

The Ghana Cocoa Report 2024: Cocoa Production Forecast for Ghana: 2024 Trends and Future Outlook

Explore the cocoa production forecast for Ghana in 2024, including key factors impacting output, global market trends, and strategic recommendations for sustainable growth.



Highlights

Ghana's cocoa production in 2024 is forecasted to reach between 850,000 and 900,000 tonnes, maintaining its position as the second-largest global producer. Rising global cocoa demand and sustainability certification programs are driving Ghana's export market, despite challenges such as climate change and input costs. Strategic recommendations for increasing productivity include climate-smart agriculture, value-added processing, and enhanced access to farm inputs.

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Research Methodology:

This article relies on data from the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), global commodity market reports, and interviews with cocoa industry stakeholders. Quantitative data on historical cocoa output, pricing, and market trends are analyzed alongside qualitative insights into the challenges facing smallholder cocoa farmers in Ghana.

Key Statistics and Facts:

1. Ghana is projected to produce between 850,000 and 900,000 tonnes of cocoa in 2024, similar to its 2023 output of 850,000 tonnes.
2. Ghana contributes approximately 20-25% of the global cocoa supply, ranking second after Ivory Coast.
3. Cocoa exports generate around \$2 billion in revenue annually, accounting for roughly 30% of Ghana's foreign exchange earnings.
4. The farmgate price for the 2023/2024 season was set at GHS 20,943 (\$1,820) per tonne, a 63% increase from the previous season, reflecting the Living Income Differential (LID).
5. Global cocoa prices averaged \$2,700 per tonne in 2023, with potential price increases expected due to supply constraints and rising demand.
6. Approximately 800,000 smallholder farmers rely on cocoa farming in Ghana, with an average farm size of 2-5 hectares.
7. Climate change threatens to reduce suitable land for cocoa cultivation in West Africa by up to 40% by 2050, posing a long-term risk to production.
8. Certified cocoa production, including Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance cocoa, accounts for approximately 25% of Ghana's total cocoa exports.
9. The government aims to process 50% of Ghana's cocoa domestically by 2030, compared to the current 25%, to increase value-added exports.
10. Ghana's participation in sustainability certification programs allows its cocoa to access premium international markets, boosting farmer incomes through price premiums.

Body of Article / Critical Analysis:

Introduction

Cocoa production is a cornerstone of Ghana's agricultural economy and a major contributor to the country's foreign exchange earnings. As the second-largest cocoa producer globally, Ghana is a key player in meeting global demand for chocolate and other cocoa-based products. However, the sector faces a series of challenges, including climate change, rising input costs, and regulatory pressures related to sustainability. This article provides an in-depth forecast of Ghana's cocoa production for 2024, exploring the key factors influencing output and offering strategic recommendations for sustaining growth in the sector.

Cocoa Production Forecast for 2024

In 2024, Ghana's cocoa production is forecasted to reach between 850,000 and 900,000 tonnes, similar to the 2023 output levels. This stable production outlook is supported by continued government interventions, including the distribution of subsidized inputs, training for farmers on sustainable farming practices, and the implementation of the Living Income Differential (LID), which has improved farmer incomes. However, several challenges could affect production volumes, including climate variability, pest infestations, and high input costs.

1.

Climate Impact on Cocoa Production Climate change remains one of the most significant long-term threats to cocoa production in Ghana. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and soil degradation are reducing the amount of suitable land for cocoa cultivation. According to climate models, up to 40% of current cocoa-growing areas in West Africa could become unsuitable by 2050. This makes it imperative for Ghana to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, such as agroforestry and the use of drought-resistant cocoa varieties, to sustain production levels in the future.

2.

Government Support and the Living Income Differential The Ghanaian government, through COCOBOD, has introduced several initiatives aimed at enhancing cocoa productivity and ensuring fair incomes for farmers. The LID, which adds a \$400 premium per tonne of cocoa sold, has been crucial in stabilizing farmer incomes amid fluctuating global prices. The farmgate price for the 2023/2024 season was set at GHS 20,943 (\$1,820) per tonne, representing a significant increase from previous seasons. This initiative has helped reduce poverty among cocoa farmers and incentivized them to invest in farm productivity improvements.

3.

