Certification for Cocoa Farming
Helping Children, Families, Communities

The global chocolate and cocoa industry is working with West African governments, NGOs and labor experts to implement a "certification" program for cocoa farming. The program is part of a broader effort to promote economic and social development in cocoa farming communities.
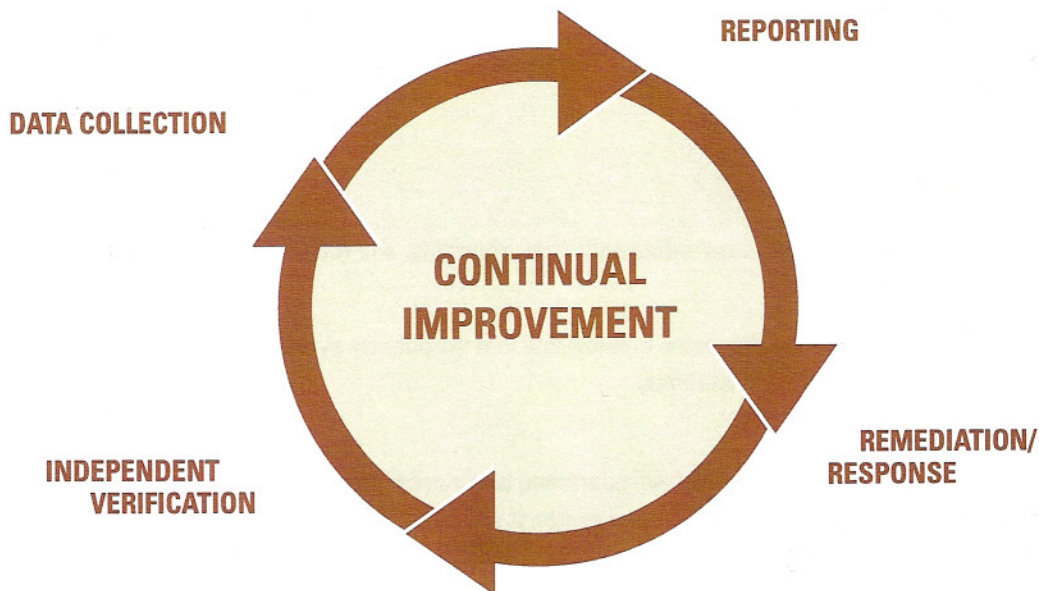
Certification for cocoa farming addresses three questions:

1. **What child and adult labor issues exist on cocoa farms in West Africa?**
2. **Are steps being taken to address these issues?**
3. **How are the lives of children and families on cocoa farms improving?**

Certification tells us what is happening on cocoa farms, helps track labor practices, and then guides efforts to improve conditions. Certification helps address the need to meet robust international labor standards while working in the developing world.

Certification:
A unified, continuous improvement process

REPORTING

DATA COLLECTION

CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

REMEDIATION/ RESPONSE

INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION

In Partnership with Producer Governments and Stakeholders

Data Collection

- Data collection provides a credible, statistically representative view of actual labor practices on cocoa farms.

- Trained surveyors visit cocoa farming communities to collect information on working conditions, labor practices, and related issues such as school attendance.

- The information collected forms the basis of a certification report on that country's cocoa sector.

Reporting

- On a regular basis, participating West African governments issue a certification "report." The report includes results from the visits to cocoa farms and recommendations in response to the information gathered from the cocoa farms. It will also highlight progress.

- The report is made publicly available by the appropriate West African government.

Remediation/Response

- In addition to reporting, certification drives change by focusing efforts on critical issues. Participating governments, industry, and experts will take action to address issues identified in the report.

Independent Verification

- The entire certification process—data collection, reporting, and response efforts—will be independently verified.

- This step ensures that the process is credible and that the publicly available information accurately represents conditions on cocoa farms.

When fully functioning, certification will guarantee that a credible process is in place to monitor and report on labor practices in the cocoa sector. It will effectively drive change to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and forced labor from this supply chain.

To learn more about certification for cocoa farming, visit

www.worldcocoafoundation.org