO HELP REVITALIZE THE SOIL.

PROMOTING THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF GOLD

EDUCATING PEOPLE ON MINING FAIR TRADE GOLD. THIS ENSURES THE CERTIFICATION OF GOLD PRODUCED THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE PROCESS

TAKING PERMANENT SAMPLING PLOTS TO ANALYSE THE SOILS TO IDENTIFY THE SOIL FERTILITY SO THAT THE APPROPRIATE FERTILIZER IS RECOMMENDED.
Read This:  
4 WAYS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION WITH SOIL MANAGEMENT  
By Arif Iswanto

Planting materials which are genetically resistant to pests and diseases, as well as having the potential for high production, are being sought by many farmers these days. But keep in mind, superior planting material is not the sole determinant to the success of cocoa farming. There is another determinant which is not less important: the soil management.

Of thousands of cocoa disease-causing microorganisms which are now circulating in Indonesia, there are the two most important, namely the fruit rot (Phytophthora palmivora) and vascular streak dieback (VSD). Meanwhile, of thousands of insects, there is one which most heavily damaging the quality and quantity of our production, namely the cocoa pod borer or Conopomorpha cramerella. There is also the so-called Helopelthis which does not directly attack the cocoa beans.

The inability of a plant to be in good production, apart caused by diseases and pests, can also be caused by lack of soil management; in some cases exacerbated by lack of discipline in farming.

In relation to that, farmers should know about few things, starting with how to restructure the soil with compost, and how to treat the recent harvested cocoa pods. Production would be better also if farmers pay attention on the height of their plants, determine the time for pruning, and when to harvest thoroughly. These are then followed by selecting a place for fruit fragmentation.

Things above are just a small part of many easy ways for soil cultivation that can be done by farmers. More easy ways can be read on the following points:

1] CREATING TRENCHES AND COMPOST

• Ditch the rorak extending about one meter, with a width of 20 cm and depth of 30 cm. This trench should be between the plants and filled with cocoa pods and decomposer. Other ingredients such as trimmed twigs, cocoa leaves, manure and hay can also be added.

• As described above, the rorak can be used as a place to immerse sanitation outcome or rotten fruit.

• Approximately three to four months later would appear earthworms or other microorganisms in the trench. You will also find root fibres arising from the cocoa plant foraging from the compost heap. Root fibres are a sign that cocoa plants grow healthy and will bear much fruit.

• If you use chemical fertilizers with nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (N-P-K), the trench can be used as a fertilizer immersion.

2] COCOA FRAGMENTATIONS AS RAW MATERIAL FOR COMPOSTING

• All of harvested fruits should be fragmented at the same time. Perform this task in one place. If fragmentation is done inside the farm, then the pods must be submerged into the ground.

• If fragmentation is done outside the farm, then use the waste as a mixture material for compost or cattle feed.

• The above measures are indirectly the most effective cocoa pod borer and fruit rot disease controller; because it can break the pests and diseases life cycles.

3] PRUNING THE TWIGS

• Pruning is a complement action and can be done following the crop conditions at that time. If twigs are too dense then pruning should be done immediately. There is no specific standard to do pruning, just cut the branches or twigs which seem grow too much.

• Pruning aims to make the sun rays touch the plants, also for pressing moisture which usually helps the mites to grow. With pruning, the air flow under the canopy is so much smoother which triggers the fruit to grow in the main stem.

• Sign of a succeed pruning is when you feel cool air flowing while standing in the shade of a cocoa tree. The fruit grows even more visible on the main stem.

4] HEIGHT OF THE PLANT

• Height of the plant must at least three meters when cultivated. With such height, pruning and harvesting will be easier. Spraying and fruit cloaking are also easier.

Because of this, ladies and gentlemen, in order to increase your farm production, remedial measures such soil management must be considered carefully.

In addition, this management helps the cocoa plants grow healthy and reduces the level of pests and diseases. Pol- lination is also undoubtedly increased. It’s very easy, isn’t it? (IPR)
For a healthy and sustainable high cocoa productivity, proper soil and crop management is necessary. Proper soil and crop management should maintain or improve soil health from suboptimal to good quality. Inversely, years of improper soil and crop management will result in the opposite condition: initially or naturally healthy soil (commonly found in newly converted forest land) degrades systematically to poor quality soil, observed in many cocoa farms in Sulawesi. Most cocoa farmers in Sulawesi practice cocoa farming that leads to systematic soil quality degradation. We recognize that, pruning - fertilization - frequent harvest - farm sanitation (known as P3S in Indonesian term), and soil organic matter management from farm wastes are standard good agricultural practice that should be performed by cocoa farmers. Yet in reality, not many farmers practice P3S and farm soil organic matter management. Consequently, soil health, especially those associated with soil fertility and biology, degrades.

