



# COCOBODNEWS

## Fight Against Illegal Mining; COCOBOD Proposes Gh¢3m As Compensation To Cocoa Farmers.



Dr Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh, (DCE, A&QC), addressing stakeholders on the threat that illegal mining poses to Ghana's cocoa sector

**G**hana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), in a bid to join Government's crackdown on illegal mining on cocoa farms, has proposed an amount of Three Million, Six Hundred and Thirty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,630,000) as compensation to cocoa farmers who have lost their lands to illegal miners.

This proposal was presented by COCOBOD to stakeholders at the National Consultative Dialogue on Small Scale Mining organized by the Ministry for Lands and Natural Resources in Accra.

Presenting the policy document on COCOBOD's position on the fight against illegal mining, the Deputy Chief Executive in Charge of Agronomy and Quality Control, Dr Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh, disclosed that cocoa generates more than USD2.2 billion annually in foreign earnings to Ghana. He said cocoa is the mainstay of the Ghanaian economy; hence the Board would not renege on its efforts to sustain the cocoa sector by influencing government policies aimed at deterring illegal miners and their collaborators from persisting in their trade.

Dr. Dwomoh emphasized that mining has had disastrous effects on our environment resulting in crop loss, reduction in farmers' incomes, the contamination of water bodies and threats to wildlife. He said an amount of USD200 million had been invested by COCOBOD for farm rehabilitation, irrigation, fertilizer subsidies, public sensitisation and education to facilitate sustainable production.

"COCOBOD is paying GH¢11,892 per acre of each rehabilitated farm and urged Government to safeguard these investments to avoid losing them to illegal mining with its adverse effects on the environment and livelihood of farmers", he said.

Dr. Dwomoh said that a legislative framework that focuses on processing should be developed, as an approach towards sustainable land and water management system in cocoa-growing areas where illegal mining is rife.

"Where mining is inevitable, an amount of GH¢3,630,000.00 being projected revenue per hectare should be paid as compensation to the farmer whose farm has been destroyed", he emphasised.

He said there is the need for COCOBOD and the Lands and Minerals Commission to collaborate, streamline and tighten sanctions against illegal miners in cocoa-growing regions.

"There should be no issuance of licenses or leases for mining in cocoa farmlands until a public forum is organized in prospected communities", he stressed.



# Ashanti Regional COCOBOD Staff Urged To Support CMS Implementation.



Dr Emmanuel Nii Tackie Otoo, Executive Director, CHED, speaking to the staff of COCOBOD in the Ashanti Region about the need to make the CMS a success.

Staff of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) in the Ashanti Region have been urged to ensure the successful implementation of the Cocoa Management System (CMS), which is an integrated data management platform on cocoa farmers and other stakeholders in Ghana's cocoa sector.

The call was made by Dr Emmanuel Nii Tackie Otoo, Executive Director of the Cocoa Health and Extension Division (CHED) of COCOBOD at a workshop held at the Ashanti Regional capital, Kumasi, for staff in the region.

He indicated that the acquisition of reliable data is critical to the growth of the cocoa sector, hence, the need for all to embrace and work towards the successful implementation of the system.

The Senior Public Affairs Manager of COCOBOD, Mr Fiifi Boafo advised staff to engage the relevant persons and groups in cocoa communities and sensitize them on the numerous benefits that farmers, in particular, and all stakeholders in general, will derive when the system becomes fully operational.

“There is the need to effectively engage with all stakeholders, clear every misconception about the CMS and provide the necessary feedback for a more effective system”, he said.

Mr Boafo also indicated that the local media, cocoa farmer cooperatives and community information centres, as well as, opinion leaders will be engaged to propagate the need for all to register.

Sensitization on the Cocoa Management System has begun in the region and is soon to be followed with the mapping of cocoa farms and enumeration of cocoa farmers in order to give them unique identification (ID) cards.

A farmer's ID card will hold information about the farmer and his/her farm. It will facilitate the sale of cocoa beans, access to farm inputs, subsidies and other support services from COCOBOD.

The cocoa management system will also help with the traceability of cocoa which has become a major international issue, with sourcing countries raising ethical issues on child labour and deforestation.



# COCOBOD Holds Capacity Building Seminar For Finance Managers.



Mr Emmanuel Ray Ankrah (DCE, F&A) speaking on the need to adopt emerging trends in financial management to improve the cocoa sector.

**G**hana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) has held a capacity building seminar on Accounting and Financial Management for Finance Managers at the parent organisation, its divisions and subsidiaries.

The seminar which was held on Thursday, 8th April, was under the theme, “Embedding Value; the Future of Finance at COCOBOD”.

The Deputy Chief Executive in charge of Finance and Administration at COCOBOD, Mr Emmanuel Ray Ankrah, emphasised the value management places on continuous knowledge acquisition to keep up with the latest trends in management and operations.

He was confident that the event will result in measurable improvements in the performance of the Financial Managers which will ultimately reflect in the Board’s finances.

“This platform is to help provide new ideas and approaches on how our financial reports in the cocoa sector are made and help change the narrative of the value of finance”, he stated.

Mr Ray Ankrah further urged the managers to actively seek out emerging trends within the financial sector of the cocoa industry and implement them to enhance their work.

The Director of Human Resources at COCOBOD, Mr. Randolph Addai, in his welcome address, said management continuously seeks to attain the most effective accounting plan to sustain the cocoa sector.

“It is our hope that the seminar will be effective and beneficial to help attain the financial goals of the Board”, he said.

The seminar facilitator, Dr Noel Tagoe, a former Professor of Accounting and Management Practices at Nottingham University, in his presentation, highlighted key action matrices that management needs to adopt in all financial transactions of the Board.

He further elaborated on the need for transparency in information sharing and planning as a key component in carrying out effective accounting.



GET INTERACTIVE