

COCOBOD **NEWSLETTER**

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Take Advantage Of Business Opportunities In The Cocoa Sector: Investors Urged



- Hon J. B. Aidoo, Chief Executive of COCOBOD, (right), in a one-on-one interview with Bernard Avle.

The business community has been urged to take advantage of the many untapped investment opportunities in Ghana's cocoa value chain. This came up at a maiden cocoa value chain investment meeting in Accra where participants expressed worry about Ghana's less than six percent share of the \$110 billion global cocoa industry.

The meeting was organised by the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), in collaboration with Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) on the theme "Ghana's brown gold: Sustaining investments and leveraging AfCFTA".

Hon Joseph Boahen Aidoo, Chief Executive of COCOBOD, in a one-on-one interview with Bernard Avle at the event

urged investors to focus their attention on Ghana's cocoa sector, more especially cocoa processing, to increase earnings and create jobs.

“Our current focus as an industry is in three broad areas; productivity enhancement, processing and consumption”, said Hon Aidoo. According to him, COCOBOD was modernising cocoa farming to boost production in an effort to ensure a regular supply of cocoa beans for local processing. He said the various Productivity Enhancement Programmes (PEPS) being implemented by the Board are all aimed at facilitating sustainable cocoa production in Ghana.

The CEO of the GIPC, Mr Yofi Grant, said the country must move from the era of over-concentration on the production and export of cocoa beans to a more value addition approach, adding that, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents huge opportunities for businesses and the cocoa sector is one key area. He was hopeful the cocoa sector could help build millionaires and billionaires for the country.

Other speakers and Panellists at the meeting were Ms Grace Jeanet Masond, South African High Commissioner to Ghana, Ms Mosa Tsabalala, Group CEO, Gauteng Growth and Development Agency of South Africa, Dr Emmanuel Opoku, Deputy Chief Executive of COCOBOD in Charge of Operations, Nana Agyemang Ansong of the Cocoa Processing Company and a representative of Niche Cocoa Industries Ltd.

Participants at the meeting included stakeholders in the cocoa value chain, cocoa processors and manufacturers, members of the Cocoa Value Addition Artisans Association of Ghana, investors and consumers.



- Hon J. B. Aidoo, Chief Executive of COCOBOD, (right), sitting next to Mr Yofi Grant, CEO of GIPC, during a panel discussion.

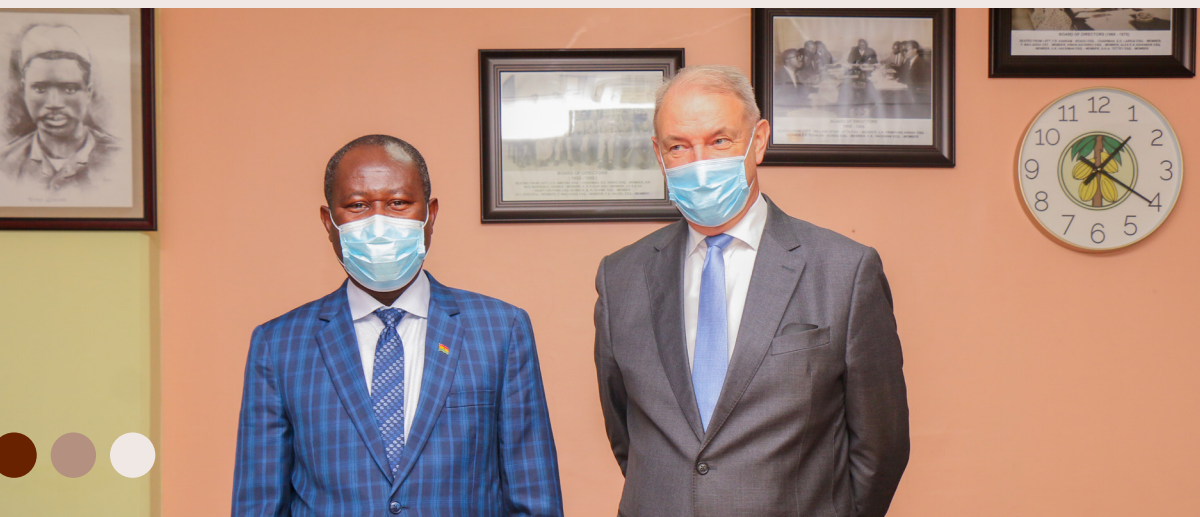


- Dr E. Opoku, DCE (Operations) COCOBOD, (right), is a panel discussion of investment opportunities in the cocoa industry.



- Mr Ray Ankrah, DCE (Finance & Admin.) COCOBOD, (left), makes a contribution to the conversation on investment opportunities.

A Sustainable Cocoa Industry Can Only Be Achieved When Farmers Receive A Decent Income: COCOBOD Boss



- Hon J. B. Aidoo, COCOBOD Chief Executive (left), with the Dutch Ambassador to Ghana, Ron Strikker.

Ensuring that cocoa farmers receive a decent income by allocating to them a fair share of the market value of the produce, is the only way to ensure sustainable cocoa farming practices and industry as a whole, says the Chief Executive of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), Hon Joseph Boahen Aidoo.

To that end, he added, that the Living Income Differential (LID) was instituted to ensure that cocoa farmers earn a living income from their labour.

“Without the LID there cannot be any sustainable cocoa farming because if the farmer is not getting a fair share of

the market value, then definitely, one cannot truly expect to see sustainability been properly practised on the farm, because sustainability does come at some cost to the farmers.”

Hon Aidoo made these statements in a meeting with the Dutch Ambassador to Ghana, Ron Strikker, who paid a courtesy call on him at the Cocoa House in Accra on Monday, 24th May 2021.

