



Working towards cocoa certification in Ghana

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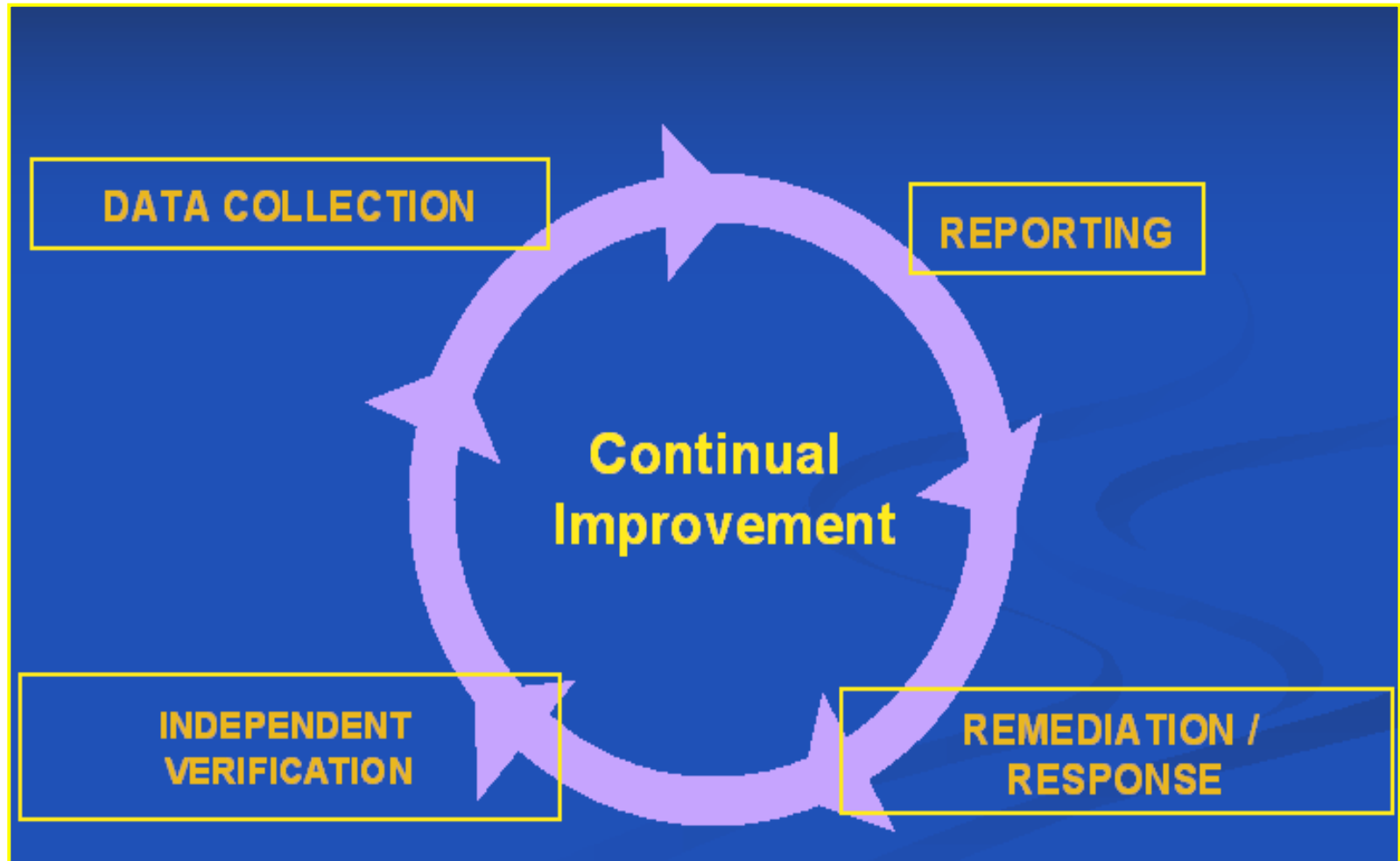
Background to the NPECLC

- The National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa (NPECLC)
 - Instituted in August 2006 to coordinate efforts to eliminate WFCL in the cocoa sector
- Overall aim:
 - To eliminate worst forms of child labour in cocoa by 2011 and in other sectors in the long term

Objectives of the NPECLC

- Enhancement of the knowledge base about WFCL in cocoa
- Strengthening of the legal framework for dealing with WFCL
- Community mobilization for action
- Development & implementation of interventions to eliminate WFCL in cocoa
- Promotion of universal basic education
- Development & implementation of interventions that reduce the need for child labour in cocoa
- Development of institutional & technical capacities to effectively address child labour in the country

The certification process





Value and purpose of certification

- **Value of Certification**

- Guide efforts to remediate issues that are determined
- Benefit the children of farmers, the farmers, the communities and the industry

