



# Newsletter

S U S T A I N A B L E T R E E C R O P S P R O G R A M

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## STCP Executive Committee Meets in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

### Press Briefing

The sixth Executive Committee meeting of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) Alliance has taken place in the Ivorian capital, Abidjan with a call on national governments, regional authorities and the private sector to formalize the present public-private partnership platform around tree crops. The STCP partners also called for the need to encourage the promotion of such value chain partnerships in other agricultural commodities, including food crops, towards the transformation of rural economies in sub-Saharan Africa. In a press statement issued to mark the mid period of the program's second phase, the STCP partners noted that a concerted effort across commodities is required if the 6 percent national agricultural growth rate target is to be achieved.



Bill Guyton reading the press release

The press briefing, which was held on April 20, 2009, also coincided with the 6<sup>th</sup> STCP Executive Committee meeting held from April 20 to 22. A number of journalists representing the Ivorian public and private media and international press attended the press briefing. The statement was read by Bill Guyton, President of the World Cocoa Foundation and Co-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the STCP. Messages of solidarity and support were delivered by representatives from ADM Cocoa, United States Agency for International Development, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources Nigeria, Ministry of Commerce

Cameroon, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricoles (FIRCA) Côte d'Ivoire and the Fiédifoué Cooperative of Daloa Côte d'Ivoire.

The press statement was also distributed simultaneously to journalist in the countries in which STCP operates.

See page 4 for the full statement.

cont. on pg 2

## STCP and the Cocoa Livelihoods Program

The Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP), along with four other non-government organizations, is a partner in the "Cocoa Livelihoods Program" (CLP), co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and eleven leading chocolate companies (listed below). The World Cocoa Foundation will manage the \$40 million program which will reach 200,000 cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia. Other technical partners include ACDI-VOCA, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, SICODEVI and TechnoServe. The CLP will focus on enhancing farmer knowledge and competitiveness, improving productivity and quality, promoting crop diversification and improving supply chain efficiency in the five countries.

The CLP is governed with the active participation of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, company sponsors, West and Central African country representatives and technical partners. The first CLP Steering Committee was held in April in Abidjan.

cont. on pg 3



Tracey Duffey of WCF leading participants in a discussion at the 1st Technical Meeting in Accra

## STCP ExCo Meeting... cont. from pg 1

### Meeting

The 3-day STCP Executive Committee brought together key stakeholders from across the region including private and public sector representatives from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia, the global cocoa industry, producer alliances, donors, and researchers. It was officially opened by the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Agriculture, Alassane Zié Diamoutene. He called for private sector investment in cocoa production and a more coherent partnership in the development of the sector and to boost the cocoa economy of West Africa. For his part, the Chairman of the Cocoa-Coffee Management Committee, Gilbert Anoh N'Guessan said it is important to involve national private and public partners at the very early stages of program development to ensure all partners are on a level playing field and to attain maximum benefit.



A cross section of delegates at the press briefing

Two roundtable discussions were held on the first day of the meeting on cocoa food safety and quality and on climate change and cocoa. On the second day, participants were taken on a full-day field trip to visit cocoa farmers in an effort to see first hand the impact of STCP programs on the lives of cocoa farmers and their communities. The final day, focused on reviewing the progress and outlook on the implementation of the strategic direction and achieving priority deliverables of the new STCP phase.

At the end of the day, the Executive Committee was satisfied with the progress being made and encouraged the STCP team to tap into new opportunities and partnerships to reach more farmers in West Africa. It was particularly happy with STCP's assertion on the need to formalize the public-private partnership in Africa as demonstrated by the STCP platform. The Executive Committee thanked the government of Cote d'Ivoire and other national partners for their demonstrated support and commitment to the program.

The next meeting will take place in October at a venue yet to be announced.

### Field Trip

Two main activities—Planting, replanting, diversification and Market Information System in Côte d'Ivoire—were the focus of the field exercise.

The first stop was in Tanokonankro, some 165 Km from Abidjan in the center western part of Côte d'Ivoire where participants were taken through STCP's planting, replanting and diversification intervention in the area. In 2004, 35 farmers who participated in STCP farmer field schools were trained on nursery set up with improved planting material, digging holes, planting cocoa mixed with leguminous trees (*Glyricidia*) and plantain in the gaps of the farm. They were also taught how to cut off their old cocoa trees three years after planting the young cocoa trees. Regular observations of the trees were made by the farmers during meetings which were usually led by a facilitator. The height of the trees, their diameter at the base of the trees, the height of the crown, the rate of crowning and the trees' mortality rate were keenly observed.



