



ECUADOR

COCOA



Background

Ecuador has approximately 527 000 hectares of cocoa cultivation, according to the National Cocoa Exporters Association (Asociación Nacional de Exportadores de Cacao del Ecuador, ANECACAO).

In 2021, 360 000 tons of cocoa were exported, generating nearly 940 million dollars.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock reports that there are 150 000 cocoa producers, approximately 80 percent of whom are small-scale farmers, and only about 15 percent belong to associations involved in collection and commercialization.



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Expected actions

Promote trade and the well-being of the cocoa industry and cocoa products in international markets.

Strengthen mutual cooperation and joint actions to secure better prices for producers and formalize the collection, buying, selling, and industrialization processes.

Promote sustainable and quality management to ensure cocoa trade meets higher standards and best practices.

Difficulty in meeting necessary phytosanitary requirements and homologations, restricting trade and reducing export opportunities.

Low adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, impacting product quality, food sovereignty, and environmental sustainability.



Organization and coordination

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock plays a key role in overseeing, coordinating, planning, controlling, and evaluating public policy to benefit the agricultural sector.

The initiative is supported by **FAO and ANECACAO**.



Challenges

Insufficient national monitoring, hindering the prevention, control, and management of **pests and diseases**.

Lack of timely and accurate diagnostics regarding the physico-chemical and microbiological quality of agricultural inputs, compromising cocoa-derived products.