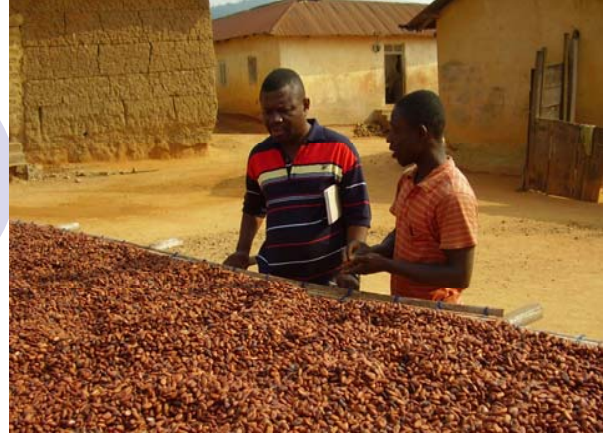
- **Certification includes:**

- Statistically representative data collection on the incidence of WFCL and FAL in a country's cocoa sector
- Periodic reporting on the findings of data collected
- Institution of remediation efforts towards elimination of the WFCL and FAL
- Independent verification of the data collection processes

- **Certification does not include:**

- Reporting on each of the small-holder cocoa farms in Ghana
- A guarantee that no instances of the WFCL or FAL exist

Activities



- Data collection

- Pilot survey conducted in the 2006/2007 season
 - Covered 6 cocoa districts
- Scaled-up survey conducted in the 2007/2008 cocoa season
 - Covered 15 cocoa-growing districts, accounting for 60% of cocoa production in Ghana
 - Interviews conducted in 120 communities
 - 3,452 children
 - 1,749 household heads
 - 1,391 adult workers
- Findings validated on June 6th
 - Findings to be publicized soon

Activities



- Reporting

- Pilot survey posted on the internet (www.cocobod.gh)
- Dissemination & sensitization workshops organized for key stakeholders in 46 cocoa-growing districts in Ghana
- Presentation of findings at various international forums, Partners' Forums and on the media

- Same reporting process is to be used for the scaled-up survey

- Other reporting activities include:
 - Researchers' Forum
 - Ministerial & Parliamentary roundtable meetings

Activities



- Remediation

- Sensitization in 46 cocoa-growing districts
- Design of district-specific action plans by over 30 districts
- Support of 11 districts to implement DPECLC
- Formation & training of Child Protection Committees
 - 17 DCPCs and 110 CCPCs
- Implementation of community action plans (CAP)
 - Child surveillance
 - Institution of bye-laws
- Over 1,200 given direct support to pursue formal education and skills training
- Monitoring of district and community interventions

Activities



- Independent verification

- Verifier groups identified by the International Cocoa Verification Board (ICVB)

- Process verification in progress at the moment

- Internal verification

- Data collection verification

- Quality Assurance and Monitoring Teams ensured that data collection processes met the set standards

- Response Team in place

- To respond to suspected cases of WFCL and FAL

Ghana's approach

- Multi-sectoral approach involving:
 - Key Ministries, Departments & Agencies
 - District Assemblies, NGOs & donor agencies
- Structures:
 - National Steering Committee (Cocoa sub-committee)
 - Technical Working Group
 - Secretariat
 - Research Team
 - Partners' Forum
 - District & Community Child Protection Committees
- Funding:
 - Government of Ghana through Ghana Cocoa Board
 - World Cocoa Foundation, UNICEF, Danish Embassy, ICI



Challenges

- Clarifying perceptions of child labour & child work
 - The traditional child work and skill transfer initially appeared to be under threat with the institution of elimination of WFCL.
 - Carefully designed sensitization and remediation which takes the culture into perspective, has enabled change so far.
- Explaining the cultural context of Ghana's case to the world
 - Close relations as defined in Ghana varies with its definition in the US.
- Negative and false reports by international organizations and media
 - World Vision Australia's video "Gate of no return"

Outlook of the NPECLC

- Support to all cocoa-growing districts to implement their district action plans
 - Sponsored by Government of Ghana through COCOBOD
 - Supported by Danish Embassy and UNICEF
- Institution of Community-Based Child Labour Monitoring (CCLM) to ensure:
 - Child surveillance
 - Sustained community sensitization, mobilization, planning and implementation of efforts to eliminate WFCL in cocoa
 - Regular data collection on child labour in cocoa to inform interventions and planning
- Integration of approaches into National Planning systems
 - National Child Labour surveys (with focus on cocoa)
 - Inclusion of district-specific interventions in Medium Term Development Plans and National Budgets

Outlook of the NPECLC

- Implementation of key activities:

- Processing of cocoa by-products to increase income of households
- Promotion of labor-saving farming techniques (in collaboration with Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana)
- Institution of a micro-credit scheme to empower women in cocoa household.
 - Initial funding is from Government of Ghana through Ghana Cocoa Board.

- Monitoring & evaluation of interventions

- Support creation of M&E systems to assess impact of interventions

- Supported by Danish Embassy

Conclusion

- We are continuing efforts to eliminate worst forms of child labour for the good of our children and our nation.
- Due to our cultural & geographical proximity, we need to support each other's effort.