Dr. Jim Gockowski (far end) presents an M&E report

During the field trip, two farmers, 38-year-old Mr. Konan N'Dri and 36-year-old Mr. Francis Yao gave testimonies of the benefits of STCP interventions through the Planting, Replanting and Diversification exercises.

The next stop by the field trip participants was In Tiassale, 115 Km from Abidjan in the western part of Côte d'Ivoire. Here participants had the opportunity to observe the Market Information System (MIS) facilities set up in CAMENE, a cooperative based in Tiassale. These facilities were set up within the framework of the partnership between STCP and SOCODEVI. The Director of the cooperative and his staff explained how the accounting and database software functions. They also took them through the processes of the mini laboratory of cocoa beans quality control and the electronic balance.



Reported by:

Cynthia Prah & Jean-Yves  
Couloud (IITA/STCP)

## Cocoa Livelihoods Program... cont. from pg 1

STCP sees the new CLP as an opportunity to scale out the STCP innovations while strengthening its (STCP's) institutional engagements with national and local partners. For instance, 3 of the 4 STCP strategic results are common in the CLP while the principle of developing local institutional arrangements and capacity (public and private) for implementation are also embedded in the CLP. At the April regional meeting of its Executive Committee Members, STCP proposed to engage itself to build on and expand the STCP-initiated national and regional value chain stakeholder platforms as a "free-space" for policy analysis and dialogue, which could also be linked to the CLP and to use the STCP platform and country managers as a basis to engage from in country.



Some of the participants

Meanwhile, the inaugural Steering Committee meeting of the CLP has taken place in Abidjan on the 23rd and 24th of April, 2009. It was the first time that program stakeholders met to officially establish the program and to lay a solid foundation for the governance and management of this initiative going forward. Five host governments, four technical partners and eight company contributors were represented at the meeting. It followed the first Technical Planning Meeting which was held from March 16-18 in Accra. Implementation plans and site selection for the CLP have also started with STCP taking the lead. So far based on available information and input from a site selection advisory group in each country, candidate sites have been identified. After further verification, on-the-ground activities are expected to begin second half of 2009.

Once underway, the program will train farmers in better production techniques, quality improvement and business

skills; professionalize farmer organisations to better meet member needs; and improve farmer access to agricultural inputs and improved quality seedlings. The project will also improve farmers' access to market information and opportunities for diversification into alternative food and cash crops to maximize farmer income and security.



## STCP Embarks on an Exercise to Bring Improved Planting Materials for Cocoa, Oil palm & Citrus within Farmers' Reach

*STCP is piloting the development of tree seed distribution systems through self-help initiatives by building capacities at both group and individual levels in some communities in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. This is to help facilitate an effective and reliable planting materials distribution system that enables farmers to have access to improved varieties at a reduced production cost by linking farmers to a reliable source of planting materials. Additionally, STCP provides training on techniques of establishing and maintaining good nurseries and seed money for nursery establishment and management. Seedlings raised in the nurseries are sold at market prices and the money used to continue operating the nurseries.*

*This approach begins by setting up farmer group nursery in some communities using mass demonstration nursery training exercises to build capacity at the group level, while encouraging group members to use knowledge acquired at group training sessions to establish individual nurseries at home. The following is the story of two beneficiaries of this approach:*

STCP's Agroforester Richard Asare recently paid a visit to two nurseries that are an off shoot of this pilot program and interacted with the nursery owners.

Mohammed Opoku and Augustine Osei Achemfour are two graduates of Farmer Field School organized by STCP. Indeed they have demonstrated that with much efforts and determination, what is taught at the FFS sessions can yield good results in communities they live and improve farmers' lives. Both Mohammed and Osei are from the Ashanti region in Ghana. Mohammed has established nurseries in Nerebehi, in the Atwima Nwabiagya District. Augustine's nursery is located in Gyeninso, in the Amansie West District.

