



2025 Progress Report



COCOA & FOREST INITIATIVE:
COLLECTIVE ACTIONS TO
ELIMINATE COCOA-RELATED
DEFORESTATION



TRACEABLE
TRACEABLE
FROM ORIGIN



FOREST-POSITIVE
PROTECTING FORESTS,
RESTORING NATURE



SUSTAINABLE
EMPOWERING PEOPLE,
DRIVING IMPACT



**Cocoa &
Forests
Initiative**



**World Cocoa
Foundation**



JBCOCOA



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Sustainable cocoa depends on responsible practices that protect forests, support livelihoods, and promote inclusive growth for present and future generation.




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The Cocoa & Forest Initiative: Collective Efforts to Eliminate Deforestation Linked to Cocoa

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 35 leading cocoa and chocolate companies, representing 85% of global cocoa usage, joined together in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative to help end deforestation and restore forest areas. Their combined actions play a crucial role in protecting and restoring biodiversity, sequestering carbon stocks in West African forests, and addressing climate change in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is a public private partnership based on frameworks for action (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) and action plans for the private sector (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) and public sector (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) that spell out commitments to:

- **protect and restore forests**
- **promote sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods**
- **engage communities and boost social inclusion.**

To learn more, follow #CocoaAndForests on social media, or visit [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#).

The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF); IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative; and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana drive the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. The Prince of Wales (now King Charles III) launched the Initiative in March 2017.



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Deforestation of tropical rainforests is a major issue in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which together produce nearly two-thirds of the world's supply of cocoa, the main ingredient in chocolate. According to Global Forest Watch, between 2002 and 2023, Côte d'Ivoire lost 28% and Ghana 13% of their humid primary forest, with a large portion of this loss attributable to cocoa farming expansion.

A comprehensive analysis is required to determine the exact contribution of cocoa production to deforestation. WCF, CFI members, and partners are working together on science-based methods to determine the share of cocoa production to overall deforestation rates with a high level of accuracy in cocoa producing countries. Data reliability and a good knowledge of the cause and location of deforestation is essential to develop effective and adequate mitigation measures and ensure that WCF members and partners are compliant with regulations such as the EUDR.

Cocoa provides crucial income to communities in rural West Africa, but farmers are too often faced with poverty. Poverty is one of the causes of deforestation. Accelerating a transition to sustainable livelihoods is essential for farmers' economic security and a healthy planet.





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The Three Pillars of CFI

The first priority: Protection and restoration of forests that have been degraded.

To this end, the governments and companies have pledged no further conversion of forest land for cocoa production and have committed to the phased elimination of illegal cocoa production and sourcing in protected areas.

Both countries are introducing a differentiated approach for improved management of forest reserves, based on the level of degradation of forests. In 2019, the government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted and published a new forest code which, among other things, put forth policies for the promotion of cocoa agroforestry to restore degraded land, improve forest cover, and promote sustainable livelihoods and agriculture in the classified forests and rural zones. Both governments have shared maps on forest cover and land-use, and continue to update the maps, including socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, to inform private sector investments. Companies have made significant investments in the promotion of cocoa agroforestry and the restoration of degraded forests.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these commitments, companies have pledged to develop traceability from farm to the first purchase point for their own purchases of cocoa. They also work with governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability encompassing all traders in the supply chain and to anticipate forthcoming due diligence legislation. The companies will similarly share information with the national satellite monitoring platforms to effectively monitor progress on CFI, as well as proactively address threats of new deforestation.



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The second priority: Sustainable agricultural production and increased farmer incomes.

These are essential pre-requisites for reducing pressure for agricultural encroachment into forests and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farmers to climate change.

The governments and companies are accelerating investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow “more cocoa on less land.” Key actions include provision of planting materials for the promotion of cocoa agroforestry, training in good agricultural practices, soil fertility, land tenure reform, and capacity building of farmers’ organizations. Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers are being accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, and development of mixed agroforestry systems and shade-grown cocoa.



The third priority: Strong community engagement and social inclusion, with a particular focus on women and youth.