**ZERO-WASTE SYSTEM**

Zero-waste integrated cocoa production (ZWICP) system is a model of sustainable cocoa production which integrates pruning - fermentation - soil improvement into a production system that is generated from farm wastes are standard in Indonesian term), and soil utilization – frequent harvest – pruning – fermentation – soil improvement – systematic to poor quality soil, observed in many cocoa farms in Sulawesi practice cocoa farming (ZWICP) system is a model of sustainable cocoa production which integrates pruning - fermentation - soil improvement into a production system that is generated from farm wastes. Inversely, years of improper soil and crop management will result in the opposite condition: initially or naturally healthy soil (commonly found in newly converted forest land) degrades systematically to poor quality soil, observed in many cocoa farms in Sulawesi. Most cocoa farmers in Sulawesi practice cocoa farming that leads to systematic soil quality degradation. We recognize that, pruning - fertilization - frequent harvest - farm sanitation (known as P3S in Indonesian term), and soil organic matter management from farm wastes are standard good agricultural practice that should be performed by cocoa farmers. Yet in reality, not many farmers practice P3S and farm soil organic matter management. Consequently, soil health, especially those associated with soil fertility and biology, degrades.

**9 BENEFITS FOR YOU FROM ZWICP:**

- Improved farm’s health
- Improved cocoa productivity
- Increasing profits
- Decreasing of soil infected deseases
- Decreasing of cocoa black pods
- Decreasing of pesticide usage
- Nature remains unexploited
- Soil surface is protected from erosion
- Ground water will not be easily evaporated
- Decreasing of soil infected deseases
- Decreasing of pesticide usage
- Nature remains unexploited
- Soil surface is protected from erosion
- Ground water will not be easily evaporated

In summary, ZWICP is suggested as a simple model that can (potentially) be widely adopted to improve soil health and to reduce pest and disease infestation. Having a healthy soil, application of balanced inorganic fertilizers (to compensate total elemental nutrients removed from bean harvests) will be more effective and efficient to ultimately give higher cocoa yield and bean quality sustainably.

**THE CHALLENGE AHEAD**

ZWICP model has been demonstrated to be more profitable, yet its adoption has been limited. Most cocoa farmers produce cocoa as a monoculture system with no or minimum shade trees. Certain farmers have goats in their cocoa farms, but the two farm elements are not managed in an integrated or synergized way. We face two major challenges for ZWICP model scale up in the field. First, inadequate knowledge and skill of farmers on the ZWICP model; and second, the model needs high investment and effective managements that push farmers to convert their cocoa to other crops. Finally, to support sustainable cocoa production, it should be wise to include implementation of ZWICP model in CSP cocoa road map for 2020.

Sikstus Gusli is an active professor in soil physics at Universitas Hasanuddin, Makassar.
BARAMANG PRODUCES 1,8 TONS PER HA THANKS TO SOIL REVITALIZATION

When Cokelat visited the village by the end of July, dry soil can still be seen partially in Salu Paremang, it feels hard when trampled. According to some news, it happened in the past that almost all soil in Salu Paremang were hard like this. “Much different when we cleared the land for plantations, more than 30 years ago,” said Baramang whom we met at his home.

According to Baramang, application of chemical fertilizers has been existed since his parents opened the farm. At that time, large-scale of land clearance by the government thus introducing chemical fertilizers to farmers. “No one knew what compost was,” said Baramang. Decades passed; compost was finally introduced and institutions sprang, providing trainings to farmers. Application of chemical fertilizer was decreased.

But in 2009, just when cocoa production in Salu Paremang increased, the use of chemical fertilizers re-blooms. Why? “Farmers who got an increase incomes, want to have more,” said Baramang. Unfortunately they didn’t do it in a correct way; they spread as much chemical fertilizer as they could, to think that cocoa would abound with it. Instead, hundreds of trees were dead.

To improve the situation

Seeing these conditions, Baramang who wants to maintain his inheritance of the land, determined to make a change. Because of clearer thinking, Baramang could see that the excessive use of chemical fertilizers actually destroy farmers’ efforts. After 2009’s harvest, Baramang decided to find out how they should deal with chemical fertilizers, is there a better way to fertilize the land?

Baramang started taking various workshops held by state agencies. There, Baramang learned that if he wanted to restore soil fertility, use of chemical fertilizers should be reduced gradually. But Baramang had another idea, how if chemical fertilizers should be eliminated altogether? That’s what he did. “Since 2009, I did not use chemical fertilizers anymore, at all!” Baramang exclaimed with a laugh.

Tit for tat, PT Mars Symbioscience looked at the business and began helping Baramang in making composters. Raw material to make compost is not difficult to come by, straight from the farm in form of cocoa pod, cocoa placenta, corn trunks, and remains of pruning. Moreover villagers also being introduced a system of barter, in which raw materials exchanged for finished compost. “If you want to make the compost yourself, you can do it by digging a rorak in your farm and bury the waste into it,” said Baramang who were sure that it would put more pressure on costs, particularly transportation.

Survives longer

Baramang recognizes that maintaining the farm with compost takes time and stages, many farmers are reluctant to make compost because they think chemical fertilizer gives faster results.

If a farmer can see the long term impact, compost is the best tool to fertilize the soil. “Chemical reaction is indeed rapid. But the benefits are also gone quickly. It’s different with compost; the impact survives longer because it is made from natural ingredients,” said Baramang.

Baramang and colleagues began making rorak when Australian Centres of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) went to their village and introduced the demo plot. “At that time we also used promi to help the decomposition stage,” said Baramang.

Now you can see the cocoa trees in Baramang’s farm are very healthy. Moreover Baramang also made trench extending between two rows of cocoa trees and filled them with compost.

