

Fermentation and drying: essential elements in total cocoa quality

COSTA RICA / PANAMA



i Webstory



The technological solution

In cocoa producing regions, productivity and quality must go hand in hand, due not only to market demands and but also to producers' expectations of improving their living conditions. The design of small-scale solar dryers that allow fermenting and drying cocoa in remote communities, fulfills a felt need.



Description

The Caribbean region in Costa Rica and Panama is characterized by its vulnerability to extreme weather events, high levels of poverty and limited opportunities. It is in this context where the project, aimed at strengthening quality and productivity of cocoa, in a framework of analysis and participatory work with all relevant actors, takes place.



Results

- Solar drying pilot systems were built with photovoltaic panels to minimize reported losses of cacao of up to 50%. Dryers can process up to 200 kg / week
- A genomic analysis of last generation allowed to identify more efficient organisms for fermentation
- Workshops were organized for participatory risk analysis in the face of possible extreme weather events
- The project generated tasting and good practice guides and provided training to recognize sensory profiles and differentiate cocoa qualities

2

prototypes of solar dryers built

60

families directly benefited

3000

families with access to generated information

ABOUT FONTAGRO

FONTAGRO is a unique cooperation mechanism for agricultural innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean (ALC) and Spain, that works through regional platforms. It is composed of 15 countries that have contributed capital exceeding 100 million dollars and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which is its legal representative.

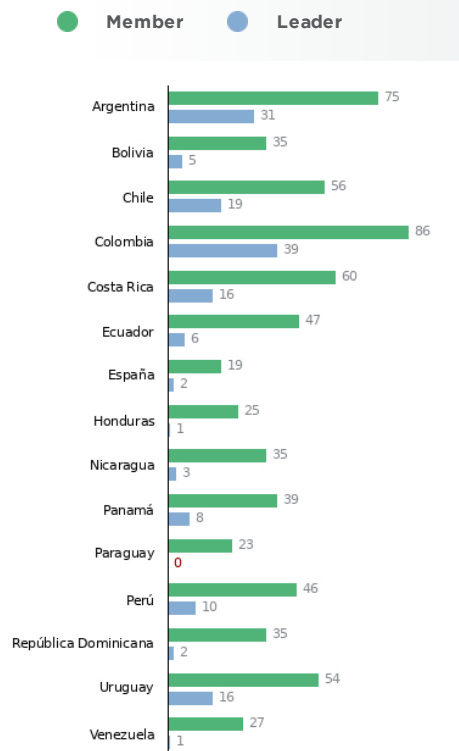


ORIGIN OF RESOURCES



- **Counterpart contribution**
93.177.555
- **FONTAGRO**
28.989.468
- **IDB**
9.922.700
- **Other agencies**
9.809.078

PARTICIPATION AND ROLE IN CONSORTIUMS SINCE 1998



FONTAGRO IN NUMBERS

193 Number of projects approved

141.9 Approved total amount US\$
MILLONES

9.8 Contribution from other agencies
MILLONES

32 Benefited countries

63 Generated technologies

15 New technologies for ALC

8 Technology of global relevance

MEMBER COUNTRIES

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| Argentina | Bolivia | Chile | Colombia |
| Costa Rica | Dominican Republic | Ecuador | Honduras |
| Nicaragua | Panama | Paraguay | Peru |
| Spain | Uruguay | Venezuela | |