Tracking and Traceability of Cocoa Beans

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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?