To maintain the volume of water contained in the soil, Baramang organized to cover the soil with mulch, which comes from grass around his farm. Mulch too will eventually transform the farm. Mulch turns into compost.

In late 2009, to help the decomposition stage, Baramang began to spray M4 to cocoa waste; right after that, Baramang and some farmers in the village had made a compost processing tool. A total of four tons of compost can be produced from one hectare of cocoa farm.

U ncontrollable use of chemical fertilizers causing soil nutrients in Paremang Salu village, Luwu, South Sulawesi reduced drastically. Many farmers thought, by adding more chemical fertilizers would fertilize the land quickly and cocoa trees would abound with it. Instead, hundreds of trees were dead. During the dry season like now, mulch is very useful to protect the soil from direct sunlight, so as not quickly cracked.
To harvest 1.8 ton of cocoa

According to Baramang, composting does greatly assist farmers in reducing production costs. For one ton of compost material, just one kilogram of promi needed at a price of Rp50 thousand. But the results are incredible. When Baramang used chemical fertilizers, one hectare could only produce 400 to 500 kg per year. “Now we are up to 1.8 tonnes per hectare per year,” said Baramang with a smile.

Seeing there was a dairy farm near his home, Baramang was immediately moved to make bio urine which was also helpful to fertilize the soil. Simple herbs which commonly grown in the yard, such as turmeric and ginger, are also used as ingredients to make fermented compost; even as pest control. “I sell partly the results of composting and bio urine. The profit is not bad,” said Baramang.

Baramang said that the use of chemical fertilizers should be stopped at all. If the fellow farmers want to increase production, please give it a try. “Do it in stages. But you can do it directly; I guarantee there will be no side effects for your plants,” said Baramang.

**Build your intention**

Thanks to his efforts, Baramang and farmers in Salu Paremang at the moment are beginning to conduct joint marketing and connected directly with the bank. Baramang himself is busy guiding a group of farmers in his village in preparing Definitive Plan of Group Needs (RDKK), in order to increase more production of cocoa in the village. “Instant way is proven not to produce anything. First, build your intention and patience. If there is a will, there is a way,” said Baramang concluded. (IPR)

**FOLLOW HIS SUCCESSFUL STEPS:**

1. Dig a rorak in your farm and bury cocoa waste into it
2. Make one rorak for each multiple of four trees
3. Spray M4 to cocoa waste
4. Use promi to help the decomposition
5. Create a trench extending between two rows of cocoa trees and fill it with compost
6. Cover the soil with mulch
7. Create bio urine to help fertilize the soil
8. Use simple herbs as a mixture of fermented compost, or as pest control.
On early July CSP in collaboration with VECO Indonesia, hosted a workshop on Joint Marketing Learning Outcomes for Cocoa Farmers in Polewali Mandar (Polman), West Sulawesi. Here’s the summary.

The purpose of this workshop is to develop a better method in joint marketing, which means looking at how to market their cocoa beans in a better way.

In detail, the purpose of this documentation is to record the results of cocoa beans joint marketing that had been conducted by cooperative Amanah. In the future, the results of this documentation will be used by cooperative Amanah in developing and marketing the cocoa and other business enterprises.

Not only that, this documentation can be used as a learning tool for all those who are building joint marketing, as well as a basic ingredient in the preparation of Joint Marketing by Farmers training modules.

Marketing with its own means is a collective action for market access involves cooperation between farmers.

### BACKGROUND

For all interested parties, the holding of joint marketing has its own background, namely:

1. Geographical condition that does not help if farmers want to sell their cocoa beans independently
2. Buyers are more pleased to be associated with farmer groups, as it is more appropriate
3. Cocoa quality are all equal, because standard application and appropriate volume
4. Assistance will be easier to do
5. With co-marketing, chain will be shorter, and
6. Reduce debt bondage practices.

Certification should also be done because it stimulates joint marketing activities, so that the resulting product will be more easily traced.

### REQUIREMENTS

As the first step, all parties should know the requirements, including:

- Existence of strong farmer groups
- The governing body is clear and responsible
- The flow of money and goods should be clear
- The number and volume of product are clear
- A continuous production
- There are buyers who offer good prices
- Location adjacent (over-lay)
- All farmers have the same goal

If you are interested to read full results of this workshop please click: [cocoasustainabilitypartnership.blogspot.com](http://cocoasustainabilitypartnership.blogspot.com)

### SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE NETWORK’S PUBLIC CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

On Thursday, 13 June 2013, the Sustainable Agriculture Network’s Public Consultation Workshop for the Sustainable Agriculture Standard took place on Bali.

The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) is a coalition of independent non-profit conservation organizations that promote the social and environmental sustainability of agricultural activities by developing standards. Farms that comply with the SAN Standards can apply to use the Rainforest Alliance Certified™ seal for products grown on their certified farms.

The workshop on Bali was one of more than 15 similar workshops organized around the world from Brazil to Sweden, all part of a boarder public consultation process that began in April 2013, and the goal of which is a complete revision of the SAN Standard.

### A COMPLETE OVERHAUL

The SAN is always working to update and improve its farm standard. This happens through the development of new modules, such as for cattle, climate change adaption and mitigation, smallholder groups, and chain of custody, as well as the important Local Interpretation Guidelines and general guidance documents for standards.

