Project Factsheet

Project duration: October 2018 – September 2021
Implementation partner: Sustainable Management Services (SMS) Ghana
Further partners: Lindt & Sprüngli, Ecoc in its capacity as SMS – Sustainable Management Services, Ghana Cocoa Board, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG), Secco – Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition GAIN, Meridia
Direct beneficiaries: 70,000 smallholder cocoa farmers
Focus areas covered: creating the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers; fostering an enabling environment and removing constraints

Rural Product and Service Delivery Models for the Professionalization of Cocoa Farmers
Ghana

Context
Ghana is the second largest cocoa producer in the world, producing approximately 900'000 MT of cocoa annually and involving nearly 800,000 cocoa farmer households. Ghanaian cocoa farmers are tackling combined challenges such as low productivity; lack of farmer entrepreneurship/professionalization; constraints to access financing for farm inputs and improved planting material and the negative effects of climate change.

This project is a follow-up to a 4-year programme with Sustainable Management Services (SMS) Ghana (formerly Source Trust), focused on building farmers capacity on sustainable agronomic practices and setting up efficient service delivery models that would reach out to farmers in need of agronomic and community development products and services. SMS observed increased uptake of sustainable practices, however adoption of improved practices and improvements in yield have not been realized at scale. Within this context, the next 4-year programme (2018 – 2021) aims to move from a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to using data and farm observations to give tailored advice, products and services farmers.

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
Project Content
The project aims to achieve improved and viable livelihoods of today’s and future farmers and their families, and a sustainable intensification of cocoa agriculture. Activities are targeted based on farmer segmentation which is done by taking into consideration field observations, farmer and farm data:

1) Improved access to agronomic knowledge and extension services to improve farmers’ capacity
2) Improved access to products and services to enhance cocoa productivity and make farmers’ livelihoods more sustainable
   a) Access to quality planting material
   b) Farm management and rehabilitation services
   c) Access to agro inputs on credit (with advice) and non-agro inputs (through Farm Shops)
   d) Access to savings and loans – either through VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Groups) or other innovative models (Saving and Loan clubs)
   e) Access to subsidized land documentation service for farmers
3) Improved child labour prevention system and support to community development initiatives in cocoa communities.
4) Improved community infrastructure and environment through facilitated capacity building approach to communities and through targeted investments
5) Improved integration of climate smart agricultural practices and landscape protection principles (linked to Cocoa and Forest Initiative)

The programme aims to reach 70’000 cocoa farmers in four regions of Ghana (Ashanti, Central, Western and Brong Ahafo) with a minimum target of 30% female farmers. The project is accompanied by an extensive monitoring and performance management system for the participating farmers. Further, the project is also evaluated by an external and independent party.

Serving the mission of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation
The project centers on Ghanaian coconut farming families, and touches upon two of the focus areas of the Lindt Cocoa Foundation:

1) Training and capacity building to create the motivation, capabilities and capacity of farmers to improve their farming practices
2) Agricultural and community development activities foster an enabling environment and remove constraints farmers face to improve their practices are removed.

February 2019