

Project Factsheet

Project duration:	2013-2017
Co-funding period:	2014-2017
Implementation partner:	Source Trust Ghana
Further partners:	Agrotrade Limited Ghana, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG), Cocoa Rehabilitation and Intensification Programme for Ghana (CORIP-Ghana), Endeava, Ghana Cocoa Board, IDH the sustainable trade initiative, Lindt & Sprüngli, Technoserve
Direct beneficiaries:	48,000 cocoa farmers
Focus areas covered:	creating the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers; fostering an enabling environment and removing constraints

Rural Service Delivery Models for the Professionalization of Cocoa Farmers Ghana



By introducing community-based farmer organizations, detailed farm mapping and a complete farmer professionalization services package, the project scales a proven rural service delivery model of Farmer Development Centers, targeting 48,000 farmers, aiming to improve yield and increase farm family income considerably over five years. The project is further enhanced to increase access of services to young adults and women farmers, while augmenting their leadership skills and roles.

Context

Ghana is the second largest cocoa producer in the world, involving approximately 800,000 cocoa farmer households. More than 6 million Ghanaians depend on cocoa for their living, representing around 30% of the population. Ghanaian cocoa farmers are tackling combined challenges such as below average productivity of less than 400 kg/ha; limited farmer grouping; lack of farmer entrepreneurship/professionalization; constraints to access financing for farm inputs and improved planting material; as well as traceability resources to meet sustainability standard systems' criteria and current market demand. In addition,

there is a continual opportunity to further improve the overall coordination of cocoa activities amongst stakeholders to benefit the farmers and the efficiency of the supply chain.

Project Content

The objective is to establish community-based farmer organizations and regional Farmer Development Centres that provide the following services to farmers:

Farmer Grouping: Establish and build capacity of community-based farmer organizations (35 to 50 farmers per group)



Mapping & Data Collection: Map the farms of 48,000 farmers, using Geographic Information System (GIS), to ascertain each farm's actual size and shape, characterize the fields of each farm, collect data on farming practices, disease and pest prevalence and to derive socio-economic information of each farmer and their communities. Use this information to identify the precise training and input needs of farmers and monitor progress.

Farmer Professionalization Training & Monitoring: Initiate a training project for 48,000 farmers through

About the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:

The Lindt Cocoa Foundation was found in 2013 and has the declared purpose of working to achieve social and ecological sustainability in the cultivation, production and processing of cocoa and other raw materials used in chocolate production.

Learn more:

www.lindtcocoafoundation.org

their farmer organizations on good agricultural, environmental, social and business practices to manage their farms as a business and provide monitoring of farmer practices improvements.

Farmer Development Centers: Introduce Farmer Development Centers as a tested rural service delivery method offering produce buying, farm shops, access to credit, farm inputs, and improved planting material through central and community-based nurseries.

Farmer-Led Demonstration Plots: Commence training tool techniques for farmers to learn assessment and decision-making skills in order



to rehabilitate, rejuvenate, and apply inputs to their farms. Farmer-led demonstration plots are introduced with farmers on parts of their existing farms. The purpose of this component is to provide additional resources to farmers to demonstrate directly on-farm how productivity can be improved to increase farm family livelihoods. Adding this additional project component, that is farmer-led through peer demonstration, emphasizes the impact on productivity, as well as access to inputs and improved planting materials.

Community Development: The project additionally provides access to clean drinking water through the construction of boreholes in the communities currently lacking access. Village Resource Centers, based at local schools, provide information and communication technology (ICT) training to students during school hours, along with supplementary agriculture training to farmers in the evenings and weekends.

The five-year project is based on the community service delivery model designed by Source Trust since 2009 that is tested and proven as a scalable, cost-effective way to engage with large numbers of rural farmers through community-based farmer groupings; to deliver services, and to ensure effective market linkages. Through the collection of data, over the course of this five-year project, the model will expand its ability to show additional impacts affecting yields, incomes and livelihoods of farmers.

Serving the Public Interest

The project brings high-level recognition to Ghanaian cocoa farmers and serves the public interest across stakeholders at the national government, community and farmer levels by:

- Supporting the overall strategy of the Ghana Cocoa Board helping to reach its national goals and objectives.
- Utilising the research work conducted by CRIG and assisting to disseminate approved planting materials for farmers' use and benefit.
- Assisting communities to have access to services that include access to clean drinking water and ICT facilities.
- Providing needed training and access to credit, inputs and other materials for cocoa farmers to improve their farming practices and professionalise their farm businesses.
- Engaging young adults to become involved and interested in cocoa farming that will provide them an entrepreneurship livelihood, to become independent and self-employed.

Serving the mission of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation

The project touches upon two of three focus areas of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation. It 1) creates the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers to improve their farming practices through farmer organization, training and monitoring of the practices, and it 2) creates an enabling environment for farmers to improve their practices through demonstration plots, nurseries, farm shops, access to clean drinking water and ICT facilities. Overall, the project fosters sustainable agricultural development in cocoa growing regions in Ghana, and enables the farmers to improve their livelihoods.