Every few years, the SAN does a complete overhaul of the standard for farms that want to promote their products as Rainforest Alliance Certified™. The last substantive revision was made in 2008 for the development of additional criteria for oil palm and sugarcane plantations, which are folded into the current July 2010 standard version.

You can learn more about the Public Consultation Process online and of course are invited to provide feedback using the online feedback platform. (IPR)

Please visit [http://publicconsultation.sanstandards.org](http://publicconsultation.sanstandards.org)

**Petra Tanos is the Senior Projects Associate, Asia Pacific Region Rainforest Alliance. She is based in Denpasar, Bali.**
Mondelēz International, the newest CSP member and the world’s largest chocolate company has a unique responsibility to help transform the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and their communities over the long-term. Cocoa Life is a program that is based on the successful Cadbury Cocoa Partnership which began working in Ghana in 2007. “This experience has shown us that while sustainability issues are complex and there are no quick fixes, we can be successful in tackling them if we work with partners and the cocoa communities on a long-term basis, guided by a clear and distinctive approach, and underpinning values and principles,” said Asmayanti.

It is from this work in Ghana, and Mondelēz insights from other activities in cocoa origins, with certification schemes and collaboration within cocoa industry that they have developed Cocoa Life approach. They are now implementing the program in Indonesia, starting at the end of 2013.

THE COCOA LIFE APPROACH

Many factors are threatening the cocoa supply in Indonesia; that is why Mondelēz is implementing the program in the country. “We face competition from rubber and palm oil; more than ever farmers have choices and we need to show that cocoa is a viable crop that can support community growth,” said Asmayanti. Pa-pua, Sumatra, and Sulawesi are the particular areas where the program will be implemented, and Mondelēz is targeting more than 50,000 farmers. The first year will begin in Papua targeting 10,000 farmers over 10 years.

Their approach follows particular proven methodologies. Specific to Indonesia they need to show farmers that cocoa is the right crop for them and that farmers can make a sustainable living for themselves and their communities. Asmayanti told Cokelat that Cocoa Life approach was basically run by three principles, namely holistic and farmer centric, committed to partnerships, and aligned with Mondelēz sourcing.

Moreover, Cocoa Life Program is focused in five key areas. Experience shows that delivery of outcomes across these five areas generates thriving cocoa communities.

COCOA LIFE, THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE COCOA

Cocoa Life is a bold ambition that reflects the importance of cocoa as a critical raw material. How Mondelēz will manage this program across a range of diverse origins and over a ten year timescale? Follow our conversation with Andi Sitti Asmayanti, SEA Cocoa Program Development Manager Mondelēz International.

Mondelēz will do a kind of monitoring and evaluation in collaboration with several organizations, such as Care, UNDR, WWF, Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance. These organizations sit on Mondelēz steering committee whose job is to give advice and consultation for the program. In addition they will be considered as internal stakeholders and project advisory board. Results of the evaluation will be disseminated to all stakeholders using a matrix called as the Learning Monitoring Evaluation and Validation (LMEV).

Last but not least, we asked Asmayanti why Mondelēz decided to join CSP, she told us, “As the world’s largest cocoa buyer, Mondelēz sees CSP as the best agricultural forum which can be used as a medium to contribute in the Indonesian cocoa industry. In addition, CSP is the best channel if we want to make communication with all cocoa stakeholders in Indonesia.”

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

To determine program indicators, Mondelēz builds an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework, which takes into account local program requirements and the needs of the business to track progress.

Asmayanti said that it was an important element of the program coordination. It helps to ensure the program keeps focus on its identified outcomes expressed in the 10 global key performance indicators and supports the on-going learning, adaptation growth of the program.

ENVIRONMENT. Cocoa communities depend on fertile soil, clean air, and potable water. Through Cocoa Life farmers are working and living in new ways so that it is possible to safeguard the land while increasing yields by implementing and maintaining modern best practices. Mondelēz believes conserving the land is a promise to future generations.

With the work of Mondelēz, farmers benefit from access to micro-finance, together with training on financial literacy and how to manage additional income, allowing farmers to develop additional sources of income and to reinvest in their business. Mondelēz believes a consistent livelihood creates financial security.

YOUTH. Cocoa Life helps young adults have more opportunities once they finished school. Jobs are being created at the village level, and new programs encourage training for these positions. The change to be a part of a thriving community makes villages desirable places to plan a future. “We also believe we need to build awareness on the importance for children to attend school classes and to create alternatives to avoid child labour. We believe young people can be inspired by a career in farming,” said Asmayanti.

COMMUNITY. Cocoa Life supports men and women to work together to transform their communities by developing action plans that can bring about changes to the community that they want to see. Women’s group involve knowledge, confidence, and a sense of opportunity and ownership emerge as communities begin to thrive. Mondelēz believes a shared vision unites communities.

FARMING. Cocoa Life helps farmers benefit from access to the most up-to-date agricultural information. Practices such as planting trees as optimum density, sing share tress, starting seeds in nurseries, and protecting tress from infestation and infection help to increase yields and plot value. Mondelēz believes efficient farming practices lead to better incomes.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

COCOA LIFE vision is to bring cocoa communities to new levels of sustainability and competitiveness within cocoa industry and to improve livelihoods for farmers, farm workers and their families. As part of this vision, Mondelēz builds an evaluation framework, which focuses on its identified outcomes expressed in the 10 global key performance indicators. To determine program indicators, Mondelēz builds an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework, which takes into account local program requirements and the needs of the business to track progress.

