



**Sweeter prospects for smallholders?
Pathways towards sustainable
cocoa production**

Award ceremony and public discussion organized by the
Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR)
hosted by CDE – University of Bern

University of Bern (Main Building, Kuppelraum)

10 December 2018, 16:15 – 18:30

Award

The Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR) offers an annual Award for graduates and scientists working in agricultural research for development. This year's PhD/Post-Doc Award goes to Wilma Blaser of ETH Zürich for her work, "Optimizing agroforests for sustainable agricultural development in West Africa". Wilma analyzed the costs and benefits of different forest cover from various tree species on smallholder cocoa production in Ghana.

The Award for the Best Master's Thesis goes to Lydia Afriyie-Kraft for her research on "Index-based insurance: An adaptation to climate change induced risks in cocoa production in Ghana", submitted at BFH-HAFL. Lydia examined cocoa farmers' willingness to pay for index-based weather insurance and the different factors influencing the demand and provision of such a service.

Event

The two prize-winning researchers will present their work at the Award Ceremony. The event will also put the research into a broader context.

Both projects focus on cocoa production in West Africa, and how to improve productivity, climate change adaptation and farmers' livelihoods. This topic is not only important for the region's huge number of smallholders growing cocoa. It also forms a crucial aspect of the Swiss chocolate industry's efforts to ensure sustainable supply. Professor Ernst A. Bruggler will approach the subject from a multi-stakeholder perspective. What, he will ask, are the challenges and the way forward in sustainable cocoa production? This question will also be the focus of our concluding panel discussion with the speakers and an NGO representative.

Programme

- 16:15 Welcome
(Dr. Yuan Zhou, SFIAR President)
- 16:20 Keynote: Sustainable cocoa value chain: a multi-stakeholder perspective
(Professor Ernst A. Brugger, President of the Board, Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa/Chairman of the Board of Directors, BHP – Brugger und Partner AG/Cofounder and Vice Chairman of Blue Orchard SA)
- 16:50 SFIAR Award Laudatio
(Dr. Yuan Zhou)
- 17:00 Optimizing agroforests for sustainable agricultural development in West Africa
(Dr. Wilma Blaser, ETH Zürich)
- 17:20 Break
- 17:30 Index-based insurance: An adaptation to climate change induced risks in cocoa production in Ghana
(Lydia Afriyie-Kraft, former student at BFH-HAFL)
- 17:50 Panel Discussion: Pathways towards sustainable cocoa production
(Ernst A. Brugger, Wilma Blaser, Lydia Afriyie-Kraft, and Andrea Bischof, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation; Moderation: Markus Giger, CDE – University of Bern)
- 18:30 Presentation of the Awards
- 18:35 Refreshments

Information

Registration

Please register by 4 December 2018
at www.sfiar.ch/award.htm

Fees and refreshments

The event is free of charge.
Refreshments will be served after the presentation
of awards.

Language

The event will be held in English,
no translation will be provided.

Directions

University of Bern
Hochschulstrasse 4
3012 Bern
Main Building, 5th floor, Kuppelraum

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Cover photo

Harvested cocoa pod are broken to extract
the cocoa beans (photo by Wilma Blaser).

