

Wednesday , 14 October 8:30– 9:30

Philippines Room

### Trade for Food Security: Empowering smallholders for sustainable value chains #38

#### ORGANIZERS

Yam Farmer Association, Ghana

ADM Cocoa Division, LEI

Wageningen University

International Trade Centre (ITC)

**Abstract:** All too often, value chain development interventions and sustainability programmes focus on satisfying the buyer requirements but fail to fully integrate the producer requirements resulting in weak food security and economic empowerment for smallholders. In commodity trading, the buyer perspective has often resulted in single-product, single-market programmes, leading to cash crop dependence, income volatility and food insecurity. On the other hand, programmes focused solely on the producer perspective have often resulted in production without sustainable value chain linkages, increased risk exposure for farmers and incapacity to meet market requirements. This event will bring together Farmer Associations and Practitioners from Multinational Companies, International Organizations and Academia to explore how best to combine buyer and producer perspectives to ensure sustainable trade and improved food and nutrition security. One case study portraying a multi-stakeholder governance framework in Ghana for the cocoa and yam sector will be discussed to demonstrate how combined production of cash and food crops can support food security, risk reduction and diversification of markets and income streams, whilst also exploring the potential pitfalls. This panel discussion will contribute to national and global dimensions of CFS42 by addressing how multi-stakeholder interventions from buyer and producer perspectives can be combined to empower the most vulnerable actors in their linkages with local, regional and global agricultural-value chains while fostering inclusiveness and food security.

**KEYWORDS:** Food security and nutrition , Trade & food security , Food crop and cash crop , Smallholder integration , Global value chain sustainability

**Languages:** EN

**Summary:** Ms. Martina Bozzola, EUI, opened the Panel Session by briefly introducing the panellists, their respective backgrounds and experiences in respect to the panel topic, and their roles for the ensuing debate.

Mr. Hernan Manson, ITC, began Session 1 by presenting the work which ITC has been undertaking in Ghana as a case study to explore common challenges faced by development agencies and private sector companies in the attainment of sustainable trade. Examples of challenges faced in Ghana include cash crop dependence, income volatility and low production volumes. These challenges often result from a sole focus on the buyer perspective by private sector actors leading to single-product, single-market programmes, whilst on the other hand; development programmes focused solely on the producer perspective have often resulted in production without sustainable value chain linkages, increased risk exposure for farmers and incapacity to meet market requirements.

The case study outlined the methodology and process undertaken by ITC and its partners, facilitating multi-stakeholder governance frameworks to bring together a network of partners from along the agricultural value chain into a “Value Chain Alliance”. The purpose of the Alliance is to jointly implement local level market-led solutions, identified in a participatory manner by the stakeholders themselves, to overcome the challenges. The Alliance interventions in four regions across Ghana focus specifically on 3 key pillars: 1. Combining food crops/cash crops production so that farmers are able to diversify and reduce risk and dependency upon a single crop; 2. Facilitating the identification of new product/market combinations (learning and innovation), and; 3. Fostering linkages to domestic, regional and international markets. This strategy ensures a win-win alliance that from the producer perspective, results in income diversification for producers while enhancing food security and improving the socio-economic resilience for communities. Conversely, from the buyer

perspective, the alliance results in increased volumes, better quality, and a more sustainable supply chain.

In Session 2 & 3, a rich discussion evolved as panel members gave their views and inputs to the Alliances approach. Mr. Fabian Waldmeier, Max Havelaar / Fairtrade, reinforced the need for combined production and commercialisation of cash and food crops in order to secure better quality and higher production volumes with impact beyond certification. Mr. Michiel Hendriksz, Farmstrong Commodities, asserted that for improved producer and value chain sustainability, multi-channel strategies combining production of cash and food crops are essential for supporting poverty reduction and inclusive and sustainable growth. Prof. Ruerd Ruben, LEI Wageningen UR, highlighted the importance of finding a balance between the production of food crops and cash crops in order to suit the specific context whilst emphasising the need for impact assessments to value chain interventions for improved nutrition and food security. Finally, Mr. Michael Clark, FAO, provided his insights on multi-stakeholder governance frameworks and the necessity for partnerships at Global, National and Local levels for improved Trade, Food Security, Nutrition and Food Systems Development, whilst validating the need for multi-channel interventions from both the buyer and producer perspective through “Alliances for Action” (AforA).