The governments and companies have committed to full and effective consultation and participation of cocoa farmers in the design and implementation of key actions, and promotion of community based management models for forest protection and restoration. The governments have adopted social and environmental safeguards and are assessing and mitigating the social impacts and risks of any proposed land-use changes on affected communities.





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Tracing & Monitoring Supply



2024/25 Target: Deploy traceability tools and technology to ensure that 100% of directly sourced cocoa in our selected supply chain is traceable from farm to purchase point, with no cocoa originating from forest areas.

For all cocoa purchases within our CFI direct supply chains, we have implemented robust traceability tools to track cocoa from the farm to the first purchase point. Each farmer is assigned a unique farmer ID linked to a corresponding farm ID, supported by an up-to-date profile that includes key information such as farm size, number of plots, and estimated yield. Yield estimates define the maximum quantity a farmer is authorized to sell, and monitoring these quotas is critical to mitigating deforestation risks and ensuring compliance.

Our Sustainability Programme is managed through a third-party traceability software, where all farmers, farms, and transactions are registered digitally. Cocoa purchases are recorded at every stage of the supply chain—from farmer to buying station to exporter—and each batch is assigned a unique reference that enables full traceability back to the farm of origin.

During the 2024/25 crop season, we traced 13,598 MT of cocoa sourced under our CFI direct investment, representing 100% of our directly sourced cocoa and ensuring that all purchases originate from registered farmers operating within approved quotas. To further strengthen supply chain transparency, we also provide traceability training to our cocoa farmers.

13,598 MT

of cocoa purchased under our CFI direct cocoa investment was fully traceable in the 2024/25 crop year.

ROBUST

cocoa traceability systems and farmer quota management are key to ensuring verified origins and preventing cocoa sourcing linked to deforestation





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2024/25 Target: Complete farm polygon mapping for 100% of the farms within our selected direct supply chain.

All farms registered within our CFI direct cocoa supply chains have been mapped using polygon data through a digital application implemented in Côte d'Ivoire since 2021. These farm polygons are displayed on the web platform of our traceability software, where they are reviewed, verified, and approved by our Monitoring, Evaluation & Verification department.

10,444 farms mapped with polygon

During the 2024/25 season, farms registered in our CFI direct cocoa supply chains were mapped with polygons via a digital application, supporting traceability and deforestation risk management.



| Farm Polygon | |
|------------------------|--|
| ID | |
| Producer ID | |
| JB Identification Code | |
| Cooperative Name | |
| Farmer Name | |
| Farm Number | |
| Revision | |
| Ha Survey | |
| Ha Polygon | |

With our direct investments, we have achieved 100% traceability of our cocoa from the farm to the first purchase point within our direct supply chain for the 2024/25 season.



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2024/25 Target: Conduct a deforestation risk assessment in our sourcing areas.

After verifying data consistency—including the number of plots and polygons, as well as checks for duplicate farms, overlaps, and polygon shapes—we conduct a Deforestation Risk Assessment (DRA). This assessment involves cross-referencing farm polygon data with Côte d'Ivoire's national forest cover and land-use maps, supported by additional tools, maps, and indices to enhance accuracy.

Using GPS mapping and forest cover data, we assess the land area of cocoa farms participating in our Sustainability Programme to ensure that cocoa beans are sourced from deforestation-free areas. Each verified polygon is evaluated for potential risks of farm expansion into protected forests or designated conservation areas, and any alerts indicating potential deforestation are investigated and addressed through onsite verification.

