

# Cocoa



Ripe cocoa pod

## A New Promising Sector

**B**etween January and March 2018, PIND commissioned a value chain study to elucidate the competitiveness of the Region's cocoa economy while identifying gaps and areas in need of intervention for sustainability and effective linkage with the global cocoa value chain. The study covered the key cocoa producing states in the Niger Delta which are Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, and Edo States, while also meeting with other actors in Lagos, Ogun and Oyo States.

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*The findings from the study revealed some systemic constraints in the cocoa value chain. These include low productivity of farms arising from poor agricultural practices; predominance of older and ageing trees with low yields; absence of high-yielding seed varieties; inferior quality beans arising from poor post-harvest practices – leading to discount prices of Nigerian cocoa in the global market; and a lack of coordination among actors and functions within the value chain.*

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To address these challenges, PIND designed a series of interventions and explored a variety of partnership opportunities with stakeholders within the cocoa value chain such as exporters, processors, agro-input suppliers, agro equipment suppliers, and state governments to increase the availability and access to improved cocoa seed varieties (TC 1-8 types) and demonstrate good cocoa agricultural practices to cocoa farmers. The interventions are expected to lead to over 2 million improved seeds becoming available to farmers in the 2019/2020 cropping season and about **12,000** cocoa farmers increasing productivity through adoption of good agricultural practices.



## FACT BOX

2018: Cocoa



**PIND recently completed a value chain study to elucidate the competitiveness of the Region's Cocoa economy, gaps that exist and areas in need of intervention. To address the systemic constraints identified in the sector, PIND has designed a series of interventions made up of the following:**

- Increased productivity of cocoa farms through the adoption of good agricultural practices.
- Establishment / rehabilitation of cocoa plantations with improved cocoa varieties.
- Increased profitability of the cocoa business through the production of premium quality cocoa beans.