



## Mesoamerican origin cocoa

A territorial valorization strategy aiming at developing technical studies and capacities for implementing Geographical Indications (GI) towards the protection of differentiated fine cocoa of Mesoamerican provenance.



### Geographical Indications for the Mesoamerican Cocoa

#### The implemented initiative

This Project proposes to determine key territorial factors to differentiating quality of origin cocoa towards the development of Geographical Indications. The project will facilitate the collective management of innovation, increasing added value, the protection of biocultural heritage and the promotion of territories traditionally bound to cocoa production. Integral strategies will be developed for the identification of

extrinsic and intrinsic quality of cocoa beans. The studies will include historic-cultural aspects, typologies of production systems, agronomical and postharvest practices, as well as quality profile analysis. Furthermore, the project will establish actions towards the generation of key organizational capacities for the implementation and sustainability of GIs.

### Differentiation of Mesoamerican origin cocoa beans.

#### The technological solution

It is proposed the dynamization of territories and the promotion of cocoa beans originated in regions linked to quality and prestige, with historical recognition, through the articulation of multidisciplinary studies directed at protecting the biocultural heritage and the promotion of innovation. The project corresponds with a regional effort, at interorganizational and interinstitutional levels, in 16 territories from Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. It is projected an impact in at least 56 organizations, including about 8000 farmers. The development of techniques and

determination of tangible aspects will be followed by actions towards the development of organizational capacities, which are imperative for the implementation and sustainability of GIs. Hence, efforts will aim at developing capacities for establishing the Control Boards (or Regulatory Council) of the intended protecting regions and to promote a Mesoamerican Control-Board network for the collaborative promotion of GIs, the co-creation, innovation management, and experience exchange.

#### Funding by participating organization



**16**

Geographical regions delimited by their prestige and specialization on cocoa production.



**1**

Historical study on Mesoamerican cocoa.



**16**

Strategic territorial networks.



**1**

Regional network for the cooperation and the promotion of GIS for mesoamerican cocoa beans.

## Results

A territorial valorization strategy is being implemented aiming at developing studies as well as to promote the development of capacities for implementing Geographical Indications towards the protection of differentiated fine cocoa beans of Mesoamerican provenance. The studies will include analysis for determining the genomic diversity of cocoa plantations in the proposed territories. Next-generation sequencing will be applied for the identification of microbiological differentiating factors with relevance to quality.

Chemometric analysis will be developed by implementing a multivariate approach for the generation of Geographical discriminating models using algorithms based on Machine Learning principles. The results will facilitate the technical analysis as the models will enable methods for validation, traceability, and authentication. Actions are established towards the development of organizational capacities, which are imperative for the implementation and sustainability of GIs.

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