

# Without crop protection, Valentine's Day would be a lot less sweet.



## Valentine's Day is a holiday that loves chocolate.

Unfortunately, so do the fungi and insects that attack cacao trees from which chocolate is derived. But thanks to crop protection products, sweethearts the world over can indulge their sweet tooth come February 14th.

Pesticides have been used on cocoa for more than 50 years.\* Fungal diseases are a principal constraint to world cacao production; the greatest losses result from black pod rots. In 2001, the Ghana Cocoa Board initiated a National Cocoa Diseases and Pest Control (CODAPEC) program to assist all cocoa farmers in the country, the second largest producer of cocoa worldwide, to combat black pod disease and insect infestation via the use of pesticides. Before the program, cocoa losses due to black pod averaged from 60 to 100 percent. Five years following the program's inception, cocoa production in Ghana had increased almost 50 percent.\*\*

**Want to Know More?** Check out how innovative crop protection products benefit the foods and products we use every day at [www.CropLifeAmerica.org](http://www.CropLifeAmerica.org) or contact us for brochures and other tools available through our Tell Me More campaign to better understand and communicate the benefits of modern agriculture.

\*The Federation of Cocoa Commerce Ltd  
\*\* Ghana Cocoa Board

