

# You love it, we love it... let's talk chocolate!



Pesticides help farmers fight pests, such as mirids, which can **reduce cocoa yields by one-third**.

Cocoa production is a significant component of the rural economy in West Africa, where more than **70% of the world's cocoa** is produced.



Cocoa trees and pods are attacked by different insects, fungal diseases and rodents. Black pod rot does the most damage to cocoa, **impacting an estimated 30% of cocoa production annually**.

Cocoa production rarely exceeded 400,000 metric tons in West Africa due to the prevalence of pests and cocoa disease. In 2000, the Cocoa Diseases and Pests Control Program taught farmers how and when to use pesticides. **Due to the program and pesticides, cocoa yields, jobs, and income increased.**



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