



# COCOBOD NEWSLETTER

1 - 15 MAY, 2021



---

# COCOBOD And CCC Pledge To Further Strengthen Cooperation



- Hon J. B. Aidoo, COCOBOD Chief Executive (left), next to Mr. I. K. Yves, CCC Director General, at the meeting held in Accra.

**G**hana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) and Le Conseil du Café Cacao (CCC) of Côte d'Ivoire have held a meeting to discuss ways to further strengthen and expand the existing economic relations on cocoa and other related matters between their respective countries.

The meeting, which was held in Accra, on 6th May 2021 allowed the two countries to review the performance of the new cocoa trading mechanism and its Living Income Differential component, which is both critical to their cooperation and historic in the subregion.

The respective heads of COCOBOD and CCC, Hon Joseph Boahen Aidoo and Mr. Ibrahim Kone Yves, agreed that the cooperation between the two countries has been of immense mutual benefit and warrants further reinforcement.

---

To that end, the two countries are expected to expedite action on the setting up of a permanent Secretariat to coordinate the joint cocoa policy initiatives and programmes of the two leading producers of cocoa in the world.

The roadmap for the cooperation, as unveiled in 2019, indicates a plan to establish a Secretariat in Ghana. Mr Alex Arnaud Assanvo, an Ivorian, and former Director of Corporate Affairs for Europe and Africa at Mars Inc. is set to become its first Executive Secretary.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF LID

After several attempts, over decades, the governments of the two countries in 2017 committed themselves to a historic cooperation to ensure, among other things that, the incomes of farmers in the two countries are improved.

Through the joint effort of the cocoa regulatory organisations of the two countries, a roadmap was agreed to harmonise the cocoa trading strategies of the two cocoa producers, who together supply 60 per cent of the world's cocoa stock.

Further to the cooperation, the two countries announced a new cocoa trading mechanism which had as a component, a fixed Living Income Differential (LID) of US\$400.00 per tonne, for every cocoa sold by the two countries starting from the 2020/2021 season.





- Mr Alex Arnaud Assanvo, nominated to become first Executive Secretary of the Ghanaian-Ivorian Secretariat for Cocoa Trade.



- Some members of the Ghanaian delegation at the meeting.



- Some members of the Ivorian delegation at the meeting.

---

# Partner Us To Find Solutions To Cocoa Industry Challenges; COCOBOD Boss To Academia



- COCOBOD Executives (left) in a meeting with a delegation from UENR, led by Prof. Elvis Asare-Bediako, Vice-Chancellor.

**H**on Joseph Boahen Aidoo, the Chief Executive of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) has called for the establishment of strong partnerships between the cocoa regulator and academia to find solutions to challenges in the cocoa industry and expand the benefits which accrue out of the industry to the country.

He is convinced that the expertise, experiences, and research capacities of academic institutions can be devoted to the cocoa sector to enhance efficiency and create opportunities along the value chain which can attract private sector investments.

---

“It is also important”, Hon Aidoo said, “that the research feeds into material production both at the farming level and when it comes to processing and values addition.”

Hon Aidoo was speaking at a meeting with a delegation from the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Sunyani, when they paid a courtesy call on him on Wednesday, 05 May 2021.

The delegation, led by Prof. Elvis Asare-Bediako, the Vice-Chancellor of UENR, discussed possible avenues for collaboration between the University and COCOBOD in a variety of basic and advanced research areas.

He said the University has the technology for weather, disease, pest, and plant-stress forecasting to better inform the schedule and timing of the various farming practices to improve yields. It will also allow for enhanced monitoring of the progress being made in the fight against the Cocoa Swollen Shoot Viral Disease (CSSVD) which is a major challenge presently facing the industry.

Hon Aidoo said COCOBOD, in recognition of the need to adopt different technologies to advance the cocoa sector, has introduced farmers to some user-friendly machinery to ease farming practices and is currently rolling out the Cocoa Management System (CMS) to gather critical data which will inform the management of the cocoa sector.

He added that changing weather patterns caused by climate change is already forcing a modification to the traditional cocoa farming practices. There are also observable shifts in the production cycle of the cocoa trees as well as the prevalence of the pests and diseases which affect them.

COCOBOD is open to new partnerships with academia to aid in the management of these challenges and as well in the area of cocoa product development for the consumer market.





- Prof. Elvis Asare-Bediako (left), Vice-Chancellor of UENR, with a colleague during the meeting at COCOA House, Accra.



- The parties take a group photograph after the meeting.

Hon Aidoo expressed much pleasure at the initiative taken by UENR to establish a partnership and assured the delegation of further detailed discussions in anticipation of a fruitful long-term collaboration.

---

# Traditional Authorities In The Ashanti Region Endorse Cocoa Management System



- Members of the Cocoa Management System (CMS) Team with  
Traditional Authorities at New Edubiase in the Ashanti Region.

**T**raditional Authorities in the Ashanti Region have called on farmers and other stakeholders in the cocoa industry to support the efforts being made by COCOBOD to successfully implement the Cocoa Management System (CMS). The calls were made during separate interactions with members of the CMS Publicity Committee as well as Regional and District staff of the Cocoa Health and Extension Division (CHED) at New Edubiase, Bekwai, Antoakrom, Oboasi and Asiwa cocoa districts in the Region.

The team was in the region to officially inform the traditional authorities about the commencement of mapping of cocoa farms in the region as part of the broad planned activities for the successful implementation of the CMS.



---

Mr Charles Gyamfi, Deputy Ashanti Regional Manager of CHED and leader of the delegation, described the CMS as an integrated data management platform on cocoa farmers and other stakeholders in Ghana's cocoa sector. He said the project includes the development of a software data system, mapping of all farms as well as a census of all cocoa farmers in Ghana.

"As part of the project, we are sensitizing farmers and relevant stakeholders to understand how the new system will operate. Being the custodians of the land, we deem it necessary to meet with you and seek your support and blessing to ensure the success of this laudable intervention", he said.

Nana Akua Dwum II, Queen Mother of New Edubiase was full of praise to the Management of COCOBOD for coming out with an innovative initiative such as the CMS. "This is obviously a good intervention which all well-meaning Ghanaians must embrace. As leaders of the traditional council, our people listen to us so we will do everything possible to encourage the farmers to cooperate with your field staff so that the objective of the project is achieved", she added.

Omanhene of the Bekwai Traditional Area, Nana Osei Kwadwo II, was of the view that several laudable projects initiated by other government agencies could not achieve the desired outcome but was optimistic that, judging by the success of the Enhancement Programmes (PEPs), the CMS would also see the light of day.

Nana Okyere Darko Ampen of Antoakrom and his Elders, all of who are cocoa farmers, expressed their readiness to receive and support the surveying and enumeration teams to capture the relevant data in the district.

"As the 2020 National Best Cocoa Farmer, I understand



- Members of the Cocoa Management System (CMS) Team with various Traditional Authorities in the Ashanti Region.

how a successful implementation of this project will help transform the lives of cocoa farmers and therefore, together with my Elders, we will do everything within our means to encourage all farmers within the Oboasi District to take part in this exercise”, declared Nana Kwabena Ponkoh II of Atatoase in the Obuasi District of the Ashanti Region.

Nana Owusu Agyei Brimpong III, Chief of Asiwa said he was happy that the CMS would help solve numerous challenges concerning land tenure system, input supplies and sale of cocoa beans in the area.

GET INTERACTIVE



cocobodgh



ghcocobod



ghcocobod



DRINK  
COCOA  
DAILY



