

Workshop on National Implementation Guide on Standards for Sustainable Cocoa Held



Stakeholders and Officials from GSA and COCOBOD

The Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) and the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) on Tuesday, June 26, 2023, organised a Public Review Workshop Programme on the Draft National Implementation Guide for the use of ARS 1000 Series of Standards on Sustainable Cocoa in Ghana.

The programme took place at Standards Height in Accra.

The ARS 1000 Series of Standards on Sustainable Cocoa is the approved African Standards for sustainably produced Cocoa and it includes:

- *ARS 1000-1: 2021 Sustainable Cocoa – Part 1: Requirements for Cocoa Farmer as Entity/Farmer Group/Cooperative Management System and Performance;*

- *ARS 1000-2: 2021 Sustainable Cocoa – Part 2: Requirements for Cocoa Quality and Traceability;*
- *ARS 1000-3: 2021 Sustainable Cocoa – Part 3: Requirements for Cocoa Certification Scheme.*

The workshop solicited feedback on the content of the draft Implementation Guide and discussed related issues regarding the development of the cocoa industry.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of COCOBOD, Joseph

Boahen Aidoo, who was represented by the Director of Public Affairs, Fiifi Boafo, expressed COCOBOD's appreciation to the GSA for its collaborating to produce the document which would promote good and sustainable cocoa products for both local consumption and export.

“We are pleased to work with GSA and we know our continued partnership will grow from strength to strength. We are committed to working together to achieve



environmentally sustainable agricultural growth in order to ensure that all Ghana cocoa is sustainably produced,” he noted.

He further charged both institutions to educate the farmers on the importance of the standard to improve the cocoa produced in the country.

Prof. Alex Dodoo, Director-General of the GSA, noted that standard marked a unique collaboration between Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire and that the GSA and COCOBOD were committed to improving the livelihoods of cocoa farmers in the country.

“Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire have shown that they can make a difference together. The development of the standard indicates that Africans can work together and add value to their natural resources and improve the living conditions of their citizens,” he noted.

He pledged the GSA’s commitment to ensuring

that the standards were implemented successfully and were easy to understand to make cultivation simpler which would improve the cocoa industry.

In 2019, the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) initiated the development of International Standards for the sustainability and traceability of cocoa through the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).

A review of the content of the ISO International Standards, however, indicated that some requirements were not suitable, as it did not take into consideration the peculiar situation of cocoa farmers in African countries.

Following this, Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire, producers of about 65% of the world’s cocoa, initiated efforts to develop a more suitable set of standards that would address the unique challenges of African cocoa farmers that achieves the

goal of economic, social and environmental sustainability and traceability of cocoa.

These efforts led to the development of African Standards under the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) for the African cocoa industry which were approved by Members at the ARSO Council meeting held in June 2021.

Stakeholders present at the workshop included officials from the COCOBOD, GSA, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI), Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Cocoa Research Institute, World Cocoa Foundation, OXFAM, some chiefs from cocoa-growing communities, among other important dignitaries.



Fiifi Boafo, Director, Public affairs, COCOBOD



An Official from Cocoa Research Institute explaining a point



A Chief asking a question at the programme