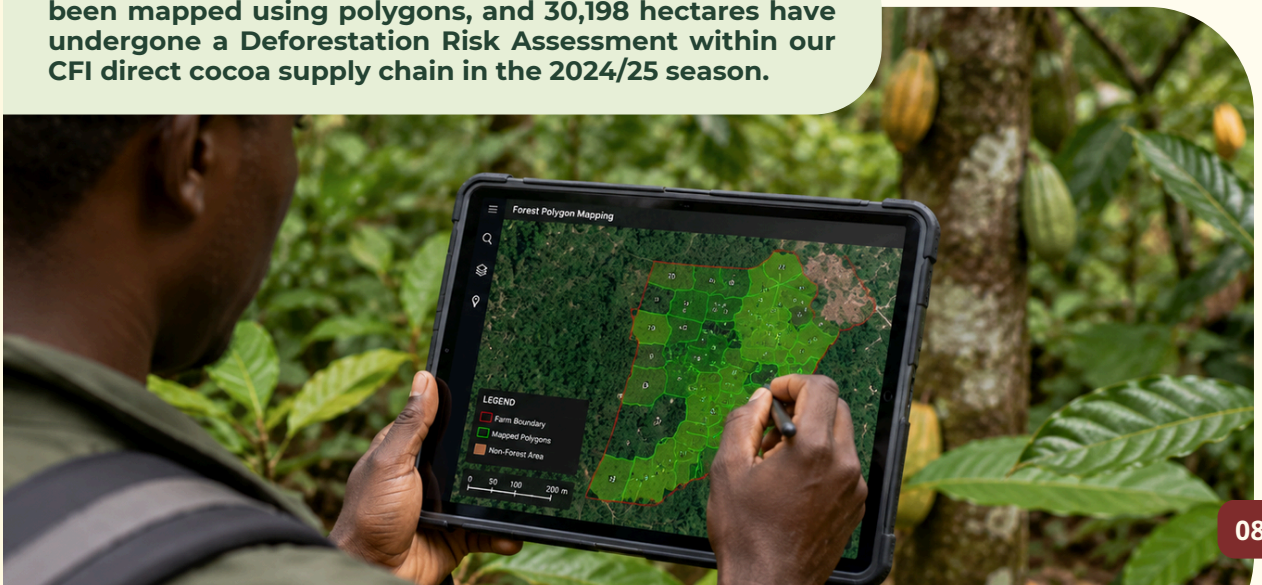
Beyond our internal verification system, all our direct programmes in Côte d'Ivoire are Rainforest Alliance-certified and are subject to an additional Deforestation Risk Assessment based on the Rainforest Alliance methodology.

For the 2024/25 supply chain, we mapped a total of 10,044 farms and conducted Deforestation Risk Assessments covering 30,198 hectares under our direct investment. This mapping and verification approach reinforces our commitment to responsible cocoa sourcing and the prevention of deforestation across our supply chain.

10,044 farms & 30,198 hectares

With a Deforestation Risk Assessment (DRA) conducted

With our direct investments, a total of 10,044 farms have been mapped using polygons, and 30,198 hectares have undergone a Deforestation Risk Assessment within our CFI direct cocoa supply chain in the 2024/25 season.





Forest Laws and Policies

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2024/25 Target: Promote and actively participate in awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions on forest law and related policies, aiming to reach 1,200 farmers. In parallel, we supported government efforts to develop adaptive management plans for forest areas, aimed at improving the livelihoods of cocoa-farming communities that depend on these forests. We also contributed to land-use planning initiatives to encourage sustainable agricultural practices and responsible forest management.

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**8,648 farmers
have been trained**

on forest policy, forest protection & forest restoration in 2024/25 via our direct investment.



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To support these efforts, we partnered with an international NGO specializing in sustainable cocoa supply chains. Leveraging the NGO's expertise, JB Cocoa worked to empower farmers with essential knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in cocoa cultivation, particularly in areas adjacent to forests.

As part of this collaboration, we conducted awareness-raising campaigns on Côte d'Ivoire's New Forest Code and delivered training on land tenure security and tree ownership. These activities were carried out across 49 communities in the Agneby-Tiassa, Nawa, Cavally, Guémon, Tonkpi, and Touba regions, strengthening farmers' understanding of forest governance and responsible land use.

Key Achievements:

- 8,648 farmers trained within our CFI direct cocoa supply chain through direct investments.
- Farmers were engaged through evening video screenings conducted in local languages to ensure clear understanding and effective participation.
- As part of our capacity-building efforts, 82 cooperative staff received specialized training and mentorship in andragogical methods, strengthening their ability to cascade training to farmers in their communities.

JB Cocoa remains actively engaged in national traceability initiatives and is proactively strengthening its systems in preparation for the upcoming European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).



