

Sustainable Tree Crops Program - Côte d'Ivoire



Project Dates: Pilot Phase 2003-2006, Phase II: 2007-2011

Country: Côte d'Ivoire

Funders: *Core Program* - US Agency for International Development (USAID), World Cocoa Foundation and global cocoa industry, and FDPCC (Ivorian Cocoa Fund); *Sustainable Production of Certified Cocoa* – USAID and Kraft Foods; *Cocoa Quality Improvement Project* – TransFair USA; *Mars Partnership for African Cocoa Communities of Tomorrow* – Mars Inc; *West Africa Cocoa Livelihoods Program*-BMGF/cocoa industry; *ANADER Training* – FIRCA

Implementers: International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (manager, production, marketing, policy); SOCODEVI (cooperative development); ANADER (Ivorian National Extension Agency/Cocoa Quality Improvement Project); Rainforest Alliance (Sustainable Production of Certified Cocoa Project), INADES, BFCD; GTZ, Technoserve,

Overview

The Sustainable Tree Crops Program in Côte d'Ivoire is active in 15 districts, mostly in the Eastern Region, and works with 20 cocoa cooperatives. The program focuses on promoting the sustainable production and marketing of quality cocoa, improving marketing channel efficiency, raising incomes for small-scale producers and creating environmentally friendly, socially responsible, and economically sustainable cocoa production systems. The Sustainable Production of Certified Cocoa Project incorporates Rainforest Alliance standards into the Farmer Field School integrated crop, pest and quality management curriculum. The project began in 2006 and focuses on the Issia and Daloa Districts. The TransFair USA Cocoa Quality Improvement Project aims to increase incomes for small producers through increased access to the Fair Trade market in the US, Europe and Japan. The project works with two cooperatives in the Daloa and San Pedro Districts. The Mars Partnership for African Cocoa Communities of Tomorrow (iMPACT) project started in 2008 and works with one cooperative in 4 villages in the district of Soubré strengthening community leadership, improving cocoa productivity and marketing among others. A partnership with FIRCA to train ANADER'S extension agents on Farmer Field Schools approach and training tools and post-training follow up started in 2008. The West Africa Cocoa Livelihoods Program (BMGF) began in 2009 to improve: (1) marketing efficiency, (2) cocoa production efficiency and quality at farm level, and (3) farmers' competitiveness on diversified cocoa farms.

Program Objectives:

- Develop farmer organizations' capacity as agricultural enterprises and improve marketing efficiency
- Integrate the production and marketing of certified cocoa
- Develop local institutional capacity to provide production and marketing support services

Progress to Date:

- **12,297 farmers directly trained through 376 Farmer Field Schools.** Through the participatory Farmer Field School approach, farmers were trained in integrated crop and pest management, cocoa regeneration techniques, and quality improvement. The curriculum also includes sensitization to child labor and HIV/AIDS. Training was conducted by 79 facilitators including 22 extension workers from ANADER and 57 members of the 20 cooperatives partnering on STCP core program and sister projects. Of the graduating farmers, 1,361 farmers from 3 cooperatives were trained in Rainforest Alliance standards and established 13 shade tree nurseries including 41,873 shade trees. Also amongst the graduating farmers were 672 participants in the Cocoa Quality Improvement Project and 501 farmers in iMPACT project. In addition, a total of 24,613 farmers were trained by the Farmer Field School graduates through guided farmer-to-farmer dissemination of information.
- **142 farmers trained through Video Viewing Clubs.** 16 videos covering similar topics to the Farmer Field Schools were produced. The Clubs, designed for women cocoa farmers, were held in 6 communities facilitated by 2 women and 1 man.

- **690 farmers participating in mineral fertilizer study.** In partnership with Yara, Farmer Field School participants are evaluating the impact of mineral fertilizer on 22 demonstration plots.
- **8,528 farmers established cocoa nurseries.** After participating in nursery management training, farmers from 14 cooperatives established nurseries for 7,108 hectares of planting.
- **34 demonstration plots established.** 850 farmers received training in regeneration of deforested land on the 34 plots, and 425 farmers received training on rehabilitation and intensification on 17 of the plots.
- **Promoting of Collective marketing within one cooperative Union (6 cooperatives out of 8).** A partnership was established with a cocoa exporter, allowing the cooperative Union to organize collective marketing with the local partner through market-driven product tracking system.
- **Promoting of adoption of Quality Control Systems and MIS activities within one cooperative Union (6 cooperatives out of 8).** These activities include setting up a database on cooperative membership, setting up a management information system to facilitate financial management, quality control and market information on price.
- **Strengthening of three cooperatives using the systematized approach and capacity building tools developed by SOCODEVI.**

STCP- Côte d'Ivoire: Production of Quality Cocoa Supports Children's Education

Mrs. Ekra Marceline is a 40-year-old farmer from Daoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. She is the income earner of the family and is responsible for paying the school-related expenses of her four children.

Before participating in the Farmer Field School, Mrs. Marceline was producing approximately 100 kg of cocoa on a half hectare of land she received from her husband.

One of four women participating in the Farmer Field School held in Amanikouassikro, a village in San Pedro, she was a regular and punctual participant, always attentive to the technical details of the sessions.

Being particularly interested in pruning and harvesting, she began practicing what she learned on her farm.

At first, her neighbours laughed when they saw her practicing these techniques on her farm and told her she was wasting her time. However, Mrs. Marceline was not intimidated, and she kept pursuing her dream of learning more about better farming practices and farm management.

In just six months later, she began to notice big changes on her farm; her cocoa trees were producing a lot of beautiful pods. That season, she harvested 500 kg of cocoa.

With technical assistance from STCP, she built a solar dryer and now produces some of the best quality cocoa in her village.

In fact, the manager of the cocoa warehouse of the cooperative section based in her village uses her cocoa beans as an example for visitors and other farmers to encourage them to produce good quality cocoa.

Today, the neighbours that once laughed at her are closely observing her farming methods and want to learn how they can increase their yields.

Mrs. Marceline's increased income has allowed her to support her children's education and assist her husband with the construction of a new home in their village.



For more information on the Sustainable Tree Crops Program, contact:

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