

There will be simultaneous Spanish/English translation available

Opening Presentation

8:30 am

Topic: Patterns and trends in cocoa expansion, production, export, prices, and trade for the next decade



Presenter:

Mr. Albert Scalla,
Senior Vice President of
Trading at StoneX Group Inc.

9:00–9:10 am Q&A

Thematic Line #1:

Sociocultural Importance of Cocoa for Sustainable Development

9:10–9:30 am

Keynote:
**Sociocultural value of
cocoa in Mesoamerica**

Speaker:

Mr. Javier Mendez Blanco
Mesoamerican Alliance of
Peoples and Forests



9:30–9:45 am

Excursion and cocoa movement
routes with LAC communities

▶ **Dr. Lambert A. Motilal**
Cocoa Research Center



9:45–10:00 am

Ecuador's value chain impact on
global cocoa positioning

▶ **M.Sc Julian Simons**
Cacao of Excellence (CoEX)



10:00–10:15 am

Challenges and successes
in cocoa export in Bolivia

▶ **Eng. Heber Jora Perca**
Director PIAF El Ceibo



10:15–10:30 am Q&A ▶ Moderator: Dr. Luis Orozco Aguilar

10:30–11:00 am Choco/Coffee Break

11:00–11:15 am

Production and export trends in LAC

▶ **MBA. Cristian Noboa**
ANECACAO



11:15–11:30 am

Contributions and Challenges of RA
Certification in the Cacao Supply Chain in LAC

▶ **Rainforest Alliance**



11:30–11:45 am

Private sector contributions in Nicaragua

▶ **Eng. Luis Alexander
González Moncada**
Ritter Sport



11:45–12:00 m Q&A ▶ Moderator: Dr. Luis Orozco Aguilar

12:00 1:30 pm Lunch

Thematic Line #2:

Diversity, Genetic Improvement, and Agronomy

1:30–1:50 pm

Keynote:
**Cocoa genetic diversity and
new improvement technologies
in LAC**

Presenter:

Dr. Siela Maximova
Penn State University



1:50–2:00 pm Q&A ▶ Moderator: Dr. Mariela E. Leandro Muñoz

2:00–2:15 pm

Under one roof: genetic diversity and pathogen
collection in MARS

▶ **Dr. Michael Matson**
MARS



2:15–2:30 pm

Genetic exchange to tackle emerging threats

▶ **Dr. Uilson Lopes**
CEPLAC



2:30–2:45 pm

New generation of clones from CATIE's
breeding program

▶ **Dr. Benedicte Rhone**
CIRAD-CATIE



2:45–3:00 pm

Genetic diversity and cadmium uptake

▶ **Dr. Xavier Argout**
CIRAD-Francia



3:00–3:20 pm Q&A ▶ Moderator: Dr. Mariela E. Leandro Muñoz

3:20–4:00 pm Choco/Coffee Break

4:00–4:15 pm

Research and sustainability
in the chocolate industry

▶ **Eng. Juan Pablo Gil**
Head of Scientific Research,
Granja Luker



4:15–4:30 pm

When is mechanization justified
in profitable cocoa plantations?

▶ **Dr. Christina Rohsius**
Rausch Cacao



4:30–4:45 pm

Agronomic and financial performance
of large-scale cocoa

▶ **Eng. Felipe Bermudez**
MARS-La Chola*



4:45–5:00 pm Q&A ▶ Moderator: Dr. Mariela E. Leandro Muñoz

*Speaker to be confirmed

Thematic Line #3:

Agroforestry and Environmental Services

8:00–8:20 am

Keynote: Agroforestry Policies in the Global Cocoa Industry



Presenter:

Dr. Eduardo Somarriba
CATIE

8:20–8:30 am

Q&A ► Moderator: Dr. Arlene López Sampson

8:30–8:45 am

CacaoSoils: The Nutrition Trial Network in Africa and Ecuador



Dr. Eduardo Chávez Navarrete
ESPOL



8:45–9:00 am

Lessons from the Clima-LoCa Project: Impacts of Cadmium Regulation on Cocoa and Mitigation Strategies



Dr. Mirjam Pulleman
BI-CIAT



9:00–9:15 am

Provision and Regulation Ecosystem Services in Modern Cocoa Agroforestry Systems – KolFACI Project