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49 communities were reached in our CFI direct cocoa supply

Agroforestry and Development



2024/25 Target: To support the distribution and planting of 12,000 multipurpose tree seedlings for on-farm restoration through mixed agroforestry, in collaboration with 1,200 farmers, ensuring a minimum density of 18 trees per hectare.

Through a partnership with an international NGO, we strengthened farmers' awareness of forest protection and agroforestry. The initiative included community-based awareness campaigns using evening video projections in local languages to effectively engage farmers and promote sustainable land-use practices.

Key Achievements:

- Trainings conducted in 49 communities across the regions of Agneby-Tiassa, Nawa, Cavally, Guémon, Tonkpi, and Touba.
- 65,325 multipurpose tree seedlings distributed to farmers, significantly exceeding the initial target.
- 1,875 farmers adopted agroforestry practices, surpassing programme targets.
- 884 farmers within our CFI direct cocoa supply chain received technical assistance to adopt and expand agroforestry systems.

Farmers were trained on the benefits and implementation of agroforestry, with a focus on:

- Integrating cocoa with forest and fruit trees
- Best practices for establishing and maintaining agroforestry farms

In addition, 82 cooperative staff members participated in the training sessions, receiving mentorship in andragogical methods to enable them to effectively replicate the training within their respective cooperatives.



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The agroforestry demonstration plots established in the previous year were actively maintained throughout the reporting period. To enhance knowledge transfer, peer learning visits were organised at these plots, providing farmers with hands-on, field-based training. Under this peer-learning approach, trained farmers progressively became trainers themselves—first replicating training under field staff supervision, and later independently training other farmers. This methodology supports the scalability and long-term sustainability of agroforestry practices. Each farmer group received an agroforestry guide to support plot implementation and expansion.

To further support on-farm restoration, we distributed 65,325 multipurpose tree seedlings to farmers in our CFI direct cocoa supply chain. JB field staff closely monitored tree distribution and planting to minimise mortality and ensure successful establishment. On average, each farmer received 35 trees, which were integrated alongside existing shade trees.

Through these combined efforts, we continue to promote climate-smart cocoa farming, biodiversity conservation, and resilient agricultural systems. Agroforestry enhances cocoa productivity through improved shade management, increased biodiversity, better soil fertility, and reduced pest and disease pressure. It also diversifies farmers' income sources and contributes to climate change mitigation by increasing tree density per hectare and capturing greenhouse gas emissions. We track tree density per farm and per hectare to monitor progress and impact.

65,325 multipurpose trees
have been distributed through our
direct investments.

**1,875
farmers**

applying
agroforestry

**35
trees**

received by each
farmers complementing
the existing shade trees
on their farms

**4 agroforestry
demo plots**

have been actively
maintained



03 SUSTAINABLE COCOA PRODUCTION AND FARMER'S LIVELIHOODS

Productivity & Quality



2024/25 Target: Train 1,200 Farmers provided with technical assistance and support based on plans to professionalize & optimize cocoa farming practices.

A total of 884 farmers were trained in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), covering key topics such as pruning, pest and disease management, weed control, shade management, and harvest management. The trainings were delivered by trainers who received specialised instruction from an external consultant on the latest GAP standards.

Training activities were conducted using the Farmer Field School (FFS) and Peer Learning approaches to ensure effective knowledge transfer. The FFS is a participatory learning method that brings together small-scale farmers to collectively address agricultural challenges through hands-on, field-based learning. This approach strengthens farmers' observational, analytical, and decision-making skills while promoting the adoption of sustainable farming practices.

The Peer Learning approach further reinforces knowledge by enabling trained and motivated farmers to share best practices with their peers. Selected farmers receive targeted training on specific topics and, under the supervision of field staff, replicate the training within their communities. This model supports continuous learning, knowledge dissemination, and the long-term adoption of improved farming practices.




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884 farmers

have been chosen to participate in the Farm Development Plan (FDP).

995 farmers

have received technical assistance to professionalise and optimise cocoa farming practice.



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Farm Development Plan (FDP)

Through a targeted segmentation process, 884 farmers were selected to participate in the Farm Development Plan (FDP), which provides personalised coaching on Good Agricultural and Environmental Practices (GAPs). The FDP aims to sustainably increase farm productivity and improve farmers' incomes.

