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Cocoa contributes important income for the regional economy with the production of about 18,000 metric tons...
Dear Partners,

On 10 November 2014 our program and the district government of Bone hosted a visit of the newly appointed Swiss Ambassador - H.E. Dr. Yvonne Baumann. For us it was a fortunate event which signifies the importance of our public and private partnership through the implementation of SCPP for sustainable cocoa production in Indonesia.

Ambassador Baumann visited the Cargill Cocoa Promise learning center in Bone, engaged with farmers through field school activities, learned about cocoa farming, planted a cacao tree, and established dialogue with provincial and district government for improved collaboration in the future. Her Excellency’s visit to Bone has reinforced our unwearying and unified efforts towards sustainable cocoa production in Indonesia, particularly in South Sulawesi. This edition of the Journal tells a glimpse of what we experienced during the highly appreciated visit.

I thank all our private and public partners for the continuous support to our program and the small-holder cocoa farmers in Indonesia.

Manfred Borer
Program Director | Sustainable Cocoa Production Program (SCPP)
Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Cocoa Production

The Swiss government through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is committed to strengthen the competitiveness of smallholder cocoa producers, including in Indonesia. Through the Sustainable Cocoa Production Program (SCPP) and in collaboration with Cargill’s Cocoa Promise, SECO promotes sustainable cocoa farm management to meet consumer’s growing demand for high-quality products that are traceable to its source and environmentally-friendly produced. SCPP is implemented by Swisscontact in 19 districts across 6 provinces in Indonesia. The Program aims to improve cocoa farm management by providing technical assistance to farmers and farmer organizations. The Program facilitates – in collaboration with local governments – farmer field school trainings, promotes establishment of superior clones’ nurseries, promotes transparency in the sustainable supply chain, and establishes learning centers.

To observe the Program progress and to fortify the Swiss government’s support towards sustainable cocoa production, on 10 November 2014 the newly assigned Swiss Ambassador to Indonesia H.E. Dr. Yvonne Baumann visited Bone District in South Sulawesi Province. In that province, Swisscontact partners with Mars Sustainable Cocoa Initiative and with Cargill Cocoa Promise, and closely collaborates with the local governments of Bone and Soppeng Districts.

During her one day trip to Bone, Ambassador Baumann was accompanied by Swiss Honorary Consul to Makassar – Julia Pupella. Representing Swisscontact, Swisscontact Country Director and SCPP Program Director – Manfred Borer, SCPP Senior Program Manager – Suharman Sumpala as well as SCPP Sulawesi Regional Manager – Haerul Nanggareng were present to showcase the Program’s progress. From Cargill, Sustainability Program Manager – Camille Paran with her Cargill Sustainability Team was also in attendance.

Bone Regent Padjalangi introduces Ambassador Baumann to an alumnus of SCPP Farmer Field School.
Firsthand Experience of Farmer Field School Training

It was a sunny Monday morning when Ambassador Baumann and her team headed out to Bone District, located about 170 km north-east from Makassar.

On the way, a brief stop over for hot coffee and nibbles was made before continuing the journey along the narrow and hilly roads of the Camba Mountains in Maros.

After four hours driving, the Ambassador arrived in the Village of Mattaropuli. In the village, the Ambassador visited a Good Financial Practice (GFP) training, facilitated by SCPP Program Advisor for the Agribusiness Financing Facility – Roland Pakpahan. The GFP is part of the Agribusiness Financing Facility (AFF) component of SCPP and the Cargill Cocoa Promise which works towards overcoming farmer’s limited saving capacity and access to financial services in many of SCPP working areas. Sipakainga Farmer Group was fortunate to have Ambassador Baumann to review the training delivery. While mingling with 16 members of the Sipakainga, Her Excellency discussed with the group about their enhanced understanding of the good financial practices and how it eventually helps the farmers in their farming activities.

After joining the GFP training, the team visited the Learning Center situated in Bengo Subdistrict, wherein local farmers and local administratives have been waiting excitedly. SCPP and Cargill Cocoa Promise support the Program beneficiaries through establishing Learning Centers with a range of facilities such as demo-plots, composting houses, budwood gardens, clonal gardens, and nurseries. It also served as a hub for farmers to exchange knowledge, source their seedlings of improved types of clonal material, and practice various training modules.

Arriving at Bengo Learning Center, Ambassador Bauman and entourage were warmly welcomed by Bone Regent Dr. H. A. Fhasar M.Padjalangi, M. Si, Vice Regent Drs. H. Ambo Dalle, and farmer groups. The Regent adorned Her Excellency with typical silk sarongs from Bone over the neck as part of the welcoming ceremony. Meanwhile some sprightly folk dancers performed the traditional dance of Alusu in their attractive traditional outfit.
Surrounded by excited locals, Ambassador Baumann enthusiastically planted a 5 month top-grafted cacao-seedling for the first time.
The event continued with Regent Padjalangi’s speech. The regent expressed his deep appreciation to Ambassador Baumann for visiting his district as it was a rare occasion and thus an honor to host the Swiss Ambassador.