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On 22 August 2013 CSP was holding the working group and it was attended by nine members. They were SwissContact, BT Cocoa, Australian Centres of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), UTZ Certified, Cargill, Universitas Hasanuddin, PT London Sumatra, VECO Indonesia, and the Indonesian Cocoa and Coffee Research Institute (ICCRI). Here are the last updates from the working group.

Research and Development (R&D) Update

SwissContact:
- Sustainable Cocoa Production Program (SCPP) with private sectors, namely Cargill, Armajaro, and Mars are conducting trainings of increased production and pest control; also easy access to market that has become task of these private sectors. SCPP made several self-help demo plots.
- The commencement of certification training with the goal of 2,500 farmers. Later, certificate holders are farmers themselves.

ACIAR:
- Developing a book called Integrated Crop Management for Cocoa. Hopefully it will be published in the next working group.
- With Mars they perform soil recovery program, especially for plant health and sanitation. The program is fully funded by Mars.

ICCRI:
- They have been running about 34 titles of research from upstream to downstream. The main objective is to obtain superior planting materials and to increase production.
- The institute is developing assistive technologies to obtain maximum results, both of quantity and quality. In the last 10 years, downstream industry has become advanced.

Cargill:
- From August to December 2012, 10 demo plots had been made; until phase two (June 2013), around 25 demonstration plots successfully created.
- Each side grafting activity is guided by four facilitators.

BT Cocoa:
- Giving assistance to eight subak abian in Temukus and Pekutatan, Bali; primary on processing and drying the cocoa beans.
- Commencement the traceability program, where farmers get a card and a book to record the movement of their crops. This is done in order for farmers to know how their cocoa beans could turn into Milo.

UTZ Certified:
- Still focused on internal consolidation for CSP members who want to conduct certification activities.

VECO Indonesia:
- Program in Central Sulawesi will begin in early 2014 in collaboration with Mars and Continental.
- With SwissContact, Mayora, and BT Cocoa creating a program called Coco Flores.

R&D Working Program

Survey: This should be continued because there are many important data that needs to be collected. Also need to be considered what should be done to finalize the survey.

Modul/Training Manual
- Identify organizations or members who have training manuals.
- Identify existing training manuals.

Discussion:
- There should be one program staff in CSP.
- Members should read every previous minutes.
- Agree on a problem or obstacle, for example on land transfer.
- Develop a data centre system.
- Cokelat magazine should have a page showing field activities.
- Cocoa productivity is declined due to increasingly expensive production. R&D team should think why cocoa is even more unattractive than other commodities.
- On the next meeting there should be a presentation comparing cocoa to palm oil.
- ASKINDO will hold a seminar on certification: UTZ and Swiss contact should make a presentation. Certificates are held by farmers in other commodities such as rice and cashew.
- Creating successful cells then disseminate them.
- Formulate programs on cocoa farm as a business.

Farmer Empowerment (FE) Update

UTZ Certified:
- Miki is appointed as the coordinator of training that focus on cocoa sector.
- Working with SwissContact providing trainings for farmers in rural areas.
- Working closely with SwissContact in making posters and video training (October 2013).
- There will be training in Kolaka and Medan, both of coffee or cocoa.
- Create a member directory on the UTZ website.
- Creating a better strategy in accordance with the Indonesian context.

SCPP:
- Improving the certification program in October 2013.
- Kolaka is in the process of establishing internal control system (ICS) and will conduct training for certificate holders in November 2013.
- Strengthening 15 farmer groups in Mamuju, West Sulawesi.

BT Cocoa: Still reinforce traceability program in the last two months.

Cargill:
- In 2014 Cargill will begin using ICS concept.
- The main activity is now to increase production and quality.

Future plans:
- (September – October) Each member will determine factors of successful groups, including indicators of success.
- (Oktober) Each member of the secretariat will gather success stories to CSP.
- (November) FGD will be created when needed to dig deeper results.
- Draft finding.
- Workshops, to hear opinions from key stakeholders.
- Final report.
- Printing.
- (Desember) Disseminating and socialization.
- The extent of further restructuring cluster expansion based on training books.

VECO Indonesia:
- Empowering collective sale that is based on collectors. Collector itself will serve as a beneficiary of this program.
- Determine whether these collectors should be reduced.
- Farmer groups formed their own business unit in the form of CV.
- In Flores there are three regencies that already conduct joint marketing.
- A learning centre has been built by cocoa farmers who have received training in Sulawesi.
- Perform a smorgasbord approach.

Photos: Igor Rangga.
Cocoa Care

NOW EVERYONE CAN GET INVOLVED IN COCOA SUSTAINABILITY

Farming families are struggling to overcome the issues of aging trees, pests and diseases, degraded soil, and inadequate farm tools with depleted financial resources. They have generally little knowledge of best cocoa farming practices or financial management. Low productivity too undermines the ability of cocoa farming families to rehabilitate their farms and restore financial security. Is there any hope to fix it all? Read the following article.

