

ECA-CAOBISCO Joint Cocoa Research Fund Masterclass

Topic Headline

How the industry is addressing challenges in cocoa production, disease management and contaminants.

Short write up on the session:

The cocoa sector is facing numerous challenges. Amongst them are contaminants such as Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons and Cadmium. Increasing temperatures and erratic weather threaten cacao cultivation. Diseases like Vascular Streak Dieback, Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus and Black Pod are major contributors to the yearly harvest losses of about one million tons of cocoa beans. During the master class, ECA-CAOBISCO JRF members will present how the cocoa industry is jointly addressing these challenges and discuss with the audience.

Who should attend?

- Cocoa supply chain stakeholders – producers, traders, processors, chocolate manufacturers.
- Stakeholders active in the areas of food safety & quality, procurement, logistics, processing, R&D.

Expected Takeaways

Through this masterclass, participants will receive first-hand information about:

- The ECA-CAOBISCO Joint Cocoa Research Fund, its working procedures, and opportunities to join.
- The impact of MOH contamination on the cocoa sector and how the challenge it poses can be addressed in a collaborative approach.
- Control strategies to mitigate cadmium contamination.
- The role of shade trees in micro-climate stabilisation and carbon sequestration.
- Ongoing research on cacao genetic resistance to Vascular Streak Dieback.
- The ECA-CAOBISCO JRF strategy to address Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus through the development of tolerant planting material

Speakers Bio



Dr Daniel Kadow

Research & Development Chocolates, Cocoa & Hazelnut Research, August Storck KG (JRF Chairman)

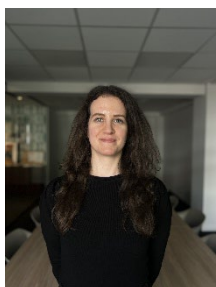
Daniel Kadow earned his PhD in Biology at the University of Hamburg, specializing in tropical crops. His research on cocoa took him to the Université de Yaoundé, the Cocoa Research Centre in Trinidad, the University of British Columbia, as well as to Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Costa Rica. Since 2013, he has been working at August STORCK KG in Chocolate Research & Development, where he is responsible for cocoa research. Daniel Kadow is also the current Chair of the Joint Cocoa Research Fund of CAOBISCO and ECA, and serves as Program Director of the Cocoa Round Table Hamburg.



Jerome Niogret

Global IPM Principal Scientist, Cocoa R&D, Mars (JRF Member company)

Dr Jerome Niogret is the Global Integrated Pest Management Principal Scientist at Mars Incorporated. He holds a Master and PhD in Entomology and Chemical Ecology from the University of Montpellier - France. He currently serves as an International Technical Cooperation Expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at James Cook University - Australia (JCU), and an Adjunct Professor at Universitas Gadjah Mada - Indonesia (UGM). He leads Mars' Integrated Pest Management R&D program across Southeast Asia, supporting the company's strategy for sustainable cocoa production.



Irene Paviotti

Sustainability & Food Safety Manager, European Cocoa Association (JRF managing Secretariat)

Irene Paviotti is Sustainability & Food Safety Manager at the European Cocoa Association, where she covers EU legislation and coordinates the activities of the ECA-CAOBISCO Joint Cocoa Research Fund. She has a background in international development and EU policy.

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