Regent Padjalangi also explained that cocoa is an important contributor to the local economy, constituting 30,705 hectares of smallholder cocoa gardens and 18,000 metric tons production per annum.

In his speech, the Regent emphasized that for the Bone local government, the Ambassador’s visit is a concrete manifestation and concern of the Swiss Government and Swisscontact towards empowering cocoa farmers to increase their income and welfare. The Bone Government believes that the partnership can bring a multitude of benefits and intensified synergies between local government and private sectors in the cocoa industry.

In response, Ambassador Baumann delivered a speech outlining the commitment of the Swiss government to support the program partnership to develop the agricultural sector, especially cocoa in Sulawesi and Sumatra. The Ambassador also praised the good collaboration between Swisscontact, Cargill, and the Department of Forestry and Plantation (Dishutbun) of the Bone District in facilitating Farmer Field Schools to increase farmer’s knowledge thus improve the quality and production of cocoa.

Among the visiting team, Swiss Honorary Consul Julia Pupella added that the cooperation is very beneficial for supply chain partners and farmers. She further emphasized that the program should be continuously improved in the future. Moreover, the SCPP Program Director Manfred Borer conveyed that with the program intervention, Swisscontact believes that the farmers could produce at least one ton per hectare per annum.

After the speech, the Ambassador visited a composting house at the learning center to see a demonstration from Jawi-jawi Farmer Group on how to produce compost, and top grafting and side grafting technique demonstrations by cocoa farmers. The learning center visit was concluded with the planting of cacao seedlings by the Ambassador, Regent of Bone, Cargill Program Manager, and SCPP Program Director.

Following the seedlings planting, the Ambassador participated in a discussion with cocoa stakeholders in Bone, farmers, government agencies, and farmer organizations. Ambassador Baumann conversed with farmers to get an in-depth understanding about the situation of cocoa farming in the district, especially challenges experienced by smallholder cocoa farmers. One of the farmers expressed that Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB) and Vascular Streak Die-back (VSD) are the most common pest and diseases in the district. During the discussion the Head of Forestry and Plantation of Bone, Sumardi Nurdin, conveyed that the district government is still in need of further support from the Swiss government and Cargill to foster sustainable cocoa production in Bone.

The Ambassador concluded her visit by inspecting a farmer-managed clonal garden and then headed back to Makassar at around 1.30 PM to catch her evening flight back to Jakarta.
Good farming practices and technology transfer system
The process of knowledge and new technology is done through Farmer Field School (FFS) trainings which deliver modules of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) to farmers, establishment of demo-plots, nursery gardens, as well as trainings on rehabilitation techniques and cocoa plant rejuvention at the Learning Center.

Nutrition and gender sensitivity integration
Good Nutritional Practices (GNP) module promotes the establishment of home vegetable garden, supporting a balanced diet and nutrient rich food for the cocoa farmer households. The Program also promotes the active involvement of female participant in its entire component.

Farmer organization, market access and certification
Farmer organization encourages farmer empowerment, efficient dissemination of training modules, forming structure of investment, and allows farmers to gain added value in the supply chain. The Program also supports the improvement of quality and post-harvest processing of the farmers’ production through certification and traceable cocoa beans.

Integrated agribusiness financing
The Program enhances access to commercial financing with utilizing market approach and focuses on strategic interventions such as farmer capacity building, cooperative strengthening, savings promotion, and facilities in the related sectors.

Stakeholder management and networking platform
The Program consistently involves the governmental agencies, private sector, Cocoa Sustainability Partnership (CSP) and Partnership for Indonesian Sustainable Agriculture (PISAgro), and international organizations.
**FAMILY HEALTHY AND INCREASED INCOME WITH NUTRITION GARDEN**

“With the nutrition garden around my house, now I can easily obtain rich nutrient food for my family’s consumption. Further, the unconsumed vegetables can be a source of additional income to help my family’s economy. I can sell green mustards at the price of IDR 2,000 – IDR 5,000 per kg or spinach at IDR 3,000 per bundle. I thank deeply Swisscontact and the Embassy of the Netherlands (EKN) for this helpful nutrition program in our village. Now, many other mothers in my neighbourhood got interested in starting their own nutrition garden by looking at my success. Not only that the house looks green and pretty, it also brings a lot of benefits.”

**WAHIDA (32)**
An alumnus of Nutrition Field School from Tenri Pakkua Village, Bone District, South Sulawesi Province

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**GOOD TREATMENT EQUALS TO GOOD COCOA**

“Now my farms look much better, the cocoa leaves and pods are healthier than before. Moreover, I can reduce expenses for agricultural inputs by making my own compost thus increase my income. I thank Cargill and Swisscontact profusely for the valuable trainings. I am optimistic that my cocoa productivity can reach 1000 kg per hectare per annum. I also hope that the cocoa price continues to hike and hit IDR 50,000 per kg. So farmers can again enjoy the sweet taste of growing world commodity. Certainly, it will inspire local youths to jointly promote cocoa farming for a better livelihood”

**HAJI HARIANTO (31)**
A successful young cocoa entrepreneur from Ujung Village, Soppeng District, South Sulawesi.