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Cacao for Peace

VIDEO: As Colombia emerges from 50 years of violence, Penn State experts are helping poor farmers switch from growing coca, the stuff of cocaine, to growing cacao, the principal ingredient in chocolate.

Cacao for Peace is an outgrowth of the historic peace accord signed in November 2016 between the Colombian government and the leftist rebels known as the FARC, after 53 years of civil war.

[Mark Guiltinan](#) and [Siela Maximova](#) [work together all over the world](#). As co-directors of Penn State's endowed cocoa research program—and husband and wife—the two have chased the chocolate trail from Ghana and Peru to Trinidad and Indonesia. Still, the email last January from Colombia came as a surprise.

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Cacao for Peace



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Cacao for Peace (CfP)

On January 15, 2016, USDA and USAID entered into an interagency agreement titled Cacao for Peace. The Cacao for Peace Initiative will provide the necessary tools and resources to empower Colombian agricultural institutions to become a leading global supplier of fine cacao while taking advantage of the rapidly increasing global demand for chocolate. This initiative will create economic opportunities for both American chocolate manufacturers and thousands of Colombian farmers and their families.

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Cacao for Peace is an outgrowth of the historic peace accord signed in November 2016 between the Colombian government and the leftist rebels known as the FARC, after 53 years of civil war.

April 25, 2017

The Bogotá Post: Cacao for coca

October 14, 2016

Cacao for Peace: How the Fruit of a Tree Could Help Sustain Peace and Revive Rural Communities in Colombia

October 4, 2016

Cacao for Peace

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CfP Overview

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Colombia has a large agricultural sector that on average generates approximately 13 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Approximately 80 percent of Colombian producers cultivate less than two hectares of land and are challenged by high production costs, inadequate market infrastructure, insufficient agricultural extension services, and slow technology transfer. In addition, rural violence and lawlessness have negatively impacted agricultural investments and growth. Working with multiple partners from the US and Colombia, the CFP project will support Colombia's peace process by establishing a road map for post-conflict agricultural development, focusing on cacao and facilitating initiatives to improve economic opportunity, stability, and peace in targeted rural areas (i.e. peace geography).

The Cacao for Peace Initiative will provide the necessary tools and resources to empower Colombian agricultural institutions to become a leading global supplier of fine cacao while taking advantage of the rapidly increasing global demand for chocolate. This initiative will create economic opportunities for both American chocolate manufacturers and thousands of Colombian farmers and their families.

Why Colombia?

Colombia contains ideal conditions for cacao production; however, the country is far from reaching its full potential. Today Colombia supplies only 1% of the total global cacao market and 2% of the global market for fine flavor cacao. Demand for cacao is expected to increase 30% by the year 2030 and manufacturers are looking for new, reliable suppliers outside of West Africa. With potential to expand both the yield and area of cocoa planted, Colombia is ideally situated to meet the rising demand for cocoa, which is soon to outstrip supply. Additionally, the fino de aroma cacao varieties grown in Colombia are renowned for their superior quality and exceptional flavor. Smallholder farmers growing cacao in diverse agroforestry systems stand to benefit from the environmental, social, and economic sustainability promised by this crop. Improved capacity for cacao production facilitated by the



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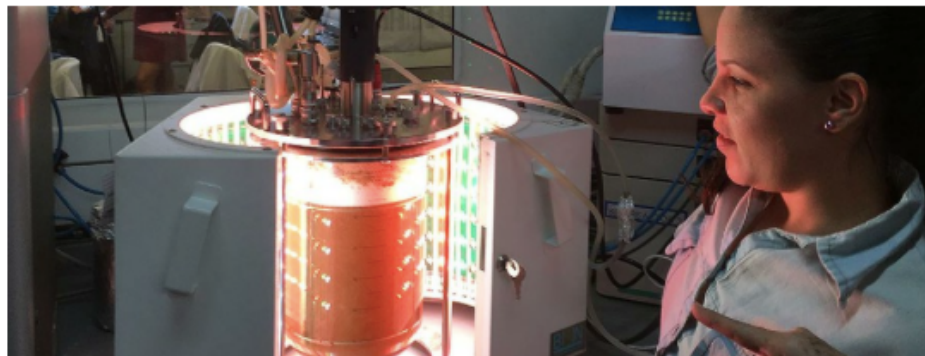
CfP Partners and links to their home pages

