

DEVELOPMENT OF CERTIFIED COCOA PRODUCTION IN VIETNAM

ECO-COCOA

PERIOD: 2010 – 2014

OVERALL GOAL

Living conditions of the rural population in the southern regions of Vietnam are improved due to better social, economic and environmental conditions related to agriculture.

PARTNERS

- University for Forestry and Agriculture HCM City;
- Provincial People's Committee (PPC);
- Provincial Agricultural Extension Center (PAEC);
- Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- Private companies (Cargill, Ritter Sport, Grand Place, Chocolats Halba, certification agency, others).



BUDGET: 2,441,936 US\$

OBJECTIVE

A sustainable and efficient value chain for certified cocoa (organic, UTZ and fair-trade) is established, with increasing numbers of farmers, achieving better incomes and diversifying production.

APPROACH

- Intergration of value chain development and multi-stakeholder approach;
- Empowering farmers organisations to become the certificate holder;
- Development of an Internal Control System (ICS) which allows multi-label production system integrating certification schemes with different standards (UTZ, Organic, and Fairtrade) in one single monitoring and traceability system;
- Learnings from this experience will be fed in international standard harmonization discussions;
- Gender in value chain development is one of our priorities. The challenge is how to include all important members of the smallholder family in the decision making process. Female representation in farmers organisation is also one of the concerns.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- **1600 farmers obtained the UTZ certification** in two provinces, more 370% compared to 2011.
- **ICS has been effectively organized and efficiently functioning.**
- **4 companies in Ben Tre and 1 cooperative in Tien Giang also received UTZ certification**, among which Pham Minh Company has created many new products from certified cocoa as diet chocolate, cosmetic cocoa oil;
- **300 poor households are supported** to draw benefits from cultivation of certified cocoa, thanks to technical assistance from HELVETAS and financial assistance from Happel Foundation;
- Organic farming techniques in Cocoa/Coconut mixed cultivations in the Mekong river delta area have been tested. First trainings were conducted and farmers' capacities have been improved. **The farmers know how to produce compost and apply biological crop protection** against the most important pest and diseases in Cocoa;
- In Tien Giang, HELVETAS with Rabobank Foundation and Rabo International Advisory Services (RIAS) developed the Cho Gao Cooperative into a production cooperative, following the cooperative model of Rabobank. So far, the cooperative has shown significant achievements although there are still many challenges ahead.