

From Cocoa To Chocolate

Her parents and grandparents were cocoa farmers. Like all the neighbours in the small village where they lived, not far from Gagnoa.

Mariam grew up playing in the cocoa plantation. But she only tasted chocolate a few years ago, as an adult. She still remembers her first chocolate. The brown bar melted in her mouth. It was the most delicious thing she had ever tasted.

It took a long time for chocolate to be produced in Cote d'Ivoire. It is still only produced in small quantities. But Mariam was proud to be part of the change.

She always knew her country depended on cocoa. Everyone in Cote d'Ivoire knew the importance of cocoa in people's daily life. Cocoa farming put food on the table. The taxes paid by the cocoa farmers helped build schools, hospitals and roads. Cote d'Ivoire is the largest cocoa producer in the world.

Mariam's family was always worried though. Sometimes the price for their cocoa went down. Sometimes they did not have enough money. The cocoa farmers did not get paid much.

The farmers only got about 6% of the final price of the chocolate. Most of the money was in the manufacturing.

One day she heard they were going to make chocolate in a town near them. Chocolate! She had to go and see it. So she did. And she got a job in the new chocolate factory. Mariam knew nothing about how to process the cocoa beans into chocolate. Her job was to wrap the chocolate in nice paper, that she tied with a colourful ribbon. Each piece of chocolate looked very special.

Mariam slowly learned other jobs inside the factory. She now knows how to make chocolate. She dreams that one day she will have her own factory. And one day... she will.

New words for this article

Bar of chocolate	rectangular piece of chocolate
To grow up	to get older
To taste	to get the flavor of food
To wrap	to put paper round something
Taxes	money you pay to the government

Comprehension Questions

Indiquez si les expressions suivantes sont vraies (True) ou fausses (False).

- Mariam used to eat cocoa on the plantation
- Mariam loves the taste of chocolate
- Cocoa is important for everyone
- Cote d'Ivoire is the largest chocolate producer in the world
- Mariam learned about the production process in the factory

1	False
2	True
3	True
4	False
5	False

Comprehension questions

Answers