Mohammed and another four FFS graduates came together to raise the nursery in 2007/2008 season. The nursery is now running for the second year. In the first year Mohammed

Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) ([www.treecops.org](http://www.treecops.org))

For immediate release – April 20, 2009

## Public-private partnerships needed to revitalize agriculture in Africa

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – The Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) partners are calling upon national governments, regional authorities and the private sector to formalize the present public-private partnership platform around tree crops. At the same time, they are encouraging the promotion of such value chain partnerships in other agricultural commodities, including food crops, towards the transformation of rural economies in sub-Saharan Africa. A concerted effort across commodities is required if the 6 percent national agricultural growth rate is to be achieved as targeted by African governments.

The public-private partnership on which STCP is built has been heralded as an innovation that “never before existed for the cocoa sector”. It has demonstrated that bringing together government authorities, the private sector, development agencies and research institutions, working together towards a common goal, can strengthen the value chain and lead to significant increases in farmer income. Such revitalization benefits the local and global private sectors, which depend on a stable supply of quality tree crop products, and national economies that rely on agriculture as part of their growth and poverty reduction strategy.

STCP was launched in 2000 by West and Central African cocoa stakeholders, the global cocoa industry, the World Cocoa Foundation, and USAID, and is managed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. STCP has been introducing production, marketing, and institutional innovations in the cocoa sector aimed at improving the economic and social well being of tree crop farmers. For instance, its training approach has led to farmers increasing their cocoa yields on average by 15 to 40%. The introduction of group sales and entrepreneurship, more transparent and direct transactions, and quality control have resulted in 5-15% higher farm-gate prices for farmers. STCP is engaged with public and private partners in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Liberia to identify the potential of the cocoa sector in contributing to rural transformation. These demonstrated accomplishments and innovations are being integrated into new development initiatives by national and regional authorities and the private sector.

Based on these achievements, the STCP partners recognize the significant role of agriculture in fighting poverty in Africa. They call on African governments, the private sector and development partners to encourage public-private partnerships to address the revitalization of the agricultural sector, to continue to give adequate attention to developing and introducing production, marketing, policy and institutional innovations towards transforming the rural economy, and to invest in building the capacity of agricultural institutions and entrepreneurial farmers. This is essential if sub-Saharan Africa is to be competitive in the cocoa and other commodity markets and achieve food security in the coming decade.

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### About STCP Support

The core STCP Platform, which is managed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), is supported financially by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), and the global cocoa industry, which includes Archer Daniels Midland ADM Cocoa, Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cadbury plc, Confectionery Manufacturers Association of Canada, Ferrero, Guittard Chocolate Company, The Hershey Company, Kraft Foods, Lindt&Sprüngli, Mars Incorporated, Nestlé, and Olam International; as well as SICODEVI/CIDA Canada. Country-level engagement is supported/guided in Cameroon by the Ministry of Commerce and the Interprofessional Council on Cocoa and Coffee (CICC); in Côte d'Ivoire by the Ministry of Agriculture and the national cocoa funds (now Interim Cocoa and Coffee Management Committee); in Ghana by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD); in Nigeria by the National Cocoa Development Committee / Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Cocoa Association of Nigeria; in Liberia by the Ministry of Agriculture and Senate Committee on Agriculture. Regional engagement is guided by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

### About the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

Africa has complex problems that plague agriculture and people's lives. We develop agricultural solutions with our partners to tackle hunger and poverty. Our award winning research for development (R4D) is based on focused, authoritative thinking anchored on the development needs of sub-Saharan Africa. We work with partners in Africa and beyond to reduce producer and consumer risks, enhance crop quality and productivity, and generate wealth from agriculture. IITA is an international non-profit R4D organization since 1967, governed by a Board of Trustees, and supported primarily by the CGIAR. For more information, please contact: Godwin Atser, [g.atser@cgiar.org](mailto:g.atser@cgiar.org), Corporate Communications Officer (West Africa), Communication Office, IITA – Headquarters, Ibadan, Nigeria; or visit [www.iita.org](http://www.iita.org)

### About the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)

Established in 2000, the World Cocoa Foundation is a leader in promoting economic and social development and environmental stewardship in 15 cocoa producing countries around the world. With nearly 70 member companies from the Americas, Europe and Asia, the Foundation actively supports a range of farm level programs harnessing sustainable agriculture practices to improve the quality of life for the millions of smallholder farmers growing this unique crop. For more information about the World Cocoa Foundation, visit: [www.worldcocoafoundation.org](http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org)

### About USAID

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years. For more information about USAID visit [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).



