COCOA PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP

A collaborative initiative between ICCRI-CABI

Jember, 26th-27thof July 2016

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

A project on CocoaSafe with a title on "Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing in SPS in Cocoa in Southeast Asia" has been implemented in Indonesia from November 2013 to April 2016 with funding from STDF. The overall development goal of this project was to produce and trade cocoa that meets food safety and international SPS standards. Included in this goal were (i) improving the quality of cocoa through capacity building in SPS, (ii) promoting and facilitating knowledge sharing between stakeholder groups participating in the project, and (iii) raising awareness among cocoa stakeholders beyond the project's immediate reach on food safety concerns in the whole supply chain (and how to address them). The stakeholders targeted by the project included smallholder producers, agro-dealers, processors and exporters, also involving national and regional authorities that are responsible for research relating to cocoa, and SPS issues.

In Indonesia several activities have been implemented during the project, i.e. preparing the TOMF manual, TOMF training, TOFs for farmer's leaders, extension officers, agro-dealers/traders and processors; creation of website and updating regularly, publication of posters and videos.

During the End Project Meeting held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in February 2016, it was recommended that a situation analysis workshop should be organized by ICCRI involving major cocoa stakeholders from Indonesia with the objective to gather information about what they are doing in-country, what the main constraints are, and how to work together. As a result of this recommendation the Cocoa Partnership Workshop was organized at ICCRI from 26-27 June 2016.

VENUE:

Theobroma Room of the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute (ICCRI),
Kaliwining Experimental Station, Nogosari, Rambipuji, Jember

OUTPUTS :

The program of the meeting is given as **Attachment 1.**

Participants from the different organizations/institutions with offices in Indonesia shared their activities particularly on cocoa development in Indonesia. The summaries of their activities are as follows:

a. Swisscontact (http://www.swisscontact.org/en/country/indonesia/home.html)

1. Training of trainers on GAP.
2. Farmer training on GAP.
3. Training on rehabilitation and replanting.
4. Training for farmers on securing access to finance.
5. Nursery development.
6. Environment related training.
7. Providing clones garden to farmers.
8. Farmer's organization development.
9. Certification (GAP, social and environment).
10. Provide curriculum for master TOT.
11. Conducting 'Cocoa trace' program.

b. IDH (http://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/)

1. Strengthening CSP.
2. Sharing knowledge and lessons learnt from IDH project in other countries.
3. Co-investment.

c. MARS (http://www.mars.com/indonesia/en/about.aspx)

1. Developing clonal selection in Sulawesi.
2. Improving cocoa farm quality.
3. Developing 'Cocoa Doctor' program to strengthening business skills at farmer's level.
4. Improving women's role in the cocoa farm.

d. VECO (https://indonesia.veco-ngo.org/)

1. Providing TOT on GAP (on-farm and off farm aspects).
2. Providing clone garden, including local clones.
3. Conducting soil ecology training.
4. Conducting sustainable environmental management training.
5. Providing training on quality and postharvest handling on bean fermentation.
6. Providing training on producing compost through integrated system.
7. Conducting farmer organization development plan.

e. CSP (http://www.csp.or.id/)

1. Providing information and learning sharing (magazine, seminar and workshop).
2. Stakeholder alignment (issues, knowledge, strategies, measurement and principles).
3. Providing regional cocoa forum at provincial level.
4. Forming several task forces (study, collection learning, clones mapping, clone trial. etc).

f. WCF (http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/)

1. Facilitating research on pest and disease control.
2. Facilitating researcher fellowship program.
3. Management support.
4. Conducting environment workshop on soil management (collaboration between Swisscontact and CSP in West Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi and South Sulawesi).
5. Doing research on cocoa farming system on marginal land.

g. Yayasan Sahabat Cipta (http://www.sahabatcipta.or.id/)

1. Improving farmers' economy by improving farmers' business skill.
2. Farmers' capacity building.
3. Improving farmers' financial management skills.
4. Improving farming management.
5. Provide learning center (service provider) for sharing knowledge to farmers.

Based on stakeholders' activity plans presented during the meeting, there was consensus that Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), including the use of superior clones, pest and disease management, pruning, and harvesting are the main agronomic activities required to improve cocoa production in Indonesia. This is mainly because the majority of smallholder cocoa farmers in Indonesia are still maintaining their traditional farming system. This has led to the low cocoa production and cocoa quality.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The discussions that followed the presentations by individual stakeholder organizations focused on potential partnerships and synergies that can be derived towards the objective of improving cocoa productivity and quality in Indonesia. Two major categories of activities were identified, i.e. priorities for research and the application and upscaling research outputs for wider farmer adoption.

A. Priority for Research

1. Clonal testing and planting material development

- Standardize methodology on clonal testing (multi location trials).
- Identify traits related to the adaptability of cocoa clones to specific environment (genotype by environment interactions)
- Establish demonstration plots in each cocoa production area.
- Developing the most effective method for clonal propagation.

Note:

✓ The targeted areas for clonal testing include the cocoa developing areas such as Sumatra (Lampung, Aceh, West Sumatra), Sulawesi (South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, SE Sulawesi), Flores (marginal area), Java (Southern area) and Papua.

- ✓ The main concerns to be addressed are pest and disease problem, namely cocoa pod borer (CPB), Vascular-Streak Dieback (VSD), *Phytophthora* pod rot (PPR) and *Helopeltis*.
- ✓ Include emphasis on the impact of climate change on pest and disease incidence
- ✓ Application of appropriate GAP technology to help boost productivity and quality of the cocoa small-holder's plantation.
- ✓ This research is a long term project and would be started on 2017.