There are more than one million cocoa farming families in Indonesia and the vast majority are struggling to make a living due to the high incidence of pests and diseases, ageing trees, poor soil management, and insufficient technical knowledge about how to manage their farms for maximum productivity and environmental sustainability. The current challenge is to engage the very large number of cocoa farmers who need help, to get them to the demonstration and training sites, show them how to solve the problems on their farms and lend them a helping hand to get back on their feet managing truly sustainable cocoa farms into the future.

Cocoa Care is a way for anybody, anywhere in the world, to give a helping hand to cocoa farming families to get them out of their current difficulties and onto a path toward sustainability. “Cocoa and chocolate companies, chocolate shops or individuals, can identify with a particular cocoa family or group of families and support that family by providing the necessary tools, training and the right amount of necessary farm inputs to start them on a path of recovery,” said Kate Janetski, Managing Director of PT Community Solutions International.

“We support the process of change for the better,” Janetski added.

Community Solutions International was formally established as an Indonesian Foreign Investment Company in 2009. It works with communities, industry stakeholders, and supplier partners to produce a range of sustainable products and services for the consumer and corporate markets, in a way that improves sustainability and provides additional or article incomes to families and communities.

ACCORDING TO FARMER’S NEEDS

Cocoa care was launched in March, 2013 and the first cocoa families getting a helping hand are located in Soppeng, South Sulawesi. Cocoa Care interfaces with supporters via its website and provides the support to farmers by activating highly trained and experienced cocoa farmers in the area to engage with and support the process of change for the family in need of help. “Cocoa Care has a great team of very experienced advisors who voluntarily help evaluate the farmers’ needs and design appropriate support programs for each farming family,” said Janetski.

They give cocoa farming families a helping hand to get out of current difficulties and onto a path toward sustainability. Janetski said, “We help families gain access to the support they need, show them what is possible, provide in-class and in-field training, provide necessary tools that they don’t have and sufficient farm inputs for them to demonstrate to themselves that they can recover from their current difficulties.”

Currently Cocoa Care has 40 cocoa farming families registered and 35 families being helped. It has been very interesting to see how neighbours and members of farming communities will come to see and help when work is going on in neighbouring farms and in this way news spreads of the opportunity to work together for a better future. “Cocoa farming families make contact with us though other farmers on the program. We then identify their specific needs and look for support for them according to their need,” said Janetski.

Programs provided by Cocoa Care are based on the particular needs of each farming family, the role that family members play in the family farm, and the condition of the farm itself. Janetski said that they had programs that provided necessary tools and training on best practice farming methods, sustainable soil management, as well as farm rehabilitation and replanting programs.

JOINING COCOA CARE

Cocoa Care provides an opportunity for anybody in the world to support cocoa sustainability. It is not a single company program, or a particular government of donor project with a limited term, but an ongoing way that any company or any individual can help ensure the future of chocolate by supporting a cocoa farming family for a sustainable future. “Another important difference between us and other cocoa sustainability programs is that we pay experienced, well-trained cocoa farmers as the in-field trainers to help other cocoa farmers, thus helping to build an ongoing, self supporting, free enterprise cocoa farming extension service in the cocoa farming community,” said Janetski.

The large companies, government and NGO partners in the CSP directly and indirectly support Cocoa Care by continuing to develop and improve technology and best practice methods. Providing open access to excellent demonstration and training facilities, and by continuing to develop the network of experienced cocoa farmer trainers, cloned seedling nurseries and composting business models who work with Cocoa Care to provide the in-field support and farm inputs that farmers need.

Could supporters monitor the program? “Absolutely, once a program has been activated we will provide updates and photographs on the supporters’ page of the Cocoa Care website,” said Janetski. Supporters can monitor the progress of their activity and see how their sponsorship has changed the lives of the cocoa farming families for the better. “Corporate sponsors, or even individuals, could also visit the families they have helped if they were to visit the area,” Janetski concluded.

ANY COMPANY OR INDIVIDUAL CAN CONNECT WITH COCOA FARMERS THROUGH COCOA CARE ON THEIR WEBSITE:

COCOACARE.ORG

Choose from a number of options that urgently require support.
ACEH COCOA FORUM CONDUCTED

DUEK PAKAT KAKAO ACEH

Duke Pakat Kakao Aceh which also means Cocoa Aceh Deliberation was successfully held on June 29, 2013. Triggered by the Aceh Cocoa Forum, it was a vessel for stakeholders in Aceh cocoa sector addressing the challenges of rapid development of cocoa sector networks both locally and nationally. Megi Wahyuni reports from Kota Radja, Banda Aceh.

The existence of Aceh Cocoa Forum (FKA) today can not be separated from support from SwissContact which assigned to continue the development of the forum since 2010 by Aceh Partnerships for Economic Development - United Nations Development Programme (APED - UNDP).

Answering to Aceh Cocoa Forum’s vision which is to make Aceh as the largest producer of highest quality cocoa in Sumatra in 2020, the Aceh cocoa stakeholders sat together in an event called Duke Pakat Kakao Aceh to discuss matters related to institutional strengthening, productivity strengthening, and the Aceh cocoa quality. This event was attended by no less than 200 participants consisting of Chairperson and Board of Aceh Cocoa Forum throughout Aceh, cocoa farmers, Aceh Provincial government representatives, SwissContact, banks, as well as private sector.

