ANDEAN COUNTRIES COCOA EXPORT SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (ACCESO)
The “Andean Countries Cocoa Export Support Opportunity” Program (ACCESCO) was created as a public-private partnership consisting of USAID, CICAD, IICA and the private industry, represented by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF).

ACCESCO will bring together a series of national organizations linked to the cacao chain through the creation of an Andean Cacao Network.
**OBJECTIVE**

ACCESO’s objective is to improve the competitiveness of the cacao chain in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, increasing the number of farmers producing commercial-quality cacao, through the promotion of good farming and marketing practices, increase in production levels, and higher sales and income levels for small- and medium-sized producers.

**PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

- **Steering Committee**: CICAD, IICA, USAID, WCF.
- **Executive Secretariat**: Hosted by the office of IICA in Lima, Peru.
- **Consultative Committee**: Institutions and people linked to the cacao chain.
- **National Coordinating Committees**.
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Strengthening of cacao-chain stakeholders
- Creation of regional links
- Productivity improvement
- Quality improvement
- Market expansion

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Implementation of Farmer Field Schools – FFS

- Under ACCESO, Farmer Field Schools (FFS) are directly financed by CICAD.
- FFS constitute a training methodology for agricultural products that promote high levels of involvement by farmers.
- FFS are based on voluntary enrollment by farmers, which later on make their own diagnosis of the situation and define the future actions to be taken.
- This methodology promotes high levels of empowerment of the learning process by the farmers.
**FFS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE ANDEAN REGION**

- **Overview:** FFS will be implemented *during 2006* in Peru and in the near future they will be established in Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador.

- **Location:** FFS will be implemented in San Martín, Junín, Ayacucho, Cuzco, Amazonas and Huanuco, in Peru.

- **Investment:** The budget consists of **US$170,000 for a three-year period**, financed directly by CICAD. **During 2006** the investment in FFS will be **US$56,666**.

- **FFS Partnership:** CICAD will sign a *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* with cacao-chain stakeholders that will specify the *roles and responsibilities* of each partner as well as the amount of cash and in-kind contributions.

**FFS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE ANDEAN REGION (cont’d.)**

- **Beneficiaries:** 40 FFS will be implemented during 2006, benefiting 1,000 cacao producers.

- **Unit Cost and Efficiency:** Cash and in-kind contributions add up to **US$100,000** approximately and considering 1,000 producers will be trained, the **unit cost of training is US$100 per farmer per year**.

- **First Step:** Before FFS are implemented, a “**Trainer of Trainers** Seminar” will take place in Tingo María, Peru, where approximately 50 field technicians will participate.

- **Project Evaluation:** A *baseline study* will be conducted in coordination with other institutions and an *evaluation of impact* will be carried out at the end of the second year.
OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES
OF THE PROGRAM

- Andean Regional Workshop on Application of Technology in 

- National Workshops on Technological Standardization in Peru. 
  First quarter, 2006

- Creation of National Committees. ACCESO’s National Coordinating 
  Committee in Colombia has been established based on the National 
  Cacao Council.

- National Workshop on Integral Quality of Cacao in Colombia. 
  Second quarter, 2006.