

# Procedures for Safe Movement of Cocoa Germplasm

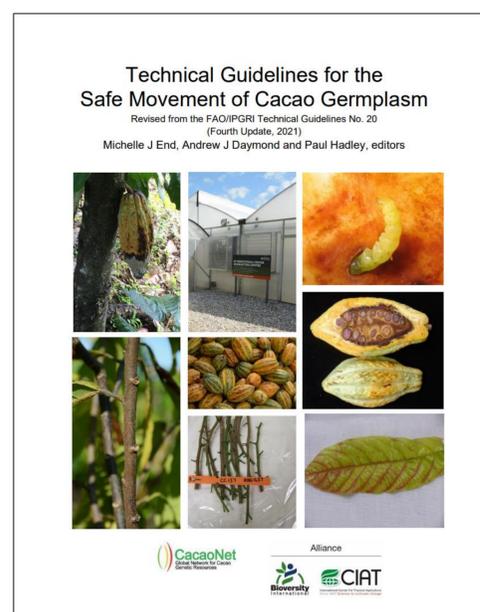
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## Introduction

Increased productivity on cocoa farms can be achieved through a combination of supplying improved planting materials with good agricultural practice. Targets for improved genotypes typically include high yield potential, good bean size and fat content, resilience to pests and diseases and, increasingly, resilience to environmental stresses (e.g. drought). Access to a diverse range of germplasm is key to the breeding and selection activities that ultimately provide improved planting materials to farmers. However, any movement of germplasm to meet the requirement for such diversity brings with it the concurrent risk of the spread of pests and diseases. Therefore, all movement of cocoa germplasm must adhere to safe movement protocols and quarantine procedures.

## Safe movement guidelines

- The Technical Guidelines for the Safe Movement of Cacao Germplasm are periodically updated under the auspices of CacaoNet and the Alliance of Bioversity International-CIAT
- The most recent update was in 2021 and is available on-line, free of charge, in English, French and Spanish
- Information is provided on the geographical spread of important pests and diseases and general recommendations on safe movement procedures
- Sections on specific pests and diseases are authored/updated by one or more experts in the respective field
- The latest update also includes information on more recently characterised viruses and on pests of emerging importance



Find the current versions of the Safe Movement Guidelines at:  
[www.icgd.reading.ac.uk/icqc/documents.php](http://www.icgd.reading.ac.uk/icqc/documents.php)

### Contact information

- 1 School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, RG6 6EU, UK
- 2 Cocoa Research Association | [www.cocoaresearch.org.uk](http://www.cocoaresearch.org.uk)

### To receive planting material from ICQC,R

Please provide an import permit along with the clone list at least two weeks before the scheduled date of export.

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## International Cocoa Quarantine Centre (ICQC,R)

- The International Cocoa Quarantine Centre at the University of Reading (ICQC,R) provides the main hub for international movement of cocoa germplasm, facilitating exchange of materials between genebanks, especially the ICG,T managed by CRC/UWI in Trinidad and the IC3 managed by CATIE in Costa Rica
- Procedures in place within the facility include visual indexing for viruses over a two-year period combined with PCR testing with a suite of primers that are periodically updated according to current information on viruses of cocoa



The International Cocoa Quarantine Centre greenhouse facilities

- Around 350 different cocoa accessions are available for distribution including wild types, landraces and improved varieties. Requests for specific genotypes in the public domain are welcomed
- Materials are normally supplied free of charge under Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTA) for use in breeding and research



The list of germplasm available at ICQC,R can be found at:  
[www.icgd.reading.ac.uk/icqc/list.php](http://www.icgd.reading.ac.uk/icqc/list.php)