- 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](#)
- [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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Pennsylvania State University will foster collaboration through networking, priority development, and cooperative research within the cacao scientific community in Colombia and the United States. As part of this effort, a cooperative agreement between the agricultural ministry through CORPOICA and USDA's Agricultural Research Service will focus on genetic diversity collection, breeding activities, disease resistance, and transfer of best practices. We have collaborated with our partners to define the main research priorities needed for the future of the Colombian cacao sector, and will also organize a major research symposium to be held in Colombia in Spring of 2017 to discuss this with a wider group. Finally we are developing an interdisciplinary seed grant program to foster cacao science project that bring together diverse groups of scientists from different institutions towards a common goal.

[Cacao for Peace Research Priority Areas](#)

Discussions are underway with major stakeholders at CORPOICA, CIAT, FAS, with several representatives of the Colombian chocolate industry and others to discuss the main problems limiting the growth, productivity and profitability of the Colombian cacao sector. A DRAFT list has been developed as a working document to guide further discussion.



[Research Projects](#)



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[Fullbright Scholars Program](#)

One important component of the Cacao for Peace project is training of graduate students in advanced cacao research. With support of the Fulbright program, CfP will support at least four graduate students.



[Scientific Exchange Visits](#)

To support the education and research of our partners, we provide opportunities for scientific exchange visits.



[Cochran Program for Colombia and Ecuador](#)

Best Practices for Harvest and Post-Harvest of Cacao Program Latin America and the Caribbean

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We are working with CfP partners interested in farmer assistance to foster communication and collaborations.



[Peace Corps Bootcamp](#)



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CfP Success Stories



Summaries of key completed activities led by Cacao for Peace

[Cochran Program Technical Training Workshop Best Practices for Harvest and Post-Harvest of Cacao](#)

PDF, 3.5 MB

With the support of USAID, and with the management of USDA-FAS, The Cochran Cacao Workshop was developed by Penn State University and held Jan. 16th-28th with the participation of 6 fellows selected from industry and government sectors of Colombia and Ecuador.

[Read More...](#)

[Construcción de Capacidades de Liderazgo en Colombia: El Programa Cochran y el Taller de Capacitación Técnica en Buenas Prácticas para la Cosecha y la Post-cosecha del Cacao](#)

PDF, 3.6 MB

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[CfP Bootcamp Success Story](#)

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Building Extension Education Capacity in Colombia: Cacao for Peace Bootcamp

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[Construyendo Capacidad Educativa de Extensión en Colombia: El Entrenamiento de Cacao para la Paz \(Cacao for Peace Bootcamp\)](#)

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[CfP Extension Workshop Success Story](#)

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Building Extension Education Capacity in Colombia: Cacao for Peace Extension Network

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This password protected site provides access to project information, datasets, email listserve, and links to project related information and resources.

Project Partner Contact Information (*Under construction*)

Project Portals

- [Research Symposium \(*Under construction*\)](#)
- [Peace Corp Bootcamp \(*Under construction*\)](#)
- [Genetic Mapping \(*Under construction*\)](#)
- [Value Chain Study \(*Under construction*\)](#)
- [CfP Seed Grant Program \(*Under construction*\)](#)
- [Demo Farms \(*Under construction*\)](#)

Samepage [Project Management Portal \(click here\)](#) Managed by USDA FAS:
contract Andres Romero for access permission

Cacao for Peace Data Storehouse (*Under construction*)


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Cacao for Peace shared Fedecacao's post.

Published by Mark Gultinan [?] · May 12 at 1:41pm ·




Fedecacao

🤗 feeling excited at Arauca, Colombia.


May 12 at 9:28am ·

Chocolateros franceses se interesan por el cacao colombiano
Nota completa aquí→ <http://www.portafolio.co/.../chocolateros-franceses-se-intere...>



Chocolateros franceses se interesan por el cacao colombiano
Seis pasteleros de ese país visitarán Arauca, en donde se cultiva una de las mejores variedades del mundo. | Economía | Portafolio.co
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Symposium Website

<http://plantscience.psu.edu/research/labs/guiltinan/cacao-for-peace/research/research-symposium>