

# Caca sumahan

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Report highlights from SFITAL Philippines

## Study on Policy and Regulation for Sustainable Cocoa in the Philippines

### Introduction

Based on the 2019 data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, the country's average production of cacao remains to be at 0.5 to 1 kilogram per tree per year. This shows that the Philippines is still far from achieving its Cacao challenge of producing 2 kilograms of cacao per tree per year.

The achievement of this target does not rely solely on biophysical and environmental factors. The policy and regulations surrounding cacao production in the country also plays a huge role in obtaining this goal.

In line with the Sustainable Farming in Tropical Asian Landscapes (SFITAL) Project's goal of contributing to steps to achieve the said target and the establishment of a sustainable and competitive cacao industry, the SFITAL team conducted a study on policy and regulation for sustainable cocoa in the Philippines.

### Methodology

The said study aimed to provide suggested improvements in policy to support the agenda of sustainable cacao production in the Philippines. It presented existing frameworks and institutions that may enable the sustainable cacao industry at the national, regional, and provincial levels. It used the province of Davao de Oro, SFITAL's project site, as the case for this study.

In order to generate these suggested enhancements, the SFITAL team conducted a review of policies and regulations surrounding cacao production, both in the global and national scale. These documents include the FAO Agriculture Sustainability Criteria, ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices for Cocoa

Production, the Philippines Cacao Industry Roadmap, as well as Administrative Order 30 s. 2012 or the GAP Certification Guidelines, among others.

***"For smallholders to reach production level at an aggregate for this niche market, it requires intensification of investments from all sides."***

### Highlights of findings

Here are the key findings of the said study:

- Multi-stakeholder involvement is essential to achieve the country's cacao production targets.
- Different aspects of cacao production in the country are still covered by different policies and implementing agencies.
- However, there had been ongoing efforts to strengthen the cooperation of different government agencies towards sustainable cacao production.
  - One of these is the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development which enabled the establishment of a coordination mechanism across agencies to develop high value crop industries, which include cacao.
  - The Department of Agriculture also integrates inter-agency cooperation in its high value crop program.