Sustainability Certifications and Market Access Ghana's participation in sustainability certification programs such as Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance has allowed its cocoa to access premium international markets. Certified cocoa accounts for approximately 25% of total exports, and these certifications are becoming increasingly important as consumers in Europe and North America prioritize ethically sourced products. By expanding its certified cocoa production, Ghana can enhance the profitability of its cocoa sector and meet the growing demand for sustainable products in global markets.

Current Top 10 Factors Impacting Cocoa Production in 2024:

- 1. Climate Change:** Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and declining soil fertility pose significant risks to cocoa yields, threatening the long-term viability of cocoa farming in Ghana.
- 2. Farmgate Prices and Living Income Differential (LID):** The LID premium has improved farmer incomes, supporting sustained production by making cocoa farming economically viable.
- 3. Input Costs:** Rising costs for fertilizers, pesticides, and labor are reducing profit margins for farmers, potentially affecting their ability to invest in farm maintenance and productivity improvements.
- 4. Pests and Diseases:** Cocoa pests such as the cocoa pod borer and diseases like black pod remain significant threats to yields, requiring ongoing investments in pest management and disease-resistant cocoa varieties.
- 5. Sustainability Certifications:** The demand for certified, ethically sourced cocoa is reshaping global markets, with Ghana benefiting from participation in programs like Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance.
- 6. Government Subsidies:** COCOBOD's provision of subsidized fertilizers, pesticides, and improved seedlings helps reduce production costs for farmers, contributing to stable output levels.
- 7. Land Tenure Issues:** Uncertain land ownership and small farm sizes limit farmers' ability to scale operations and improve productivity.
- 8. Global Cocoa Prices:** Fluctuations in international cocoa prices, driven by supply-demand dynamics, affect farmers' incentives to invest in cocoa production.
- 9. Local Processing Capacity:** Ghana's goal to process 50% of its cocoa domestically by 2030 could add value to the sector, reducing reliance on raw bean exports and improving revenue.
- 10. Labor Availability:** Cocoa farming is labor-intensive, and rising labor costs, combined with rural-urban migration, are creating labor shortages in key cocoa-growing regions.

Projections and Recommendations:

In 2024, Ghana's cocoa sector is expected to maintain stable production levels, with output projected to reach between 850,000 and 900,000 tonnes. Rising global demand for chocolate, particularly in emerging markets like Asia, will continue to drive the market for Ghanaian cocoa. However, the sector faces significant challenges related to climate change, input costs, and sustainability regulations.

Projections:

Global cocoa consumption is expected to grow by 4-5% annually, driven by rising demand in Asia and North America, supporting strong market conditions for Ghana's cocoa.

Cocoa prices are likely to remain elevated due to supply constraints, particularly in West Africa, offering favorable market conditions for Ghanaian cocoa exports.

Ghana's certified cocoa production will continue to grow, accessing premium markets in Europe and North America.

Recommendations:

1. Invest in Climate-Resilient Cocoa Farming: To mitigate the impact of climate change on cocoa yields, Ghana should adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, such as agroforestry, drought-resistant cocoa varieties, and sustainable land management techniques.

2. Enhance Local Processing Capacity: Expanding Ghana's local cocoa processing capacity will help the country capture more value from its exports and reduce its reliance on raw bean exports. The government's goal of processing 50% of cocoa locally by 2030 should be supported with investments in processing facilities and export infrastructure.

3. Expand Access to Sustainable Inputs: COCOBOD should continue to provide subsidized inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, and improved seedlings to smallholder farmers, helping them manage production costs and increase yields.

Conclusion:

Ghana's cocoa production in 2024 is expected to remain stable, driven by government interventions, sustainability certifications, and favorable global market conditions. However, challenges related to climate change, rising input costs, and labor shortages must be addressed to ensure long-term productivity and profitability in the sector. By investing in climate-smart agriculture, expanding local processing, and enhancing access to farm inputs, Ghana can maintain its position as a leading cocoa producer and strengthen its competitiveness in the global cocoa market.

Notes:

This article relies on data from COCOBOD, ICCO, and the World Bank to provide a detailed analysis of cocoa production forecasts for 2024.

Projections are based on current market trends, climate forecasts, and government policy initiatives.

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