

Realizing Better Food Security & Nutrition for Cocoa Farmers

16 October Statement of Support

On the occasion of World Food Day celebrated on 16 October, cocoa value chain actors made up of government, industry and technical partners, recognise the importance of improving the food security and nutrition of smallholder farming communities for the sustainability of the cocoa sector.

Food is one of the largest costs for smallholder farming families. Its high cost and scarcity, especially in between cocoa seasons, can compromise household resilience and the chance for farming families to achieve a decent living income.

Smallholder farming communities also make up the world's most undernourished population. In Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire child stunting on average affects one in five children and anaemia is prevalent amongst an estimated half of women of reproductive age. Improving nutrition includes efforts towards diet diversity, water and sanitation and early childhood development.

Gender inequality including the lack of resources and services to women and girls has significant impact on food security and nutrition. Ensuring equal access to services for men and women in farming households and communities is key to improving food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers.

As part of our engagement in the sustainability of the cocoa sector, we support efforts to improve food security and nutrition as a way to contribute to the resilience and living income of smallholder cocoa farming communities.

Specifically we state our collective support on the following:

- **To recognise food security and improved nutrition as part of the solution for achieving living income and building smallholder farmer resilience;**
- **To integrate food security and improved nutrition where relevant in the implementation of existing cocoa sustainability commitments;**
- **To use company service delivery models to integrate and scale food security and improved nutrition with farmers and their families;**
- **To use World Food Day celebrated every 16 October as an opportunity to come together to learn, innovate and promote the scale up of an integrated approach to food security and nutrition within the cocoa value chain in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.**



World Food Day 2019
Accra, Ghana



SIGNATORIES



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