THE BIGGEST PRODUCER

The event began with remarks from Drs. Hasanuddin Darjo, MM as Aceh Cocoa Forum Chairperson while exposing to the representative of Aceh Governor some highly economic value cocoa products generated by cocoa farmers in Aceh.

These products should be the welfare of the farmers, but due to various constraints, cocoa farmers in Aceh still not prosperous. It is expected that through Duke Pakat, advices and important information from the field can be channelled directly to the government for further action.

Representing Aceh Governor, Assistant II Ir. T. Said Mustafa gave speech while opening the Duke Pakat Kakao Aceh. Mustafa said that the dream of becoming the largest cocoa producer in Sumatra was not excessive, given the potential that Aceh has 72,773 ha with a 220,000* involving farmers.

Currently, Aceh cocoa production ranks third in Sumatra, while there are still 120,000 ha of unused land that can be used for cocoa.

Aceh government expects the support of all parties involved in the cocoa sector to realize this dream.

KEEP THE SPIRIT!

The event continued with a panel discussion by representatives of various government agencies along with SwissContact Regional Manager Sumatra, Arnawa Giri.

Arnawa revealed, that according to SwissContact principles which are to respect local culture, people, and the environment, SwissContact is ready to support the advancement of Aceh cocoa sector; in a way by forming farmers’ organizations, as well as developing and strengthening business enterprises through field school approach. In connection to that, there are two researchers who had been sent to the United States, whom are expected to contribute to the cocoa sector in Aceh.

The discussion that lasted for four hours was splendour, Duke Pakat Kakao Aceh panelists successfully formulate the steps that must be done in an effort to increase cocoa production in Aceh, such as production, certification, institutional, government legislations, as well as marketing.

Closing the Duke Pakat Kakao Aceh, FKA chairperson Drs. Hasanuddin Darjo, MM concluded that no one can do this alone, the Aceh government is expected to continue to provide support for the betterment of cocoa sector in the province. Farmers are also expected to remain lackluster in cocoa cultivation and do not transfer to other commodities. (IPR)

*As targeted by Aceh Cocoa Forum in their Strategic Plan Year 2011-2015

IMPORTANT STEPS TO INCREASE ACEH COCOA PRODUCTION

- Improvement of human resources by direct practices such as field school
- Provision of adequate production facilities
- Usage of superior and certified clones
- Provision of venture capital to farmers at low interest rates
- Establishment of cocoa research centre for research on pests, diseases, and cocoa latest technology
- Making extensive cocoa farm database
- Conducting the Duke Pakat Kakao Aceh once a year
- Establish a link between cocoa farmers inter-districts
- Standardization of quality
- Sharing knowledge of harvest and post-harvest handling
- Establishment of marketing procedures
- Empowering farmer groups and cooperatives
- The existence of exporters who buy cocoa beans regularly
- Utilization of entrees (bud wood) from superior plants that exist in farmers’ fields
- Support from the government in the development of the Krueng Geukueh as cocoa exporting port in Aceh, and put an effort to make semi-finished cocoa processed as industrial raw materials.
IMPROVING HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND FARMERS WELFARE THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE COCOA PRODUCTION PROGRAM

With allocation of a special funding from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, The Sustainable Cocoa Production Program is targeting to train for 40,000 women and families on good nutrition practices. This training is implemented in order to improve standard nutrition, productivity, and well-being of cocoa farmers. Nicolas Tomecko and Megi Wahyuni report.

On December 1, 2012, Sustainable Cocoa Production Program (SCPP) started nutritional components training which run in five Indonesian provinces: Aceh, North Sumatra, South-East Sulawesi, South Sulawesi and West Sulawesi. Nutrition component is designed to integrate with nutritional training by encouraging women in making home garden and improve the nutritional status of cocoa farming families.

SCPP is targeting 40,000 women and family to be involved in the training, in addition to encourage the manufacture of a 9 m² nutritional garden for each home. Function of this garden is to provide vegetables and sufficient material for household, as well as improving nutritional status of an average family (based on Individual Dietary Diversity Score).

Nutrition science component is incorporated into nutrition practice guide book, makes it rapidly absorbed and immediately improve the lives of cocoa farming families.

Deliciously nutritious

The nutrition component training is designed to be able to get into the SCPP program and its implementation plan, so it would become an extension of the existing training structure.

Cocoa farmers, especially women, who have been trained in Good Agricultural Practices, will attend an additional two to three days of Good Nutritional Practices and household nutrition gardens development training.

At the beginning of training they were given an overview of perfect nutrition practices and how to create a balanced diet for family members, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women. Also it was explained why the perfect nutrition should be obtained if they wanted to keep a healthy body. Then, they were taught about organic gardening techniques through a simple approach, how to harvest and process food; also about food preparing techniques, and how make deliciously nutritious recipes.

Using Individual Dietary Diversity Score (IDDS), women are expected to increase the diversity and quality of food intake, thereby improving the health and well-being of cocoa farmers.

IDDS is also a tool to assess changes in eating habits of family members. Changes in eating habits are expected to reap the long-term positive impact and shape logic ability of family members, especially the younger ones.

Through this program also enhanced the ability of young children to learn and apply the techniques of better cocoa cultivation, so as to increase agricultural productivity. Through this combination, physical health of adolescent and adult farmers will increase and lead to a long-term positive impact.

