

# INCREASING COCOA QUALITY BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE ROLE OF WOMEN

The big challenge: How to involve women to improve quality of cocoa whilst (1) making sure they benefit from improved quality and (2) without overburdening them with extra tasks?

## Why?

- ▶ Understanding and recognizing women's share in the production process is the first step towards increasing cocoa quality. Women are responsible for 45 % of the work done on the cocoa farm (Dalberg, 2012) Thus, although men and women conduct different tasks in cocoa production, the time they invest is more or less the same.
- ▶ Division of labour: In cocoa communities, men are responsible for the more hazardous and physically demanding tasks, such as pesticide spraying, pruning and harvesting of the cocoa.
- ▶ Women are mainly involved in early plant care and post-harvest activities, such as pod-breaking, fermenting and drying. These tasks are key for the quality of the cocoa. The future of high quality cocoa production thus depends on the women involved (Barrientos, 2013)
- ▶ Women are less likely to benefit from cocoa revenues: men are in control of marketing the cocoa (UTZ/Solidaridad, 2009), and are more likely to have a cooperative membership. A study among 1000 farmers in Cameroon showed that among married cocoa farmers, 97% of the men were in control of marketing of cocoa (GTZ, 2009).
- ▶ Besides working on the cocoa farm, women are involved in household tasks and other work (such as food crop farming and trading). Combining all tasks, men work 49 hours per week on average, while women have an average work week of 63 hours (Vargas Hill and Vigneri, 2011).

## Best practices

### Nestlé Cocoa Plan:

Nestlé has helped Copaz coop, which was set up by Agathe Vanie to help women in her locality, distribute over 300,000 new cocoa plants from 2009-2014. Agathe Vanie is the president of COPAZ, a cocoa cooperative based in Divo, in central-western Côte d'Ivoire. Agathe led a campaign to demonstrate how the inclusion of women in cocoa farming could not only have a positive impact on their families, but on the country as a whole. In 2010, her 600-woman cooperative joined the Nestlé Cocoa Plan. Nestlé provides them with high-yielding, disease-tolerant cocoa seedlings and technical assistance. The cooperative also received support from Nestlé to buy a new truck for delivering cocoa beans. "In our tradition, cocoa farming was only reserved for men," she says. "We fought for our rights to some land and the Nestlé Cocoa Plan supports us."

Graph Mapping Gender roles in the cocoa value chain (Barrientos, 2013)

Activities	Women	Men
Weeding and land preparation	Mostly women	Some men
Purchasing of cocoa seeds/seedlings	Some women	Mostly men
Planting	All	All
Intercropping of food crops	Mostly Women	Few men
Cocoa Spraying	Exceptional cases	Mostly men
Thinning and Pruning	Few	Mostly men
Harvesting/plucking	Some women	Mostly men
Pod breaking	All	All
Carrying to homestead/depots	Mostly women	Some men
Fermenting	All	All
Drying and portorage	All	All
Bagging	Some women	Mostly Men
Sale to local buying agencies	Few women	Mostly men



### Sources

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