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**Aid Organizations, World Cocoa Foundation Partner With  
Canadian NGO SOCODEVI to  
Improve Cocoa Farmer Incomes**

**New Effort to Empower Farmers through Better Organization,  
Financing, Marketing; Earn More for their Cocoa Crop**

WASHINGTON – The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) today announced that it has joined with two leading international development organizations to help improve cocoa farmer incomes in Cameroon, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Liberia and Nigeria.

The new program, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the United States Agency for International Development and the WCF, will help organize cocoa farmers into group sales organizations, often referred to as co-operatives. The new effort will also help farmers develop financing options, marketing techniques and multiple buyer options – all to enhance their ability to sell cocoa at the best price possible.

The new farmer organization effort will be led by the Société de Coopération pour le Développement International, or SOCODEVI. The program is part of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP), and builds upon the STCP's efforts to address the challenges facing cocoa farming families in West Africa.

“Cocoa farmers are dedicated and hard-working, but they need our support,” said Bill Guyton, president, World Cocoa Foundation. “Through training and education, we can empower cocoa farmers and strengthen the cocoa farming community.”

“We are pleased to pursue this collaboration with STCP with the realization of our 5year Program” said Mario Boivin, Program Manager, SOCODEVI. “I am convinced that, by working together, we can bring about significant and long lasting

improvement in the economic and social well-being of cocoa farmers, their family members and their communities.”

“In agrarian economies throughout the world, SOCODEVI has brought farmers together and made a positive, lasting difference” said John Rowsome, president of the Confectionery Manufacturers Association of Canada (CMAC). “This program will make it easier for cocoa farmers to sell their crop together, at the right time, for the right price.”

In addition to organizing farmers and improving their ability to sell cocoa, the WCF supports a number of other efforts to help cocoa farming families. The WCF-led “Healthy Communities” initiative is a five-year effort to provide cocoa farmers with practical training in important areas like crop loss and safe, responsible practices. Farmers gain knowledge through a series of “Farmer Field Schools” that provide hands-on training.

The “field schools” approach has proven effective in the past, raising farm family incomes while at the same time reducing potentially unsafe labor practices.

STCP Regional Manager Stephan Weise noted, “The STCP works to increase rural income through the introduction of production, marketing, institutional, and policy innovations. This partnership with SOCODEVI will allow us to enhance the capacity of local institutions to train and support business-oriented farmer organizations.”

The new program will begin immediately, and will coincide with the five-year timeline for the Healthy Communities initiative.

Established in 2000, the World Cocoa Foundation plays a leading role in strengthening the partnership between industry and cocoa farmers. With nearly 60 member companies, the WCF supports a range of economic, social and environmental programs in cocoa communities in Africa, Asia, Central America and South America. World Cocoa Foundation programs focus on raising farm incomes, encouraging responsible, sustainable cocoa growing and strengthening communities.

For more information about the World Cocoa Foundation, or to find out how you can help support cocoa farmers, contact Bill Guyton or Robert Peck at (703) 790-5012 or via e-mail at [Bill.Guyton@worldcocoa.org](mailto:Bill.Guyton@worldcocoa.org). or [Robert.Peck@worldcocoa.org](mailto:Robert.Peck@worldcocoa.org). Also, visit the WCF online at: [www.WorldCocoaFoundation.org](http://www.WorldCocoaFoundation.org).