



Statement:

World Cocoa Farmers Organization (WCFO) On The Amazon Fires.

Some of our main objective is the protection, and conservation of the environment, as millions of the World Cocoa Farmers Organization (WCFO) members live, and survive from the wealth of the Amazon. WCFO is greatly concern on what is happening in the Amazon Rainforest, with regard to the forest fires, which is going on now for more than 15 days!

WCFO members, who farm, and live in these regions hereby raise their voice, in protest to the way this issue is managed, particularly by the Brazilian authorities, as have done little or nothing in order to contain the fires. The farmers, including cocoa farmers in the Americas, and the Caribbean are very concerned about the impact that the fires will have on their lives, such as loss of virgin forest, pollination and distraction of newly planted cocoa trees in the Amazon, and its surroundings.

There are insects that fulfill this pollination function and they are very fragile to the climatic change, and even more so to the smoke that the fires generate. Because of our experience we can confirmed that the use of chemicals and fires in plantations near Cacao plantations, cocoa production has been very poor and is largely due to lack of the pollinator insect.

WCFO urges a united front between farmers and non-profits in order to raise awareness and to push the Brazilian government and other countries to act as quickly as possible in making decisions that will contain these damaging fires in the Amazon.

WCFO also urge governments in cocoa producing countries in the region, and chocolate companies to consider and take actions to support the farmers who have lost their farms. We also predict, that the global cocoa industry will witness some possible decline of production as a result of the fire in the Amazon, and will directly affect families of cocoa farmers in the region.

At the just ended G7, French President Emmanuel Macron and Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, said that the G7 nations agreed to provide \$20 million (in emergency funding) to fight the Amazon fires. We hope that the Brazilian government accept, and use the funding for the purposes, and not let politics be more important that the environment and lives.

Finally, let's save the Amazon and avoid the melting of chocolate.

Jorge Sarmiento.

Interim Global President, and Vice-President, at World Cocoa Farmers Organization