



INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU CACA
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО КАКАО
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DEL CACA

ED(MEM)967

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To: All Members and Observers

From: The Executive Director

Subject: ALERT REGARDING THE ILLEGAL MOVEMENT OF COCOA PLANTING MATERIAL AND COCOA GERMPLASM

The Executive Director presents his compliments and has the honour to inform Members and Observers that the attention of the ICCO Secretariat has been drawn to attempts by individuals to move cocoa planting material and cocoa germplasm from one cocoa growing region/country to another without undergoing the necessary procedures established for such a delicate exercise.

While recognizing the need to address the issue of sustainable cocoa supply in a reasonable timeframe, the Executive Director would like to stress that attempts to do so in an unethical and unprofessional way pose a serious danger to the global cocoa economy and may have long-term catastrophic consequences as exogenous cocoa pests and pathogens could be deliberately or inadvertently spread from one region to another. Currently, cocoa pests and diseases already account for up to 40% of global losses in cocoa production annually and this figure should not climb higher.

The threat of spread of endogenous and exogenous cocoa pests and diseases is real and remains a major challenge to sustainable cocoa production. While recognizing the importance of germplasm exchange and movement for research purposes and for cocoa productivity improvement, it is critical to note that all necessary and recommended precautions must be observed to significantly reduce the risks of transferring pests and diseases from one cocoa growing region to another.



In this respect, the Executive Director would like to remind all Members and Observers of this clear threat, and to warn of its consequences to the world cocoa economy. He further invites Members and Observers to remain particularly vigilant and to kindly bring this information to the knowledge of all relevant individuals, officials and agencies, both public and private, in their countries, as well as to reinforce their plant quarantine systems and other phytosanitary measures, thereby ensuring that the cocoa germplasm entering their territories remains free of dangerous pests and diseases.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

4 April 2014