Mohammed inspects seedlings

and another four FFS graduates came together to raise the nursery in 2007/2008 season. The nursery is now running for the second year. In the first year Mohammed and his colleagues raised 3,000 cocoa, 1,000 oil palm, 700 citrus, 900 *Khaya ivorensis* and 400 *Terminalia superba* seedlings. This year, they say that the future looks even brighter for them. They have received orders from more farmers in the region and so their target is to raise 10,000 cocoa seedlings. According to Mohammed, “when farmers saw how good our seedlings performed last year, they are coming for more”.

Augustine started the nursery in September 2008 with 5 old FFS graduates. Though very young, they have been able to raise 10000 cocoa seedlings, 1500 seedlings of oil palm, and 600 seedlings of citrus. “As you can see” he tells us “the seedlings look very healthy and fresh. The orders we have received for the seedlings are overwhelming since some of the farmers come from longer distances”. Augustine and his colleagues have thus acquired additional land at Achiasse, about 15 km from their current location to expand production to meet farmers’ demand.



Augustine and wife admire their nursery

According to Mohammed and Augustine, farmers are attracted to their seedlings because of the sources from where they get them. They get their planting materials from the Seed Production Unit of COCOBOD, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, Oil Palm Research Institute of Ghana and Forestry Research Institute of Ghana. Consequently sales have increased. “Bringing clean improved planting materials closer to cocoa farmers is something we have been waiting for years” states Augustine. To them, STCP’s effort to assist farmers through such an initiative is laudable.



Reported by:  
Richard Asare (IITA/STCP)

### DR. STEPHAN WEISE LEAVES STCP

Dr. Stephan Weise, Regional Manager of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program will no longer head the program effective June 6, 2009. Dr. Weise was recently appointed as Programme Director for the Commodities for Livelihoods Programme of Bioversity Inter



Outgoing RM Dr. Weise

International. Dr. Weise has served as IITA focal person since 1999 and then as manager, providing research leadership and strategic guidance in the development and implementation of the STCP.

Meanwhile Dr. Jim Gockowski, STCP’s Regional Impact and Policy Analyst has been appointed Regional Program Technical Leader. He would provide technical leadership,



Incoming RTL Dr. Gockowski

guidance, cohesion, and profile to the regional STCP program as part of a management team. He would work closely with a new Regional Program Manager (yet to be appointed) who is expected to provide leadership, accountability,

and profile to STCP nationally, regionally and globally. Dr. Gockowski holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics, University of Florida. And an MSc in Agricultural Economics, University of Tennessee. He joined the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in 1995 and has been involved with STCP since its inception.

## STCP Receives Funding to Address Farm safety & health in Cocoa-growing Communities

The Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) is to lead a farmer training component of an 18-month grant from the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and funded by the Swedish Chocolate Confectionery and Biscuit Manufacturers' Association (SCCBMA) on a new occupational safety and health project. Known as "Improving Occupational Safety and Health on West African Cocoa Farms", the project will support farmer training and research in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. In a press statement, issued by the WCF in partnership with the SCCBMA, STCP will develop and test training modules and relevant extension materials aimed at improving farmers' understanding of occupational safety and health issues. These extension materials will be tested in ongoing farmer field school programs and will be piloted in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana with an initial group of 4,720 farmers. By the end of the project, the validated materials will be made available for use by other programs and institutions in these two countries and will be readily adaptable for use in other countries.

A 2007 STCP study revealed farmers in Cote d'Ivoire were frequently injured during weeding. In a related study conducted by a graduate student in Ghana, 19% of women and 28% of men suffered some form of farm-activity related injury resulting from the lack of knowledge of or non-adherence to proper on-farm safety measures and procedures. "Improving the occupational safety of cocoa farmers is critical for increasing cocoa productivity," says Dr. Sonii David, IITA-STCP extension specialist. According to WCF President Bill Guyton, "The farmers training project is an excellent opportunity for farmers to learn practical safety measures and valuable health information that will make a real difference for their families".

Two challenge grants will be awarded by the WCF to Ivorian research institutes, national universities or non-governmental organizations under the development of innovative technologies component of the project which forms part of the 2009 WCF Challenge Grants Program. Recipients of this award would be expected to develop innovations in the areas of farm safety, farm level innovations and health education materials. This component is also expected "improve farm safety and family wellbeing in the long term."

