

# Why Road Maps

by

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# Cost-Effective Research

Today's annual cocoa research spend has been estimated at \$37m. How can we use that money most effectively in improving the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers who depend on the crop?

Developing new technologies that those farmers will adopt is undoubtedly more challenging in cocoa than it is in many other major tree crops.

# Agricultural reasons why Cocoa is Difficult

- Smallholder, sometimes absentee owner, caretaker farmer
- Traditionally minimal input
- Mixed cultivation, even if not mixed cropping
- Long life span of trees
- Complex interactions between the crop, climate, soil, pests and diseases and the environment, that change over the life of the farm

# Examples of Successful Technology

- Agrochemicals including insecticides to control mirids, fungicides to control black pod disease and aboricides
- Improved planting material
- Improved nozzles.

They are characterised by a clear and easily operated system for delivering the technology on the farm. Among the breeding programmes, in the most successful system of all in terms of farmer impact, the programme is determined by the delivery system.

# What Road Maps Do

- State the components of the problem and their priority
- Identify short, medium and long term opportunities for the development of new practices that have a clear delivery path
- Analyse and prioritise the opportunities, depending on the likelihood of success
- Indicate the human resources required
- Indicate time frames.

# Joined-up Thinking

The complexity of many cocoa problems may favour multi-disciplinary approaches, which can be identified in the road map, as well as sequences of research.

Sometimes one problem has to be addressed alongside another, for example IPM of cocoa pod borer in Sumatra depends on an IPM approach to mirid control.

# Road maps are.....

- live documents that should be updated continuously as new information and opinions come to hand.
- a management tool in research utilisation, helping to identify priority problems and utilise research resources efficiently so that appropriate technologies are delivered to and adopted by farmers as quickly as possible.