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CACAO FOR PEACE (CFP)

Supporting rural economic development through cacao research, development, innovation, and market access.

OVERVIEW

Cacao for Peace (CFP) promotes rural peace and development in cacao-producing communities through enhanced cacao research, education, and access to international markets. Cacao research is focused on developing more resilient and sustainable cacao plants, farm inputs, and cultivation practices, thereby increasing cacao crop yields and bettering farmer incomes. CFP is implemented through a Participating Agency Program Agreement (PAPA) with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and it runs from July 2021-July 2026.

COMPONENTS

STRENGTHENING COCAO RESEARCH

CFP strengthens Colombian cacao research institutions' capacities through educational support and technical assistance, and it helps these institutions develop new and sustainable cacao farming inputs and practices. The activity also helps address the urgent problems impacting the cacao value chain, like cacao diseases and food safety issues.

PROMOTING COCAO TRADE

CFP leverages USDA's technical experience and partners to address the technical barriers that limit Colombia's cacao trade. It does this through actions like: optimizing cacao production, improving producers' food safety capacities, and assisting producers to obtain an heirloom cacao classification.



PHOTO OF COCAO PLANT RESEARCH

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Support a post-graduate degree program for Colombian cacao researchers;
- Develop a genetically diverse set of cacao plants to be used in cacao breeding programs;
- Test a cacao fungicide to combat frosty pod rot (*Moniliophthora roreri*) and conduct technical field of this fungicide;
- Support the food safety chapter of Colombia's national cacao strategy through workshops, publications, and coordination meetings;
- Assist Colombian cacao producers to improve their heirloom cacao breeding and to obtain an heirloom cacao classification;
- Establish an endowed foundation for Colombian cacao research, development, and innovation to advance cacao production and exports;
- Identify and address technical gaps in the cacao value chain to comply with World Trade Organization standards and promote international trade;
- Promote scientific exchanges between Colombian agricultural research institutions and USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) using the Lab Exchange Program; and
- Collaborate with U.S. and Colombian research partners to develop a GIS web application that provides information on soil, water resources and cacao genetic diversity for select geographic regions.