Low farmer earnings is a major disincentive to sustainability, he cautioned. A poor farmer who cannot practice intensive agriculture to increase yield on a small piece of land may then resort to looking for more land with fresh fertile soil to cultivate and this contributes to deforestation.

The international cocoa industry must be fair to farmers, he asserted. The kind of energies which the international organisations have committed to the campaign for sustainability, traceability and the like must also be devoted to ensuring that cocoa farmers earn remunerative incomes, he added.

“All stakeholders in the international cocoa trade need to give fair consideration to the environmental, social and particularly, the economic factors which impact farmers ability to farm sustainably, so that farmers are neither burdened nor their earnings eroded while they do the right thing.”

In his response, Ambassador Ron Strikker acknowledged that Ghana’s cocoa sector is very important to the economy of the Netherlands, as it is the biggest importer of cocoa in Europe, with a major chocolate industry that relies on regular shipments of cocoa from Ghana.

He agreed with Hon Aidoo that cocoa farmers need to be given a better share of the value of cocoa. “Basically, the price of a kilo of cocoa beans needs to go up”, he said,

"because we do know that as long as you do not have a sufficient price the farmers will be badly affected. He said the Netherlands is very much interested in greater cooperation between the two countries to improve the cocoa sector.



- The Chief Executive (COCOBOD) and his deputies in a dialogue with the delegation from the Dutch Embassy.



- The parties take a group photograph after the meeting.

Regional Grievance Redress Committee On Environmental Social And Management System Inaugurated



- The Ashanti Regional Grievance Redress Committee On The Environmental Social And Management System (ESMS)

A seven-member Ashanti Regional Committee has been inaugurated by the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) to manage some possible grievances on environmental and social issues that may arise in the Board's quest to implement its Productivity Enhancement Programmes (PEPs) within the cocoa sector.

The Environmental Social and Management System (ESMS) seeks to facilitate uninterrupted implementation of the Board's ongoing PEPs which are all geared towards increasing productivity. The system will ensure that the implementation process conforms to the best environmental and social standards in all cocoa-growing communities

within the country.

Inaugurating the committee at the Cocoa House in Kumasi, the COCOBOD Ashanti Regional Administrator, Mr. Edwin Prempeh, commended the members for wholeheartedly accepting to serve on such an important but daunting committee.

“I am very much delighted to you all for accepting to work hand-in-hand with extension officers in all growing communities to support and eradicate activities that may hinder the growth of our cocoa industry”. He said.

Mr. Edwin Prempeh said, environmental issues and cocoa cultivation cannot be separated and that explains why Management is paying keen attention to activities that put the environment in danger.

“Some people use unapproved fertilizers on their cocoa farms. Others spray their farms with unapproved chemicals. These activities affect soil fertility, pollute the air we breathe and also endanger other species that contribute to the sustenance of the human race”, he stressed, adding that members of the committee must do their best to execute the mandate given them.

Mr. Kwadwo Osei Danso, Regional Manager of the Cocoa Health and Extension Division (CHED), commended the team for their support and urged them to rally behind COCOBOD to successfully implement the PEPs. The members of the Committee are: Mr. Kwadwo Osei Danso – Regional Manager (CHED), Mr. Samuel Buah – Regional PEPs coordinator CHED), Nana Adu Mensah Asare –Otumfo / Traditional Council Rep (Amakomhene), Miss Stacey Ofori –LBC's Rep (Omni Cocoa), Hon. Kwabena Nsenkyire –NADMO Regional Coordinator, Daud Abass –EPA Regional Representative and Nana S. Y. Akuoko – Ashanti Regional Chief Farmer.

Adopt New Trends In Your Research Work: Dr. Dwomoh Challenges CRIG Scientists



- Dr. E. A. Dwomoh, DCE (Agronomy & Quality Control) COCOBOD, addressing the GRIG scientists at the review meeting.

Deputy Chief Executive in charge of Agronomy and Quality Control at the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), Dr. Emmanuel Agyeman Dwomoh has challenged scientists at the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) to adopt current research methods to meet up with international research standards, considering modern trends in cocoa production and the rise in consumption globally.

For him, research has become dynamic and it is important that COCOBOD, the regulator of Ghana's cocoa, coffee and shea sectors, ventures into key research areas to complement the efforts being made increasing and sustain domestic consumption.

Dr. Dwomoh made the call at Koforidua in the Eastern Region during CRIG's annual review meeting to assess the progress of some projects that the Institute is embarking on within the cocoa sector.

"Now the world has seen the benefits of cocoa, so if we can get sugar which is not of carbohydrate source but protein, it will go a long way to increase consumption especially among the aged and the world, largely", he said. Dr Dwomoh mentioned the alternative use of some botanical plants such as "stomatocucus danielii" to substitute sugar in the production of chocolate and other cocoa confectionaries.

Dr. Dwomoh commended the scientists for their extensive research over the years, which has helped sustain Ghana's cocoa industry.

"I am highly impressed with the extensive and in-depth research undertaken by our scientists and I am convinced we shall work closely to ensure the adoption of the various outcomes", he added.

The review meeting which is held annually considered various research projects undertaken within the 2020/2021 cocoa crop year under six thrusts. These include Soil and Management, Crop Improvement, Insect and Pest Management, Plant Disease Management and the System Assessment and Analysis thrusts to oversee the component within the research areas.

The review was done by CRIG scientists and other researchers from various disciplines across the country. Present at the meeting was the Acting Executive Director of CRIG, Dr. Francis Padi and other management staff of the Institute.

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