PARTNER FACT SHEET



Projected Impact



Provide capacity building and technical support to 2,100 cocoa farmers in the Bong and Nimba counties of Liberia.



Improve the production capacity of certified organic cocoa beans and facilitate greater access to financing for farmers.



Generate \$2.25 million in export revenue.



ACPEC's team of highly motivated and well-trained individuals work with cocoa farmers in Nimba and Bong Counties to improve the trade of organic cocoa in Liberia. Photo credit: ACPEC photo

Atlantic Cocoa Processing and Export Company

Established in 2018, <u>Atlantic Cocoa Processing & Export Company</u> (ACPEC) is a Liberian company that produces and exports organic certified cocoa beans. Its management team consists of experienced cocoa experts with many years of experience in the cocoa trade. ACPEC's competitive advantage is its holistic approach to ensuring quality, high yields of sustainable and certifiable cocoa for local and international markets while improving prices to help reduce poverty at the end of the value chain.

Co-Investment Partnership

The USAID-funded West Africa Trade & Investment Hub (Trade Hub) awarded a \$250,451 co-investment grant to ACEPEC to help empower 2,100 Liberian cocoa farmers (17 percent women and 7 percent youth) in ACPEC's network to produce organically certified and export-ready cocoa that can attract premium prices and increase profitability to both ACEPEC and the farmers. ACPEC's 20-month project is designed to create jobs and economically empower women and youth in the Liberian counties of Bong and Nimba. It is expected that the average size of farms will increase from 2.83 hectares to about 10 hectares as a result of the rehabilitation of existing and unproductive farms, thereby increasing yields per hectare from 200kg to a 225kg in Nimba (on average) and 175kg to 200kg in Bong, as well as quality to attract better prices from \$1.50 per kg of conventional cocoa to \$1.80 per kg of organic cocoa.

Partnership Opportunities

With its newly obtained organic certification, ACPEC is well positioned to compete internationally for cocoa production and take advantage of the growing consumer demand for natural, organic food products. To date, ACPEC has established contractual relationships with international buyers, and exported approximately 350 metric tons of unprocessed cocoa beans. With its experienced, well-trained team, ACPEC expects to generate \$2.25 million in export revenues by June 2023. In addition, the Trade Hub's grant will help the company leverage \$1.43 million in private investments to continuously incentivize cocoa farmers to maintain their certification status through permanent access to markets, capacity building, and technical support.





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