Sustainable Cocoa Butter Program
Côte d'Ivoire

Cocoa farmers from Côte d'Ivoire who produce cocoa beans for cocoa butter are provided with suitable training in agricultural, environmental and social topics, as well as access to farm investments necessary for a professional cocoa farm management in order to improve their livelihood and at the same time ensure environmental sustainability.

Context
Côte d'Ivoire is the largest cocoa producing country worldwide, currently still with around 40% of the global supply, making a large population and the country’s economy depending on cocoa production. Yet, smallholder cocoa farmers in Côte d’Ivoire have a low productivity (300-500 kg/ha) and subsequently low income, due to ageing cocoa trees, lack of knowledge about professional farm management (e.g. pruning, fertilizing, shade) and lack of tools and investments necessary for a professional farm management (e.g. pruning tools, suitable fertilizer). This pilot project tries to overcome these barriers by providing the necessary training and access to farm investments. It is also important for this project to aim for overall improvement in farmer livelihoods, which requires working on social and environmental issues in cocoa communities.

Project Content
This project covers 1’100 cocoa farmers from one cooperative during the pilot year. In the long term, the intention will be to reinforce the cooperative structure to convert it to a true ‘Farmer Service Centre’ from where farmers can access a range of different services and supplies and from where the extension system will be managed. The project’s focus lies on:

About the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:
The Lindt Cocoa Foundation was founded 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
• Farmer professionalization through training services:
  Farmer Training and advice on improved cocoa production (GAP), including advice on rehabilitation of old cocoa farms by replanting cocoa trees, regular pruning, soil fertility management, post-harvest practices, eco-system management etc. The longer the cooperative is in the program (Farmer Field School (FFS)), training days will decrease and the number of individual farm visits where coaching is provided by Lead Farmers will increase. The training program also creates awareness among producers of the environmental and social issues related to cocoa farming which range from the importance of not employing child labor to the proper use and storage of fertilizer so as to provide healthy conditions for the producer and their families as well as protect the environment.

• Farmer Field Schools and Demonstration Sites:
  Farmers learn best by seeing and by jointly discussing problems with other farmers and agro technicians in the field. Good agricultural practice training takes place through Farmer Field Schools where farmers are brought together on a designated cocoa farm which also acts as the demonstration site to physically implement recommended practices.

• Sales and supplies of inputs for improved cocoa production, including:
  ° inputs (e.g. fertilizers and pesticides)
  ° improved planting material for cocoa and shade trees
  ° small tools and equipment (e.g. pruning scissors, saw, etc.)

• Administrative support for Internal Control Systems (ICS) within the cooperative management structure

• Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS)

• Capacity Building for cooperative management:
  On the spot training includes organizational structure, transparency and good governance as well as administration and financial management in order to gradually delegate more functions related to traceability and procurement to the cooperative.

The project is accompanied by an extensive monitoring and performance management system for the participating farmers. A basic baseline farmer survey was conducted individually, and records continuously updated. Further, the project is also evaluated by an external and independent party.

Serving the mission of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:
The project touches upon two 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, trainings and monitoring of the practices, and it 2) creates an enabling environment for farmers to improve their practices through inputs, seedling nurseries, farming tools and equipment. Overall, the project fosters agricultural development in cocoa growing regions in Côte d’Ivoire, and enables the farmers to improve their livelihoods.