Dr. Rolando H. Cerda
CATIE



9:15–9:30 am

Bird Friendly Mapping and Certification in Cocoa Landscapes



Dr. Melissa Mazurkewicz
Smithsonian Institute



9:30–9:45 am

Q&A ► Moderator: Dr. Arlene López Sampson

9:45–10:45 am

Choco/Coffee Break and Poster Presentation

10:45–11:00 am

Density and Architecture Management in Conventional and Organic Cocoa Agroforestry Systems



Dr. Stéphane Saj
FiBL/ECOTOP



11:00–11:15 am

Physiological Performance of Cocoa under Agroforestry and Full Sun



Dr. Ramón E. Jaimez Arellano
Universidad Técnica de Manabí



11:15–11:30 am

Growth, Phenology, and Physiology of Shade Trees in Cocoa Plantations



Dr. Fabricio E. Leite Carvalho
Agrosavia



11:30–11:45 am

Level of Preparedness and Impacts of the EUDR Regulation on Small and Medium Producers and the Cocoa Industry in LAC



Dr. Carla D. Martin
Fine Cacao and Chocolate Institute / FCCI



11:45–12:00 m

Q&A ► Moderator: Dr. Arlene López Sampson

12:00–1:30 pm

Lunch

Thematic Line #4:

Bioeconomy, Living Incomes, and Quality

1:30–1:50 pm

Keynote: Latin America Cocoa Barometer 2025

Presenter:

Mr. Antonie Fountain
The Voice Network



1:50–2:00 pm

Q&A ► Moderator: Dr. José López Ganem (FCCI)

2:00–2:15 pm

Mapping Living Incomes in Cocoa Producers in Latin America



M.Sc Andres Charry
Bioversity/CIAT



2:15–2:30 pm

Progress of the Circular Bioeconomy Project in the Cocoa Chain of Central America



Dr. Ricardo Salazar
TEC



2:30–2:45 pm

Cocoa Prices' Effect on Quality and Commercial Relationships with Suppliers



Eng. Francisco López Gascón
Roig Cacao*



2:45–3:00 pm

Carbon Credit Program “Asombrate” with Coffee and Cocoa Producers in Latin America



Solidaridad Network



3:00–3:15 pm

Q&A ► Moderator: M.Sc Adriana Arciniegas Leal

3:15–3:45 pm

Choco/Coffee Break

3:45–4:00 pm

Cocoa Fermentation Methods: Past, Present, and Future



Dr. Elsa Hegmann
Rausch Cacao



4:00–4:15 pm

Microbial Ecosystem Modulation in Cocoa Fermentation via Nutritional Supplementation: A Metabarcoding Perspective



Dr. Frank Solado Campos
UNA



M.Sc Adriana Arciniegas Leal
CATIE



Dr. Carlos Hernández Aguirre
UNA



4:15–4:30 pm

Quality Differentiation of Mesoamerican Cocoa Using Machine Learning



Dr. Carlos Hernández Aguirre
UNA



4:30–4:45 pm

Q&A ► Moderator: M.Sc Adriana Arciniegas Leal

4:45–5:00 pm

Final Remarks and Congress Closing



Dr. Luis Orozco Aguilar
CATIE



Poster Session

Presentation of theses, experiments, innovations, and/or research projects for each thematic line, in front of the Wallace Building.

*Speaker to be confirmed



International Cocoa Congress

Innovation, Diversity and Agroforestry
for a Sustainable and Resilient Production

Agenda

DAY 3
October 9,
2025

Optional Field Trip

Participants will be divided into three groups to visit one of the selected sites, each guided by a designated logistics coordinator.



1

International Cocoa Collection at CATIE

Genetic diversity, clonal propagation, phytopathology, new clones, agroforestry trials, pollination, and compatibility.

Up to 2 hours of tour across 5 stations.

<https://www.catie.ac.cr/unidad-agroforesteria-cafe-cacao-fe/>



2

Dos Lagunas Agroforestry Farm

Commercial-scale cultivation, agrotourism, payment for environmental services, sustainable livestock, bioassays, nursery-grafting, commercialization, and processing. **Visit duration: 2–3 hours.**

www.doslagunas.cr



3

Rausch Cacao Farm

Agroforestry cocoa, payment for environmental services, post-harvest management and quality, processing infrastructure, use of improved clones, production records, and export to the European market.

Visit duration: 2–3 hours.

<https://rausch.de/pages/costa-rica>