The proposed participating implementing agencies to include:

- ICCRI
- Universities
- BPTP
- Private sectors

2. Soil fertility

Decreasing soil fertility is the major cause of the decrease in cocoa productivity and quality in Indonesia. Factors contributing to this decrease of soil fertility include (1) the relatively long life cycle of the cocoa plant and current fertilizer input regimes has meant the soils are less suitable for a second cycle of cocoa growth, (2) the expansion of cocoa areas to include marginal lands with drier climate and less fertile soil demands higher inputs for optimal plant growth.

The recommended research topics are as follows:

- ✓ Development of specific fertilizers' formula for cocoa.
- ✓ Maintaining organic matter in the cocoa ecosystem.
- ✓ Designing the ideal integrated cocoa farming system.

This research may be conducted in Sulawesi and Sumatera.

Participating implementing agencies:

- CSP and the members
- ICCRI
- Universities

3. Mapping

Mapping is urgently required to classify cocoa growing areas according to farm attributes such as soil fertility, pest and disease incidence, bean quality (fat content and butter quality) tto support a focussed and outcome-based development strategy for cocoa in Indonesia. The methodologies currently and variously applied by cocoa stakeholders, taken together will facilitate this initiative. Main topics for mapping:

- ✓ Soil fertility
- ✓ Pest and diseases

✓ Quality

Targeted are existing (Sulawesi) and potential (Sumatra, Flores, Kalimantan) cocoa areas.

Implementing agencies:

- Ditjenbun
- ICCRI
- CSP and members

4. Human resource deployment in cocoa research and development

This issue has not received due attention in the cocoa development strategy as the tendency has been to focus largely on the technical and social aspects of cocoa production. HRD plays a significant role in the implementation of any strategic plan in term of cocoa sustainability. The two main areas of focus the meeting recommended is to optimize human resource deployment and utilization through:

✓ To organize/establish a cocoa sustainablity research and development group
✓ To actively share available knowledge using readily available organized platforms

Through these approaches, cocoa researchers in Indonesia could draw synergy from working on a common platform, effectively sharing knowledge on cocoa technologies, methodologies and approaches to stakeholder involvement.

B. Wider Application of Research Outputs

Sharing technologies, approaches and lessons learnt provides an effective means for promulgating the many research outputs generated by stakeholder organizations that smallholder farmers so badly need to improve cocoa productivity. The following are some activities/programs that were singled out by stakeholders at the workshop for consideration for implementation:

1. National curriculum (Master curriculum for TOT)

The scaling up of the TOT curriculum should be taken to the national level, so that all master trainers should be working together to gather all information related to cocoa cultivation, pest management and post-harvest storage. This activity will reduce the service delivery cost paid by cocoa stakeholders, thereby increasing efficiency on cocoa development. Necessary steps will include the establishment of a team to formulate the curriculum, followed by a workshop for cocoa stakeholders including NGOs, private sector, local government, national government, farmer organization, research institute and university in Makassar to discuss and finalize the national curriculum for TOT.

2. **Farmer organization development plan**
   This activity can be widely promoted by workshop, followed by testing in several cocoa producing areas. The scaling up of this activity should improve the capacity of farmer organizations in cocoa producing areas.

3. **Cocoa Trace**
   Cocoa Trace is a program owned by SwissContact for improving the sustainability and traceability of cocoa. There is potential for its wider application as a development cum monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools to assist in the overall efforts to improve cocoa production and quality in Indonesia. A logical approach would be to upgrade this into a standard data collection application in cocoa producing areas targeted for technology introduction, before consideration for nationwide application.

4. **Task force**
   The formation of this will provide a platform for the collation and dissemination of results studies, mapping activities and lessons learnt. The appropriate media for dissemination will have to be considered for optimal reach of the target audience.

5. **Capacity building of farmers through "Cocoa Learning Center"**
   Sharing technology, particularly with respect to postharvest handling (fermentation) will involve the spectrum of cocoa stakeholders, such as NGOs, the private sector, CSP, local and national government, farmer organizations, research institutes and universities.

6. **Replicate GAP of cocoa particularly on marginal area**
   This can be conducted by workshop(s), sharing the results of research conducted by ICCRI, with a view to continue with multi location test/ replication in several cocoa production areas with different distinct climatic characteristics, such as Parigi Moutong, Pohuwatu (Gorontalo), and Soppeng. This activity can involve NGOs, the private sector, CSP, local and national government, farmer organizations, research institutes and universities.

7. **Strengthening farmers' business skills through 'Cocoa Doctor' program.**
   The program may be implemented through training workshops and cross visits that can be conducted in Makassar/Tarengge. Stakeholders who can be involved in this activity are NGOs, the private sector, CSP, local and national government, farmer organizations, research institutes and universities.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Small-holder farms constitute an important component of the cocoa industry in Indonesia, and the role of NGOs in supporting sustainable yield and quality amongst smallholder farmers remains significant. This meeting was able to bring together key NGOs working in the cocoa sector, who, together with ICCRI, willingly shared information on their activities, programs and direction of their initiatives. This augurs well for the industry, and the momentum generated by interest to work together to create synergies should be maintained and built upon.

Organisation of the workshop was a collaborative effort between ICCRI and CABI, and held in Indonesian to secure participation of key NGOs working in Indonesia. CABI played a key role in conducting a pre-workshop survey for the NGOs as a primer to workshop discussions, and in the consolidation of the recommendations that came out of the workshop. CABI's contribution to the workshop is part and parcel of our understanding with ICCRI that we will partner with them in the implementation of the recommendations in which ICCRI has been identified as a key player. A concept note integrating these will be prepared for comments and approval by ICCRI before submission to appropriate external donors for funding.

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