



Ministerie van Economische Zaken,
Landbouw en Innovatie

PROJECT ON RESISTANCE TO COCOA POD BORERS

A better understanding of the underlying mechanisms that contribute resistance to cocoa pod borer and development of a simple means for characterizing resistant clones.

The cocoa pod borer (CPB) is a challenge in South East Asia and the Pacific. Production losses in infested areas are between 20% and 50%. Presently, insecticide spraying is commonly used to control it but it can be expensive. Continuous usage of insecticides may also cause the CPB to be resistant to it. Therefore, other control measures need to be sought including the use of resistant planting materials. A research project funded by the Dutch Buffer Stock Fund under Dutch Ministry of Agriculture on the Resistance to Cocoa Pod Borer is being undertaken by the Malaysian Cocoa Board. The project encompasses the following activities:

- Investigation of the growth of the cocoa pod from fruit set to ripening.
- Evaluation of all external and internal features of the pod which influence the expression level of resistance to CPB.
- Investigation of why particular pods were chosen by CPB and how pods dealt with infestation.
- Investigation of effect of host nutritional qualities on the performance of CPB.
- Evaluation of CPB tolerant clones in natural conditions.

This knowledge will lead to a better understanding of the resistance mechanism of cocoa clones and identifying resistant planting materials to CPB. Resistant planting materials can be used as part of an integrated pest management strategy against CPB.

Information will be available at the end of the project in 2011 from the Malaysian Cocoa Board and the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture. Outcomes will also be published in the PhD thesis of Alias Awang.

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