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# Cacao for Peace Penn State Newsletter



PennState

Cacao for Peace is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

In January of 2016 USAID and USDA executed a 5 year, \$5 million participating agency program agreement (PAPA) to strengthen the cacao sector in Colombia.

## Purpose

The purpose of the agreement is to strengthen Colombia's key agricultural institutions in the public and private sector for cacao with cooperative research, technical assistance, and extension education.

## Vision

The CFP's vision is to improve rural well-being through agricultural development that is inclusive and sustainable with positive impact on cacao farmers' incomes, economic opportunity, stability and peace.

## Objectives

Strengthen Colombian capacity for Cacao Research

Strengthen Colombian capacity for Cacao Extension

## Highlights of Penn State Cacao for Peace Activities to Date

### Year 1

During year one, much of the work involved building partnerships with various stake holders within the project, developing plans for future activities and formalizing agreements to implement these plans.

Towards these goals we have made the following progress:

- A) Cooperative agreements signed with between USDA-ARS and CORPOICA to guide the development of collaborative research programs. Penn State University and other partners will participate in these projects.
- B) Planning of a Research Forum: Planning is underway and will be announced soon. The forum will be held in the second quarter of 2017 and will bring together all stakeholders in the cacao research community to exchange knowledge, develop consensus research priorities, provide networking opportunities and to build multi-disciplinary research teams.
- C) Created partnership with the Fulbright scholarship program: This will support 4 graduate students to work at US Universities to gain post-graduate education and perform research of relevance to Cfp activities. Candidates have been selected and are in the process of applying to graduate schools.
- D) Cacao Supply Chain Assessment: A team of specialists from Purdue University have led a survey of the cacao sector in Colombia and have presented the preliminary results in a workshop held in Bogota in November 2016.
- E) Cooperative agreements developed with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNODC will lead the development of demonstration and education farms and work with various partners in the delivery of farmer training courses.
- F) Cooperative agreements developed with the US Peace Corps. A number of Peace Corps volunteers will be embedded within three target communities located in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region and will assist in the development of the demonstration farms and farmer training activities.
- G) Cacao for Peace Bootcamp: In November of 2016, a team of partners from Penn State University, Fedecacao and USDA FAS will present a 2-week intensive crash course on all things cacao, targeted at education the Peace Corps volunteers and other stakeholders on the basic elements of cacao production. They will then contribute to farmer training workshops in future Cfp activities.
- H) Cacao for Peace Extension Network: Led by Penn State University, a networking workshop was held in July 2016 to share experiences and bring together major stakeholders the cacao extension community. Participants from USDA-FAS, USAID,

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## Partners

CIAT - International Center for Tropical Agriculture  
 Corpoica - Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research  
 FEDECACAO - Colombian cacao producer association  
 FINAGRO - Colombian agricultural sector financial fund  
 MADR - Colombian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
 OCBD - Office of Capacity Building and Development  
 PROCOLOMBIA - Tourism, foreign investment and export promotion organization  
 MCIT - Ministry of Trade, Industry and –Tourism (MCIT)  
 Purdue University  
 PSU - Pennsylvania State University  
 Red de Cacaoteros  
 SENA – Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje  
 Swiss Contact - Swiss international development foundation  
 UFL - University of Florida  
 UNODC - United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime  
 USAID - U.S. Agency for International Development  
 USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 USDA ARS - USDA Agricultural Research Service  
 USDA FAS - USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Contact

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Penn State, Corpoica, Swiss Contact, Cacao de Colombia, Red de Cacaoteros, Fedecacao, SENA, UNODC and Purdue were in attendance. Many of these partners will participate in future CfP activities.

- I) International Cacao Research Forum: Mark Gultinan and Siela Maximova hosted international the cacao research symposium at Penn State University in May of 2016. The Cacao for Peace program via the Washington DC office sponsored the participation of 20 participants from Central and Latin America, and Africa, including 10 participants from multiple research institutions in Colombia. The meeting was also attended by number of Cacao for Peace managers and staff.
- J) Hosting scientific exchange visits at Penn State University:
- Adriana Gallego is a PhD candidate Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia. Her work at Penn State is focused on investigation of gene expression analysis associated with production of flavonoid molecules in cacao. She will spend about 1.5 years working at Penn State.
  - Jaime Andres Osorio is a World Cocoa Foundation Borlaug Fellowship who is participating in a visiting scientist training at Penn State during the summer of 2016. Jaime is an employee of CORPOICA, one of the major research partners for Cacao for Peace and his work at Penn State is focused on discovery of the major cacao genes responsible for cadmium uptake and development of an in vivo assay for testing the functions of the genes in cacao plants.

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 College of Agricultural Sciences

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Program in the Molecular Biology of Cacao



Penn State Cacao Science Symposium: USDA FAS and USDA ARS Affiliates



Meeting with Arhuacos and Jonathan Cordon



Cacao for Peace Extension Workshop



Meeting with Arhuacos: New Arhuaco Science Leadership Team



Meeting with FEDECACAO Staff



Fedecacao Farmer School