For a copy of the full statement, visit [www.worldcocoafoundation.org](http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org)



## 107 Facilitators Complete Training in ICPM & PRD under the EU CSSP2 in Ghana

The European Union Cocoa Sector Support Program Phase II (CSSP2), which STCP/IITA is a co-implementer has completed the training of 107 farmer Field School (FFS) facilitators made up of farmers, government extension officers and NGOs extensionists in Ghana. The trainees undertook a 4-week long training in cocoa integrated crop and pest management (ICPM) and planting, replanting and diversification (PRD). The participants went through classroom session and practical field exercises conducted by STCP technical staff in conjunction with scientists from the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG).

The closing ceremony was attended by dignitaries from government institutions such as Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD). Representatives of various local service providers and local collaborators were also present. The head of the EU delegation in Ghana, Ambassador Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi was the guest of honor.



Graduates in a group pix with the EU head

In his keynote address, Ambassador Sebregondi said the EU is keen on supporting initiatives geared towards empowering cocoa farmers to be part of the development of the sector. He said the organization of cocoa farmers into associations/groups will facilitate farmers' ownership of decisions and enable farmers to play a more proactive role in the sector's governance. He urged the graduates to take seriously the knowledge they have acquired and demonstrate that cocoa intensification and diversification translates into sustained cocoa production enterprise for rural farmers.

Ambassador Sebregondi commended STCP for taking on the mandate to facilitate this process.

There were solidarity messages from STCP partners including COCOBOD, CRIG and the MoFA. They lauded STCP for creating a public-private platform to address the issues hampering the growth of the cocoa sector. They also expressed the hope that cocoa farmers in the country would put into good use the training in improved crop production after they have gone through FFS at the community levels.



Reported by:  
Cynthia Prah (IITA/STCP)

## STCP at the Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy 2

The Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) has participated in the second meeting of the Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy (RSCE2). The meeting was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 24-26 March 2009. STCP took part in the focus group session that discussed some eminent points raised from the farmer's perspective on the background documents presented on Day 1 of the meeting. The purpose was to understand from farmers' perspective some of the constraints and challenges being encountered in efforts to achieve a sustainable cocoa economy.

The RSCE is an initiative for dialogue and sustainability amongst all stakeholders in the cocoa economy: cocoa farmers and cooperatives, traders, exporters, processors, chocolate manufacturers, wholesalers, governmental and non-governmental organizations, financial institutions as well as donor agencies. The second Roundtable meeting was at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and was sponsored and facilitated by the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Trinidad and Tobago and by the International Cocoa Organization.

The Roundtable brought together almost 300 participants from 29 countries including representatives from the Cocoa Producers' Alliance and its Member governments, cocoa farmers, co-operatives, traders, exporters, processors, chocolate manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Each of the three focus group meetings discussed the way forward, building on the Accra Agenda from three different perspectives—farmers, governments and industry and civil society. An official statement on the outcome of the Roundtable is available on <http://www.roundtablecocoa.org>



Reported by:  
Cynthia Prah  
(IITA/STCP)

## Business Models Summit on Fine Flavour (FF) Cocoa

*There are two broad categories of cacao beans in the world market. One is "high quality" cacao, a differentiated product known among chocolate specialists as "fine cacao" or flavour (FF) cacao. The second is a "commodity" cacao or bulk cacao, a standardized but not quality differentiated product that tends to come from modern varieties developed for high yield and low cost. Preference for 'high quality' cacao and cacao products is increasing resulting in cacao product differentiation and competitive advantage in the world cacao market.*

A workshop on Fine Flavor Cocoa Business Model was held in Ghana in March (9 & 10) to:

1. Discuss the potential for accessing Fine Flavour Cocoa Market
2. Understand constraints and requirements of supply chain partners to implement a fine flavour cocoa supply chain in the country and design associated business model and
3. Outline a realistic approach to innovative financing of the supply chain implementation.

Participants included representatives from Scharffenberger Chocolate of Hershey Inc. COCOBOD, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG), Sustainable Food Lab., Sustainable Supply Consulting, Rainforest Alliance (RA), Armajaro Ghana Ltd., LICOBAG, NIB, STCP, University of Ghana, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Agro Eco-Louis Bolk Institute and others.

