

New Initiatives in Southeast Asia

Agribusiness Market and Support Activity (AMARTA) Project: Cocoa Farmer Support Training Program

Project Dates: 2006-2009

Country: Indonesia

Funders: US Agency for International Development, the World Cocoa Foundation, The Blommer Chocolate Company, Olam International Ltd., and Big Tree Farms

Implementer: Development Alternatives Inc.



Overview

The Agribusiness Market and Support Activity (AMARTA) Project works with eight agribusiness sectors to improve quality and increase productivity throughout each of the value chains. The Cocoa Farmer Support Training Program provides training to farmers in Sulawesi with the aim of improving cocoa productivity and quality by approximately 20%. A premium will be offered to farmers whose cocoa meets export quality standards. In Bali, AMARTA will assist Big Tree Farms to develop high value fermented cocoa beans while striving for organic production.

Program Objectives:

- Sulawesi Program – To enable 20,000 farmers to increase productivity from 700 to 850 kgs per hectare by reducing the incidence of Cocoa Pod Borer and other pests and diseases. Farmers will receive training through the participatory Farmer Field School approach with an emphasis on pruning, sanitation, frequent harvesting, fertilizer use, pest and disease management, post-harvest handling and quality improvement. Where appropriate, farmers will receive training on side grafting to rehabilitate older cocoa trees.
- Bali Program - Approximately 2,000 smallholder cocoa farmers will participate in a pilot project with Big Tree Farms to produce high value fermented cocoa beans while also focusing on increased productivity, reduced pest and diseases, post-harvest handling, and quality with specialized training materials that address organic farming.

For more information on World Cocoa Foundation supported programs in Southeast Asia, contact:
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