



# WCF newsletter

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE, RESPONSIBLE COCOA GROWING

*Dear WCF Supporters and Friends,*

*In this holiday letter, we at the World Cocoa Foundation want to share stories with you -- stories from the cocoa farm communities of West Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. WCF and its members firmly believe that the programs we and our partners sponsor cannot succeed without the active, ongoing engagement of the cocoa farming community. Cocoa farmers bring a unique understanding of the challenges they face as well as the creativity to develop solutions to improve their lives. WCF programs are all about discovering what works for farm families and spreading that information to as many in the farming community as humanly possible. We are proud to share these stories of community involvement and success with you. To date more than 200,000 cocoa farmers and their families have benefited from our programs.*

*In addition to thanking the farmers who have shared their stories, the World Cocoa Foundation also thanks Winrock, IFESH, STCP, ACDI/VOCA, ACCESO, Nong Lam University and our member companies for their time and effort in collecting information and photos. We also thank our public sector partners including USAID, USDA, DANIDA, GTZ, CIDA and cocoa producing country governments.*

## **West Africa--Improving Incomes and Protecting Health**

### **Nigeria--Farmer Training Leads to Increased Bargaining Power**



Chief Owoyemi (second from right) with members of the Akure Temidayo Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society and their scale.

"We have learned to view cocoa farming as a business and are determined to earn a better living doing it," says Mrs. Ekundayo Gbajumo, a member of the Akure Temidayo Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society which was formed through cooperation with the Sustainable Tree Crops Program in Ondo State, Nigeria.

According to the Society's president, Chief Owoyemi, the first goal is to develop a collective marketing scheme to increase their members' bargaining power when selling cocoa. The group has already acquired a produce store and a weighing scale.

### **Cote d'Ivoire--CLASSE School Students Educate Community on AIDS Awareness**



Students participate in a World AIDS Day event.

Good health is the most basic necessity of life. In Affery, Cote d'Ivoire Winrock International's CLASSE students, some of whom attend traditional school and some who are out-of-school youth, organized sporting activities to encourage more than 2,000 youth in their community to participate in an AIDS awareness event. The community felt free to ask questions of AIDS experts and comment on what they saw. Approximately 7 percent, more than 750,000 people, suffer from AIDS in Cote d'Ivoire.

Mrs. Koukou, wife of a CLASSE teacher, said she had never met anyone living with AIDS until the awareness event and did not believe it existed. She has resolved to share her experience with friends and family.

### **READ MORE**

[Read about Mrs. Ohoussou Sidje Bernadette's experience with the IFESH functional literacy program.](#)

## **Southeast Asia--Farmer Field School Techniques Improve Cocoa Farms**

### **Vietnam--Cocoa SUCCESS helps to build a New House**



The Son Family and their new house built due to increased income from cocoa.

Through his determination and commitment to sustainable cocoa, Mr. Tran Hung Son has seen his life and that of his family in the Mekong Delta improve greatly over the past three years.

In 2002 Mr. Son received clones for grafting on unproductive trees and attended the training organized by Nong Lam University with WCF support. Mr. Son has greatly increased his income from selling bud wood, grafted seedlings, fresh cocoa pods and cocoa beans.

His cocoa farm is one of the reliable sources of registered commercial bud woods to supply nurseries that produce grafted seedlings for ACDI/VOCA's SUCCESS Alliance in Ben Tre and Tien Giang provinces. Reports Mr. Son, "I could not escape from the poor that always followed my family. I feel lucky and very thankful to participate in the cocoa project from the beginning."

### **Indonesia--Learning the Techniques to Conquer Cocoa Disease**

"I had decided to abandon my cocoa plantation or look for a new commodity which could give me earning to support me and my family," reports Mr. Wayan Sute, a cocoa farmer from South Sulawesi who has



Mr. Wayan Sute and members of the farmers' group.

benefited from SUCCESS Alliance and buyer Olam Indonesia.

"I could not depend on cocoa for my livelihood and it was no longer possible for me to support my family of 5. But thanks to the program, I learned the techniques to tackle Cocoa Pod Borer and VSD [vascular streak disease] through side grafting, pruning, sanitation and integrated pest management."

Mr. Wayan also has encouraged other farmers to join the program and participates in a 65-member farmer group, all producing good quality cocoa. [Read more about Mr. Wayan Sute.](#)

### **READ MORE**

[Learn how Mr. Jose Valdestamon increased his cocoa yields with techniques learned from SUCCESS Alliance Philippines.](#)

## **Latin America--Adopting Best Agricultural Practices**

### **Ecuador-- SUCCESS leads to Community Nursery**



Mr. Alfredo Villalta, member of Asociacion 29 de Junio, in the association's new community nursery.

The "Asociacion 29 de Junio" is a small cocoa farmers' association created by participants who have completed the Farmer Field School training from SUCCESS Alliance (ACDI/VOCA) in Ecuador.

One of the first ideas from the training was that association members wanted to establish a community nursery, using the soil formula they learned through the FFS training. Thanks to the nursery the 50 members of the Asociacion will each receive 250 plants to improve their individual farms. Now other farmers in the area want to participate in the FFS training to improve their own farms.

### **Peru--Cocoa is a Good Alternative**

Mr. Rolando Pinedo lives on a small island on the Huallaga River in Peru. Two Farmer Field Schools are located on Mr. Pinedo's farm. Mr.



ACESSO Executive Secretary Marcelo Nunez visits Rolando Pinedo, Luis Rivelino Yalta, and Hugo Chistama at the Shilcayo Farmer Field School

Pinedo is one of 43 FFS graduates who learned better pest management by adopting best agricultural practices through the training. He confirmed "cocoa is a good alternative to increase our incomes and living standard." Shilcayo FFS graduate Mr. Hugo Chistama notes that "Cocoa is a good crop to afford my children's school." Both farmers are members of the Chazuta Central Farmers Association.

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*The World Cocoa Foundation wishes to thank its members and partners in the three cocoa growing regions of the world for their support in helping cocoa farm communities learn, grow and thrive. Ten million people depend on cocoa in farming communities in West Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. We appreciate your support for these communities in 2006 and look forward to your participation in 2007.*

*Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season.*

*Regards,*

*Bill Guyton, Susan Smith, Robert Peck, Tracey Duffey, and Virginia Sopyla  
The World Cocoa Foundation*

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