The world market price of FF cacao is about 2x or 3x the price of bulk cacao and this is a good avenue for Ghanaian farmers to explore. However, FF cacao yield is very low (the highest being 200Kg/ ha/yr) whereas the yield of the bulk cacao in Ghana stands at about 600kg/ha/yr. John Scharffenberger of Scharffenberger Chocolate of Hershey Inc. said given available statistics of FF cacao production in some countries (2000kg/ha/yr), Ghana's production level can be boosted provided good management systems are deployed. He said though production costs of FF cocoa is high, farmers can earn more from the sale of the produce because of the high premium of FF cacao compared with bulk cocoa.

Victor Afari-Sefa of STCP/IITA Impact & Policy Analysis desk presented an ex-ante Benefit Cost analysis of FF cacao production in Ghana in an effort to assess the profitability of FF cacao in Ghana. Results so far presented suggest that FF cacao production may be successful in Ghana if good seedlings (clones) are developed and made available to farmers and good management systems are introduced to farmers. Dr. Jim Gockowski highlighted the impact of various shade systems on cocoa yields.

If the FF cacao project is to be successful in Ghana, CRIG will have to come up with successful clones and farmers will have to practice good agronomic practices and commitment to ensure good yields for export.



Reported by:  
Ambrose Dziwornu

## 2008 Monitoring & Evaluation Report of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program

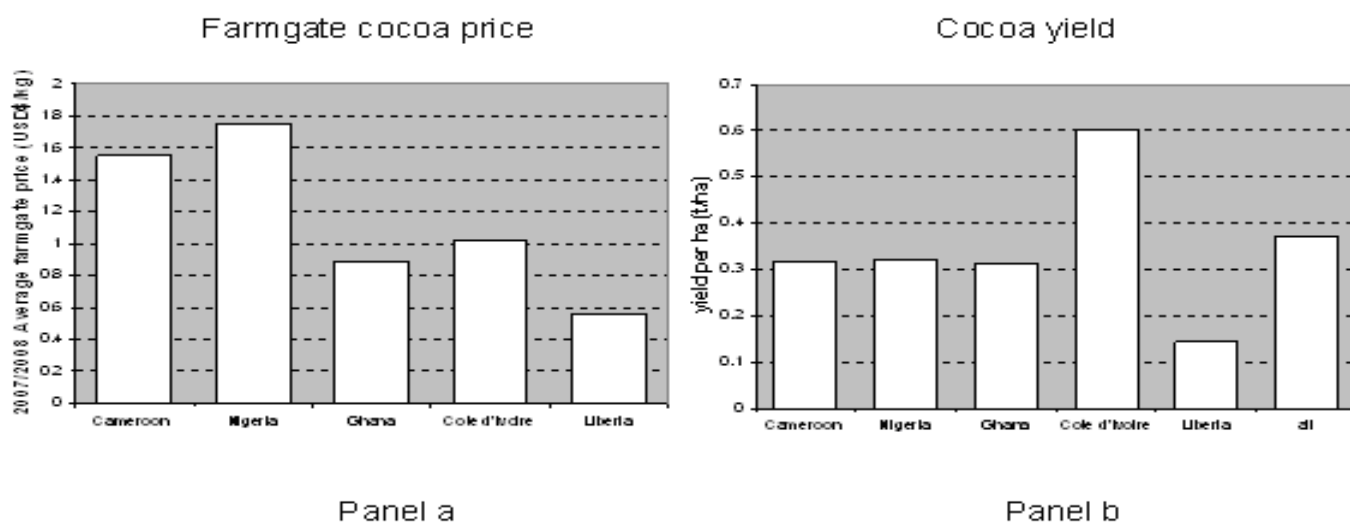
(A Component of the U.S. Presidential Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) USAID/AFR/SD)

The Sustainable Tree Crops Program is required to submit a Monitoring and Evaluation Report to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), one of its funders, under the U.S. Presidential Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) program. Below is a section of the 2008 report. This report was also presented to the Regional Steering Committee of the STCP during its last meeting in Abidjan.

By the end of the second year (2007/2008) of STCP's five year program, nearly 60,000 instances of rural households participating and benefitting from program activities had been achieved. Additionally, over 100 organizations were participating in the partnership platform in the five countries.

The estimated benefits among farmers that participated in either 2007 or 2008 in farmer field school training on integrated crop and pest management of cocoa are reported in table 1. The returns reported are the average of the distribution of trained farmers calculated from the baseline data which is collected on each farmer at the start of the field school. The variables used to calculate these averages include the area harvested, amount of insecticide, fungicide and fertilizer expenditures, quantity produced and sold, and labor costs (including the monetary value of the share contract if sharecropping was used).

