

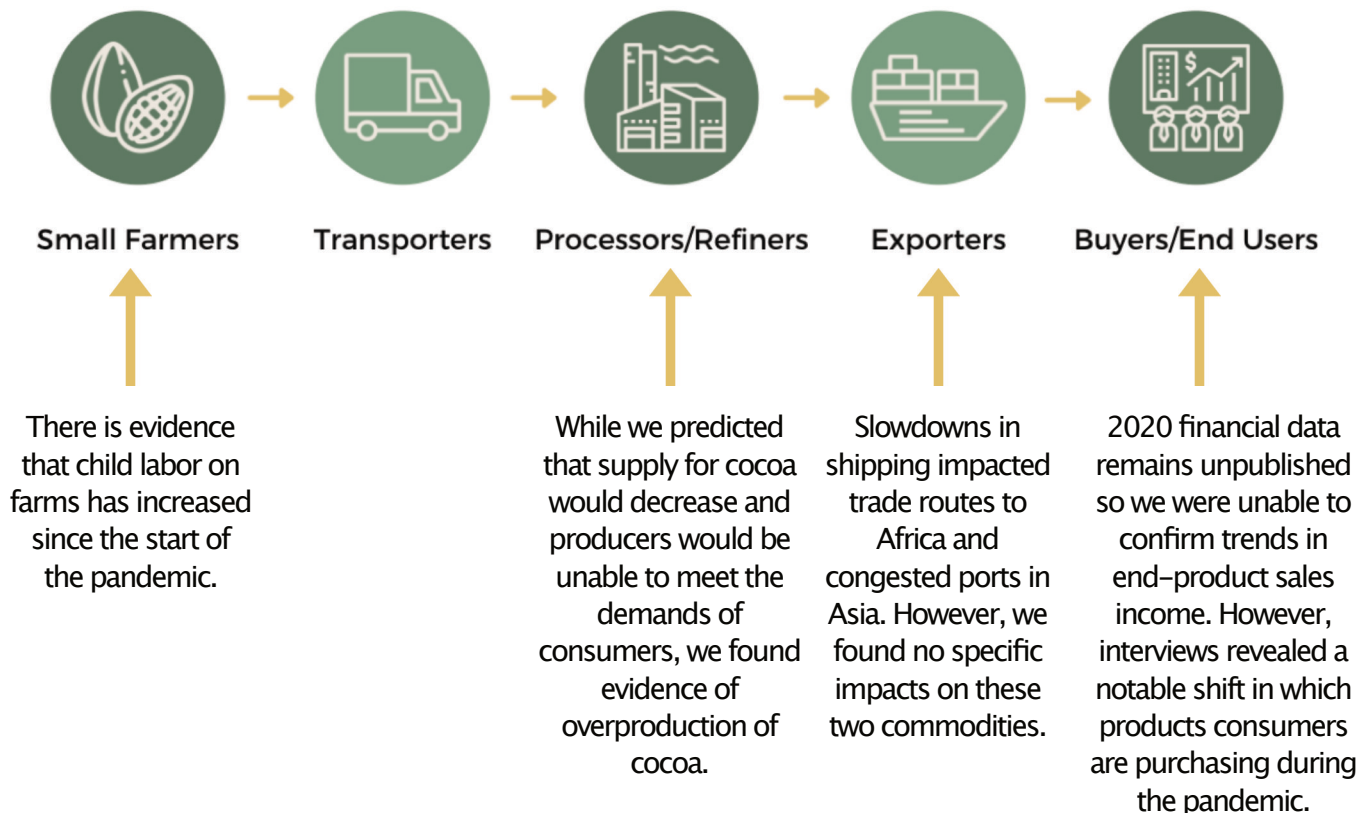
## GREEN PAPER SERIES 2021 SUMMARY

### COVID-19 Impacts on Cocoa and Palm Oil Industry

Cocoa and Palm Oil are important cash crop commodities in many countries. Both commodities have several associated sustainability issues such as deforestation, soil depletion, and child labor. On behalf of the UK Research and Innovation Global Challenges Research Fund (UKRI GCRF) Trade, Development and the Environment Hub we explored the response of both industries to disruptions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Primary data was collected through interviews with GCRF researchers, buyers, and end-users.



#### Generic Supply Chain Diagram for Cocoa and Palm Oil & 2020 Impacts:



We observed great variability in response based on which individual or company we spoke with. As such not many clear industry-wide trends stood out. One notable exception was reaffirmation by all on the importance of sustainability and resiliency:

**“The industry has been focusing on the theme of resiliency, especially in the time of COVID. Companies have continued to pursue their sustainability goals and global demands in spite of gaps in field research data and declines in labor force throughout the supply chain.”**

The sustainability of the supply chains for both commodities could be increased through the implementation of recommendations from the literature, including forming farming cooperatives and securing government funding for sustainable agriculture research. See the full report for more information on results of the interviews.