



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

COCOA



Background

Cocoa, once the economic cornerstone of Trinidad and Tobago, now contributes less than 1 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). **Despite its relatively small production volumes, the nation has earned a strong reputation as a producer of high-quality cocoa beans, which command premium prices on the global market.**

Trinidad and Tobago takes pride in being one of only eight countries with 100 percent fine flavor cocoa certification by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO). The country is also recognized as the birthplace of the Trinitario cocoa variety, one of the most sought-after premium fine flavor cocoa types.



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Challenges

Low productivity: most farms are small (5-10 hectares) and yield below-average outputs of 150-200 kg/ha, limiting their economic viability.

Aging tree stock: many plantations consist of older trees with diminished production capacity.

Lack of investment: limited funding and access to resources hinder improvements in technology, infrastructure, and practices.

Climate change: shifts in rainfall patterns, extreme temperatures, and increased pest incidence are impacting production.



Organization and coordination

FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, and the Cocoa Research Centre of the University of West Indies, are working to address these challenges.