The programme integrates multiple technical components, including agriculture, agroforestry, nutrition, and market access. Farmers receive tailored, hands-on support through regular farm visits conducted by trained field facilitators, who assess agricultural practices, environmental performance, and socio-economic conditions. Each participating farmer is visited at least three times a year for ongoing guidance and progress monitoring. Based on these assessments, field facilitators provide customised recommendations aligned with each farmer's specific farm profile, enabling them to optimise productivity while strengthening long-term sustainability.



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884 farmers

have benefited from the Farm Development Plan (FDP), which received training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in our direct supply chain through our direct investments.

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Crop & Income Diversification



2024/25 Target: Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers through the distribution and planting of 12,000 multipurpose trees.

To support crop diversification within our CFI direct cocoa supply chain, we distributed 65,325 multipurpose tree seedlings to farmers for on-farm planting. Prior to distribution, farmers' needs were assessed to determine suitable tree varieties, enabling them to choose from 12 species, including both fruit and forest trees. The most commonly selected varieties included Bété and Fraké (forest trees) and Akpi (fruit tree).

This initiative promotes agroforestry on cocoa farms, which enhances cocoa productivity through improved shade management, increased biodiversity, and better soil fertility and nutrient availability, while also reducing pest and disease pressure. Agroforestry further diversifies farmers' income sources and strengthens climate resilience by integrating multiple crops and tree species.

Increased tree density per hectare contributes to greenhouse gas (GHG) sequestration, supporting climate change mitigation efforts. We track the number of trees planted per farm and per hectare to monitor progress and impact. Through these practices, farmers are better equipped to adapt to climate change while generating more stable and sustainable incomes.



65,325
multipurpose
trees

include fruits and forest species were provided to the farmers

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Child & Forced Labor Monitoring and Remediation

6,798
households

in our CFI direct supply chain are supported by child labor monitoring and remediation system.



A total of 6,798 households within our CFI direct cocoa supply chain are covered by the Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS). The system is designed to protect human rights and prevent child and forced labour, in line with Rainforest Alliance methodologies and our field experience.

JB Cocoa’s field staff—trained by third-party experts in child protection and child labor identification—are responsible for data collection, farmer training, and community sensitisation. Three types of surveys are conducted to assess risks, identify cases, and monitor progress: community-level, household-level, and child-level surveys. All data is digitally recorded and analysed by JB Cocoa’s Sustainability and Monitoring & Evaluation teams.

Monitoring visits are conducted twice a year, with findings presented to the Child Protection Committee to determine appropriate actions when child labor cases are identified. Each farmer group has its own Child Protection Committee, comprising cooperative administrators, community members, JB Cocoa representatives, and third-party NGO partners. Where immediate remediation is required, the Committee reviews each case and develops a tailored action plan in close collaboration with the affected community.


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As part of remediation efforts, school kits and agricultural materials—such as pele bongo (used for cocoa pod harvesting) and wheelbarrows—have been distributed to households with identified childlabor cases to support both education and safe farming practices.

JB Cocoa has also established a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct, which formalise our commitment to human rights, including the strict prohibition of child and forced labor. In addition, a Modern Slavery Policy has been developed and shared with suppliers and clients.

Company executives received specialised training from an external expert on identifying forced labor indicators and strengthening monitoring and remediation systems within the cocoa supply chain. This knowledge was subsequently cascaded to all field staff—including sustainability supervisors, field agents, and lead farmers—covering forced labor risks, human trafficking indicators, and awareness-raising. Some farmer groups also received training from the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI). As a result, staff working directly with farmers and workers were trained throughout 2025.

To further strengthen accountability, grievance mechanisms have been established across all farmer groups through the use of community letterboxes, enabling farmers and community members to confidentially report cases of forced or child labor. Building on these efforts, JB Cocoa will continue strengthening its forced labor monitoring systems through the development of comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) aligned with international indicators and Rainforest Alliance guidelines.

6,798 households

are covered by the Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) approach from our direct investments.



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Women Empowerment

Within our supply chains, we have introduced Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) to support income diversification at the community level. A total of 813 individuals, including 660 women and 153 men, have joined organised groups to engage in collective economic activities aimed at strengthening household livelihoods.

