



For Immediate Release
5th August 2025, Accra

THE GHANA CIVIL-SOCIETY COCOA PLATFORM (GCCP) REACTS TO NEW COCOA PRODUCER PRICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 2025/2026 SEASON

The Ghana Civil-Society Cocoa Platform (GCCP) acknowledges the government's announcement of the revised cocoa producer price for the upcoming season with a blend of concern and disappointment.

The newly announced farmgate price of **USD \$5,040 per metric tonne** which is purported to represent 62% increase from last season's USD \$3,100 is misleading. While this shift appears significant in dollar terms, the corresponding increase in local currency tells a more accurate story—rising only **4.1%**, from **GH¢3,100 to GH¢3,228.75 per 64-kg bag**. Within the context of Ghana's ongoing economic challenges, this increment remains insufficient to transform the livelihoods of cocoa farmers meaningfully.

Concerns Over Pricing Transparency and Farmer Promises

GCCP's reservations stem from prior assurances made by the President and Minister of Agriculture, pledging that cocoa farmers would receive **70% of the global market price**. The recent statement from the Minister of Finance instead references the **FoB (Free on Board) price**, which is notably lower—creating discrepancies between past commitments and current realities, and raising concerns about transparency and fairness in pricing mechanisms.

Enduring Challenges Facing Cocoa Farmers

Despite the revised price, cocoa farmers continue to grapple with persistent challenges:

- **Escalating production costs** due to expensive inputs, labour, and operations
- **Climate change impacts**, including erratic weather patterns and worsening crop diseases like black pod
- **Smuggling and market instability**, driven by cross-border price disparities

Acknowledgement of Government Support Initiatives

GCCP welcomes the government's reintroduction of support measures—such as input supplies and productivity enhancement initiatives. However, we caution against the politicization of these programs, citing past instances of interference by party operatives at the community and district levels.

We also commend the commitment to launching the **Ghana Cocoa Traceability System**, a crucial step toward compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation effective by the end of 2025. That said, GCCP is concerned that many farmers remain **uninformed** and **unprepared**, which could undermine their ability to comply and benefit.

Policy Recommendations for a Resilient Cocoa Sector

To foster an equitable and sustainable cocoa industry, GCCP urges the government to adopt the following strategic interventions:

1. **Implement Mid-Term Price Reviews:** Adapt prices in line with global market fluctuations to mitigate smuggling.
2. **Support Local LBCs:** Strengthen local license buying companies through targeted financing and policy frameworks.
3. **Tackle Structural Challenges:** Address input affordability, climate resilience, and extension service access.
4. **Invest in Farmer Education:** Equip farmers with skills in sustainability, agronomy, and quality assurance.
5. **Improve Rural Infrastructure:** Upgrade roads, storage facilities, and essential services in cocoa-growing communities.

Commitment to Advocacy and Collaboration

GCCP reaffirms its commitment to advocating for cocoa farmers' rights and promoting policies that support sustainable development across the sector. We stand ready to collaborate with government stakeholders to address systemic issues and secure a dignified, viable future for Ghana's cocoa farmers.

About the Ghana Civil-Society Cocoa Platform (GCCP)

The GCCP is an independent campaign and advocacy platform comprising civil society actors in the cocoa sector, including NGOs, farmer associations, and community organizations. Our mission is to advocate for and influence cocoa sector policies to improve the livelihoods of farmers across Ghana. We are committed to working with the government, private sector, and other stakeholders to ensure a sustainable and equitable cocoa industry that benefits all stakeholders.

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