While using a new monitoring tool, SCPP can see the implementation of household nutrition gardens, as well as integrating livestock in accordance with cocoa cultivation and assess the impact of the consumption habits of cocoa farming families.

The men follow

Until the end of June 2013, SCPP succeeded the training in five provinces. A total of 3,833 women and cocoa farmers have undergone the training at 164 Nutrition Demo Plots. The interesting thing is, when viewed in outline, as much as 11% of men in Sulawesi got participated in this training.

If calculated by each province, South Sulawesi is the most excelling, because they managed to involve 35% of men. While West Sulawesi with 20% of men. Unfortunately, in North Sumatra and Aceh there was no man were moved to attend the training.

Until now nutritional component trainings had received a good reception from many women and cocoa farmers. The combination of cocoa development program and nutri-
This joint venture is between Barry Callebaut and PT Comextra Majora, a company engaged in commodity trading and cocoa exporting in Indonesia. Barry Callebaut shares 60% of stock, while PT Comextra Majora 40%. The plant which is valued for USD33 million would grind around 30,000 tons of cocoa, and it is supported by a long-term supply agreement by PT Comextra Majora.

**Closer to customers**

After acquiring Petra Foods Singapore, followed by this new plant, Barry Callebaut is trying to put their nails into the Asian market which is growing rapidly. Besides Makassar, Barry Callebaut will build four other factories in Sulawesi; these factories will bring Barry Callebaut closer to their customers, local and international food manufacturers in the Asia Pacific region.

In line with Asian economic growth, demand for high-quality cocoa and chocolate products are increasing. It has been calculated that the demand for cocoa powder in Asia will grow 5-9% per year; chocolate volume growth is forecasted to rise until 4-6% in the same period, much higher than the average growth in other parts of the world.

Indonesia, which produces 13% of world’s total production, has become the third-largest cocoa producer. Building a plant in Makassar is a perfect move, because the majority of Indonesian cocoa plantations are in Sulawesi, thereby reducing logistics costs.

Juergen Steinemann, CEO of Barry Callebaut, said that the plant will open up new opportunities and will strengthen their presence in the Asia Pacific region. “Together with existing investments, as well as the acquisition of Petra Foods, we believe we can provide the best support in this cocoa increasing demand region,” said Steinemann.

**Support the cocoa sustainability**

According to Jimmy Wisan, CEO of PT Comextra Majora and President Commissioner of the joint venture PT Barry Callebaut Comextra Indonesia, this partnership is an extension that was supposed to be done. “Our businesses complement each other, thereby increasing the strength of both companies,” said Wisan. Barry Callebaut will be responsible for operational activities and will buy the products from the factory, while PT Comextra Majora will supply cocoa beans to the plant based on a long-term supply agreement.

Barry Callebaut is committed in maintaining and supporting sustainable cocoa supply chain by expanding its preservation activities in Indonesia. The company began rolling its conservation program named Cocoa Horizons in the region.

In addition to Cocoa Horizons, Barry Callebaut founded Combat Grakindo Foundation with PT Comextra Majorain 2012, a cocoa conservation in a way of giving various trainings for farmers in Central Sulawesi. Barry Callebaut is also a member of Cocoa Sustainability Partnership (CSP), a cocoa preservation forum founded in 2006, which all of its members are stakeholders that actively take part in the development of Indonesian cocoa. (IPR)
For success of this program, all program managers recently had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Luwu Regent, H. Andi Marakarma Hatta, MP, who was accompanied by Ir. Muharif, MM, the Head of Department of Agriculture and Livestock, along with the East Luwu Head of Public Relations.

Representing PT Mars Symbioscience Indonesia was Ruud Engbers as President Director, accompanied by Sari Nurlan as External Relations Manager and Darna Ismail, as MCSI Project Manager. While Swiss-Contact - SCPP represented by Manfred Borer as Program Director and Haerul Nagngareng as Program Officer of SCPP.

The MoU signing was held at the Clarion Hotel Makassar, Wednesday, August 28, 2013.

Implementation of the program

In the event SCPP and Mars explained that the program will be run in the region of Luwu Timur involving 3,500 cocoa farmers. The program which will last until 2015 will be implemented through:

- Increasing Cocoa Cultivation
- Improving Financial Management and Organization
- Post-Harvest Handling
- Strengthening Farmer Groups
- Implementing Certification of Cocoa Production.

Certification is necessary so that production from cocoa farmers in South Sulawesi can be accepted by the industry at large. Funding for the program comes from PT Mars Symbioscience Indonesia, IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative) of the Netherlands, and SECO (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) of Switzerland.

Good responses

Regent H. Andi Marakarma Hatta, MP in his speech gave a good response by saying that the program is an answer to the needs of Luwu Timur which 80% of the population is cocoa farmer. Local government itself will provide a companion fund in the implementation of the program.

The Regent was sure that the program will later contribute to the welfare of Luwu Timur people.

The program will also support cocoa farmers who have not been trained cocoa cultivation, but who have the land, and are members of farmer groups in the region. Hopefully through farmer groups, farmers will be easier to obtain agricultural facilities including financial facilities from banks in order to increase cocoa production.

The program is also designed to increase the capacity of Field School for farmers, and improve cocoa production in South Sulawesi and Luwu Timur to 1,500 kg/ha/year, which previously only 400-600 kg/ha/year. (IPR)