



CHOCONOMICS AND COCOAPOLITICS

Moderated by Marieke Eyskoot

Thursday 21st of February

12:15 Registration

13:00 Opening and key note speeches

Speakers:

- Chocoa Organising Committee
- Michel Arrion (Executive Director at ICCO)

13:25 Video interview with a cocoa farmer from Ghana. Courtesy of Solidaridad

A female cocoa farmer from Ghana will provide her perspective on the lack of an enabling environment for female cocoa farmers in Ghana.

13:30 The Economics and Politics of Cocoa: Deforestation

Speakers:

- Cédric van Cutsem (Associate director Cocoa Life, Operations, Mondelez International)
- Etelle Higonnet (Senior Advisor at Mighty Earth)
- Korotoum Doumbia (CEO at K’Orgins, Côte d’Ivoire)

14:20 Break

14:45 Video interview with a cocoa farmer from Liberia. Courtesy of Solidaridad

A young cocoa farmer from Liberia will provide his perspective on the weak business case for cocoa farming and the relation to poverty.

14:50 The Economics and Politics of Cocoa: Living Income

Speakers:

- Filip Buggenhout (Managing Director Cocoa at Cargill)
- Abubakar Afful (Business Development Advisor Cocoa at Fairtrade Africa)
- Stephen Ashia (Manager at Cocoa Cooperative ABOCFA, Ghana)

15:35 The Economics and Politics of Cocoa: Child labour

- Matthias Lange (Director of Policy and Programs at ICI)
- Amanda Berlan (Associate Professor in Business & Sustainability at De Montfort University)

16:00 Break-away sessions

The breakaway sessions provide a platform for discussing potential solutions for current issues from different perspectives in a more intimate setting. The goal of the session is to further the discussion on a certain topic. The results from the discussions will be presented Friday morning.

- **Transparency** – Emily Stone (Uncommon Cacao) and Dr. Kristy Leissle (Twin Trading) discuss radical transparency for intermediaries in the cocoa supply chain, how intermediaries add value and why limiting conversations to cocoa's low global market price leaves out other important factors in farmer livelihood. Emily will speak from her expertise in Latin America and Kristy from her African experience.
- **Diversification** – Jack Steijn (ISO/Equipoise) and Dorit Kemter (Earthworm Foundation, formerly The Forest Trust) will highlight current discussions on diversification. Most sustainability programs focus on increasing productivity for income growth. If every farmer would double productivity, production will increase and prices would fall. However, production increase with a diversification strategy involving other crops can have positive impact on farmer resilience.
- **Deforestation and agroforestry** – Peter de Koning (Amsterdam Declaration) and Lenny Martinez (12Tree) will discuss deforestation and potential counter measures to this important issue in the cocoa supply chain. The Amsterdam Declaration's objective is to eliminate deforestation, but how can this be achieved? Agroforestry in particular is often cited as a remedy against deforestation. But what are the practicalities? What is the impact on cocoa productivity? How are farmers rewarded for reforestation efforts? Is certification contributing?
- **Cocoa and the UN SDGs** - Support the SDGs: eat better chocolate! Caroline Lubbers (Equipoise) and Emma Harbour (Rainforest Alliance) will discuss the potential of cocoa in achieving the UN SDGs. Cocoa must not be seen as an isolated pillar in which all activities of the supply chain take place nor as an isolated pillar within which all solutions to existing problems must be found. Cocoa contributes to the UN's 17 SDGs and should be part of a broad approach to the economic development of countries. How can the cocoa sector contribute optimally? What are the SDGs best served by the sector? And what is needed from politics and other sectors?

17:00 Closing session

17:15 End of Thursday

18:30 (Optional) Chocoo Dinner at the Amsterdam Hilton

(separate registration required, not included in conference registration, package deal available)

Friday 22nd of February

Before the re-start of the Conference, visitors can attend the Trade Fair that opens at 9:30 or a spin-off session of one of the partners of Chocoa. These sessions are not a part of the Conference.

10:30 Cocoa, coffee or tea

11:00 The conference continues: Conclusions of break-away sessions

NewForesight will provide the outcomes of the Thursday afternoons' break-away discussions.

11:25 Video interview with a cocoa farmer from Côte d'Ivoire. Courtesy of Solidaridad

A female cocoa farmer from Côte d'Ivoire will provide her perspective on health problems related to pesticide use in cocoa farming.

11:30 Health of the Cocoa farmer: impact on well-being and income

Speakers:

- David Guest (Professor of Plant Pathology at Sydney University)
- Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl (Researcher at Sydney University, cocoa farmer)

In a fast-paced Q+A Professor David Guest and Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl from the University of Sydney discuss how poor farmer health undermines programs to improve cocoa yields. What are the consequences of poor health on labour productivity, and what interventions are needed to improve farmer health, increase productivity and sustainability, and improve livelihoods? Discussion will be based on research in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, and focus on how these results apply to other cocoa producing regions.

12:00 Health of the cocoa farmer: food security & nutrition

Speakers:

- Juan Echanove (Senior Director Food and Nutrition Security at CARE USA)
- Anna Laven (Senior Advisor at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT))
- Gaël Lescornec (Food and Nutrition Advisor at IDH)

Improving farmer livelihood is not only about living income but also about a healthy farmer family. Access to food and nutrition are important factors in a healthy livelihood. How can cocoa contribute to improving nutrition and food security of farmer households? And how can food secure farming households be good for business? What are the roles of companies, governments and NGOs? The audience is invited to interact with the speakers.

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 Late Night Show in the afternoon

Speakers:

- Oliver Nieburg (Analyst at Lumina Intelligence, contributor at Confectionery News)
- Sanh La-onsri, PhD (Associate Professor at the Faculty of Agricultural Production, Maejo University, Chiang Mai)
- Antonie Fountain (Voice Network, Member of steering group for EU Due Dilligence Regulation)
- Astrid Fisser (Commerical Manager Cocoa & Logistics at Port of Amsterdam)
- Lars Saquero Moller (General Manager at Ingemann)

A talk show-like session hosted by Marieke Eyskoot. The guests of the talk show will have various backgrounds and will introduce their perspective on several topics, followed by an open discussion.

14:30 Heavy metals in cocoa; causes and consequences

Speakers:

- Silke Elwers (Quality Assurance Manager Cocoa & Chocolate at Lubeca)
- Brigitte Laliberté (Scientist in Cacao Genetic Resources at Bioversity International)
- Hector Ballesteros (Chief representative ProEcuador in the Netherlands)

What is the impact of heavy metals, such as cadmium, in cocoa on consumer health and does this justify the regulations on maximum levels? What is the impact on famer livelihoods? What can cocoa exporters do to reduce the intake of cadmium in cocoa trees? What are future developments in relation to other heavy metals, such as lead?

15:15 Conclusions

15:30 Cocoa Auction

Chocoa will host the second live auction of the Cocoa of Excellence Awarded beans, introducing a new way of de-commoditising cocoa and valuing quality. Award winning cocoa producers deserve a higher price. The Cocoa of Excellence Programme and the International Cocoa Awards are making this auction possible. These awards are a global competition recognising the work of cocoa farmers and celebrating the diversity of cocoa flavours globally.

16:00 Final act from Mystery Guest

16.15 Drinks at the Trade Fair