Tracking and Traceability of Cocoa Beans

Tony Lass

Some Observations

- **RSCE is working to improve sustainability of mainstream cocoa production – not another "niche"**

- **RSCE aims to improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers**

- **Costs in the marketing chain need to be kept to a minimum**

Possible Tracking/Traceability Mechanisms for Cocoa

- **Identity preservation**
- **COCOBOD system in Ghana – back to District**
- **Traceability from co-operatives**
- **Other?**

Identity preservation

- **Used widely in organic cocoa production**

- **Requires a trained documentation officer to control**

- **Can trace a sack (or part sack) of cocoa back to the individual grower**

- **Adds cost to supply chain but this is covered by additional premium for certified organic cocoas**

COCOBOD System in Ghana – back to District

- **The seal on each individual sack identifies quality controller, date and district**

- **This control ensures the effective work of the quality controller later in the chain**

- **System contributes in large part to quality reputation of Ghana's cocoa**

- **But does add cost that is recovered from the premium paid for the cocoa from Ghana**

Traceability from co-operatives

- **As co-operatives strengthen and develop their capacities, cocoa originating from some of them could become sought after by buyers**

- **This should develop a premium structure for their cocoa that will reward them for extra efforts**

Conclusions

- **All the models described for cocoa tracking and traceability systems, more than recover the additional costs in premiums paid by buyers**

- **This will ensure the sustainability of the systems**

- **It would seem necessary to be cautious in recommending any model that does not more than recover the additional costs**

Other Models

- **Are there other models that could work and be cost effective?**