



# Cacao for Peace

“What we expect peace will bring to the cacao sub-sector is greater economic development and tranquility for Colombian cacao farmers, increased national and foreign investment, and for cacao to be a crop associated with honest work and primarily associated with peace” —Eduard Baquero, President Fedecacao



## Program Objectives

- ◆ Strengthen local cacao research capacity for the development of new practices and inputs
- ◆ Increase in-country capacity for agricultural extension, and provide assistance that increases productivity and cacao farmer incomes
- ◆ Provide educational opportunities for cacao researchers and stakeholders to obtain post-graduate degrees and training
- ◆ Provide other technical assistance:
  - Complete an analytical cacao supply chain study
  - Develop a cacao market information system
  - Field test fungicides to combat cacao diseases and establish fungicide maximum residue levels to prevent trade disruptions

## Expected Outcomes

Boost cacao output from Colombia to the U.S. to ensure the U.S. chocolate industry continues to have a reliable source of cacao

Increase Colombian cacao exports to levels competitive with other countries in the region

Contribute to rural stability and peace in Colombia by supporting a viable alternative to coca cultivation

**Value:** 5 million USD  
**Project Duration:** 2016-2021  
**Key Factors:**

2016, Peace agreement signed between Colombia & the FARC

2016, USAID-USDA Cacao for Peace (CfP) agreement is signed

CfP activities are funded by USAID and implemented by USDA

The U.S. confectionary industry relies on cacao imports and accounts for \$35 billion in annual retail sales, also directly employing 227,960 people in the U.S.

Annual U.S. exports of chocolate and cocoa products are approximately \$1.7 billion.



# Cacao for Peace Achievements 2016-2018

## General

- ◆ Developed an innovative model to transform the Colombian cacao sector into a world class industry
- ◆ Created a dynamic and powerful team of implementing partners
- ◆ Attracted an additional USD 1.7 million in funding from various donors

## Research

- ◆ Executed an agreement between USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the world's leader in cacao research, and Agrosavia (formerly Corpoica) to super charge Colombia's cacao research capacity
- ◆ Initiated a mapping project in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region to maximize cacao production
- ◆ Funded gene editing technology research for cadmium uptake reduction by cacao plants

## Agricultural Extension

- ◆ Implemented a robust agricultural extension model for the development of the cacao sector that **quadrupled** yields in just one year (see graph below)

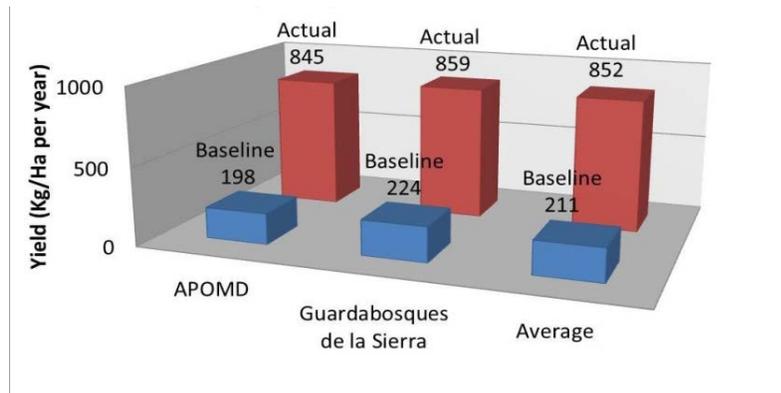
## Education

- ◆ Awarded seven scholarships for master's and doctoral degrees at Purdue University and Penn State University in partnership with Fulbright and Colfuturo
- ◆ Awarded 11 USDA fellowships for professionals involved in the Colombian cacao sector

## Technical Assistance

- ◆ Developed a study on the Colombian cacao supply chain that includes recommendations for strengthening the sector
- ◆ Initiated a project to obtain international regulatory approval of fungicides used to combat cacao diseases

## Yields Quadrupled Under Cacao for Peace



## Partners



USDA technical agencies including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Land Grant Universities Pennsylvania State and Purdue, Peace Corps, UNODC, Agrosavia, Fedecacao (Fondo del Cacao-MADR), CIAT, Colombian Governorships and Red Cacaotera

For more information contact: Andrés H. Romero [andres.romero@fas.usda.gov](mailto:andres.romero@fas.usda.gov)