Sustainable Cocoa Butter Program
Ghana & Côte d’Ivoire

Cocoa farmers from Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire who produce cocoa beans for cocoa butter are provided with suitable training in agricultural, environmental and social topics. In order to improve their livelihoods, agricultural and community development is fostered.

Context
Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana are the two largest cocoa producing countries worldwide making a large population and the countries’ economies depending on cocoa production. Yet, smallholder cocoa farmers in these countries 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 year project tries to overcome these barriers by providing the necessary training, as well as agricultural and community development activities.

It is also important for this project to aim for overall improvement in farmer livelihoods and this requires working on social and environmental issues in cocoa communities in the medium term.

Project Content
This pilot project, running for one year, aims at implementing a traceable and sustainable cocoa bean supply chain for Cocoa Butter from Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire. 1’800 cocoa farmers are organized in farmers groups (Ghana: around Purchasing Clerks; Côte d’Ivoire: in Cooperatives) and trained by lead farmers (ratio 1 lead farmer for 70 farmers) in good agricultural, environmental and social
practices with particular focus on productivity, including the use of inputs and improved planting material. In training sessions, the farmers will for example be trained on post-harvest techniques, water and soil conservation, integrated pest management or responsible labor practices. The farmers are trained throughout the season through theory based class lessons and practical field lessons in farmer field schools for at least 8 days over 4 months (24 hours in total).

In addition, based on needs, funds are invested in agricultural and community development activities (e.g. planting appliances, seedling nurseries, primary school refurbishment).

The project is accompanied by an extensive monitoring and performance management system for the participating farmers. A 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
By offering smallholder farmers training and access to farm investments, the project touches a focus area of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation: Through training in good agricultural, environmental and social practices, the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers to improve their farming practices are created.

March 2017