The "with project" returns are based on (1) average productivity (i.e. yield) gains and (2) reduced use of inputs as documented in the FFS impact studies conducted in 2005 on the initial group of trainees from 2003 (a similar study is now being repeated). Additional gains from collective marketing (i.e. higher farm gate price) are assumed for countries where FFS trainees are also largely members of marketing cooperatives that are the focus of program strengthening activities. The "without project" returns are those that would have prevailed in the absence of training.



**Figure 1. Average farmgate price and cocoa yield per ha in 2007/2008**

Source: STCP farmer field school participant baseline database.

Overall it is estimated that the 12,000 cocoa farmers trained from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2008 increased their gross returns in the 2007/2008 harvest by \$ 5.5 million or 38% as a result of program efforts. The largest benefits were generated by the increases in yield gains, particularly in Cameroon where black pod abatement efforts paid high dividends. The variation in the average gross returns per ha, ranging from \$81 per in Liberia to \$555 per ha in Cote d'Ivoire, is largely explained by differences in yields and farm gate price. In Liberia, farm gate prices and yields were the lowest of all countries (figure 1, panels a & b). The highest returns were in RCI where the heavy taxation of the farm gate price through the *droits unique de sortie* (DUS) and the various *prélèvements* were more than offset by yields that were nearly 2X those of Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon and 4x those of the representative Liberian producer (Figure 1).

For all countries except Nigeria, 2007/2008 average gross returns per ha were higher than in the previous year (figure 2, panel a). This mainly reflects higher world prices due to the continued strong demand for cocoa which has now seen three straight years in which total grindings have exceeded production.).

Table 4. Returns to cocoa farming following farmer field school training and improved collective marketing, 2007/2008 harvest

<b>"Without Project" Baseline Gross Margin</b>	Cameroon	Nigeria	Ghana	Cote d'Ivoire	Liberia	Total
Number of farmers	3,205	1,831	1,869	3,584	1,676	12,165
Area harvested (ha)	21,043	7,285	7,942	12,756	3,352	52,377
Production (tons)	4,729	1,975	2,185	6,456	402	15,748
Quantity sold (tons)	4,729	1,975	2,185	6,456	402	15,748
Value of Quantity Sold (USD\$ 000)	7,330	3,457	1,932	6,585	225	19,530
Sharecrop labor revenue (USD\$ 000)	1,398	678	164	717	0	2,957
Agrochemical Inputs (USD\$ 000)	1,224	538	81	383	0	2,226
Total Gross Return (USD\$ 000)	4,708	2,241	1,687	5,485	225	14,346
Gross Margin (\$ per ha)	224	308	212	430	67	274
<b>"With Project" Gross Margin</b>						
Area harvested (ha)	21,043	7,285	7,942	12,756	3,352	52,377
Production (tons)	6,668	2,351	2,491	7,683	483	19,494
Quantity sold (tons)	6,668	2,351	2,491	7,683	483	19,494
Value of Quantity Sold (USD\$ 000)	10,780	4,114	2,203	8,072	270	25,337
Sharecrop labor revenue (USD\$ 000)	1,970	807	187	853	0	3,818
Agrochemical Inputs (USD\$ 000)	1,110	492	81	141	0	1,823
Total Gross Returns (USD\$ 000)	7,699	2,814	1,935	7,078	270	19,695
Gross Margins (\$ per ha)	366	386	244	555	81	376
Net change in gross returns (USD\$ 000)	2,991	574	248	1,593	45	5,450
<b>Assumptions</b>						
Reduction in pesticide use	10%	10%	0%	0%	0%	
Increase in yields	41%	19%	14%	19%	20%	
Increase in farmgate price	15%	0%	0%	3%	0%	

Reported by:

**Dr. Jim Gockowski, Jonas Mva, Robert Yapo, Isaac Gyamfi, Dr. Chris Okafor, MacArthur Paybayee, Dr. Sonii David and Richard Asare (STCP/IITA)**

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This is the quarterly Newsletter of the Sustainable Tree Crops Program for West Africa, produced by the Regional Office in Accra, Ghana. The STCP Management would welcome any contributions/suggestions.

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