Under this initiative, women from farming communities are supported to assess and select suitable income-generating activities based on key criteria such as profitability, available internal resources, and external inputs required. This assessment and selection process is facilitated by JB Cocoa field staff, who provide technical guidance throughout.

Women are organised into Women Associations within each farmer cooperative, bringing together members who share a common income-generating interest. Based on the identified needs and feasibility assessments, each group selects one or two activities to implement. During the 2024/25 reporting period, the main IGAs implemented across our supply chains included cassava production, beans production, market gardening, and rice production.

To support successful implementation, JB Cocoa provides targeted training on relevant agricultural techniques, as well as access to necessary materials, tools, and inputs. Through these efforts, the IGA programme enhances women's economic empowerment, strengthens household resilience, and contributes to more diversified and sustainable income sources within cocoa-growing communities.



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656 women and 339 men
have engaged with VSLAs


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Women's Empowerment and Diversification

In 2025, JB Cocoa supported farmer groups in 49 communities by promoting Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) through the provision of materials, equipment, inputs, and targeted training on agricultural techniques aligned with the selected activities. To enhance sustainability and financial inclusion, these IGAs were linked to Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), enabling participants to build savings and access financial services.

A total of 18 VSLAs were established, benefiting 995 individuals, including 656 women, and strengthening community-based economic resilience.

Access to Finance

All 995 VSLA members received training on the VSLA methodology, covering key topics such as solidarity fund rules, share purchasing, credit management, and leadership. Members also worked collaboratively to develop internal governance rules for their respective VSLA groups.

In the next phase, JB Cocoa and its partners will further strengthen the VSLAs by facilitating linkages with microfinance institutions and providing financial literacy training, supporting members to improve financial management skills and access formal financial services.

995 members (656 women)

have benefited from 18 VSLAs that we supported from our direct investments.



ANNEX 1: TRACKING TABLE

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| Description | Target (Current reporting year) | # Through direct investment (Current reporting year) | # Through direct investment (Since 2018) |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION | | | |
| # of farms mapped in direct supply chain: Total Active | 1,975 | 10,044 | 24,183 |
| # of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed | 4,100 | 30,198 | 73,629 |
| # metric tons of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point (target is 100%) | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| # farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code, forest policy, law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration | 1,200 | 8,648 | 10,549 |
| # farmers applying agroforestry: Total Active | 1,200 | 1,875 | 2,330 |
| # farmers applying agroforestry: New | 0 | 884 | 929 |
| # farmers provided with technical assistance to adopt and expand agroforestry | 1,200 | 884 | 1,933 |
| # hectares cocoa agroforestry: Total Active | 0 | 1,875 | 2,330 |
| # hectares cocoa agroforestry: New | 0 | 884 | 929 |



ANNEX 1: TRACKING TABLE

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| Description | Target (Current reporting year) | # Through direct investment (Current reporting year) | # Through direct investment (Since 2018) |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| # farmers provided with technical assistance to be more resilient to climate change and reduce and remove carbon emissions on farm (e.g., CSC) | 1,200 | 884 | 2,785 |
| # farmers provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to professionalize & optimize cocoa farming practices | 1,200 | 995 | 2,933 |
| # individuals participating in additional Income Generating Activities (IGA's) | 0 | 813 | 1,552 |
| # individuals provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to increase income from non-cocoa sources / IGA's | 0 | 995 | 1,450 |
| # Individuals provided with technical assistance to save money and access finance | 0 | 813 | 1,552 |
| # of members of VSLA groups in the current year | 0 | 995 | 1,988 |
| # of VSLA groups in the current year | 0 | 18 | 49 |
| SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY | | | |
| # of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities | 0 | 995 | 1,367 |
| # of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (15-35 years old) | 0 | 367 | 367 |
| # multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting | 12,000 | 65,325 | 113,226 |



ANNEX 2: RESULT STORIES

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Konan Roger, 39

Mr. Konan Roger, 39, is a dedicated cocoa producer from Diabily village, 35 km from Bolequin in western Ivory Coast. He has managed his 3.9 hectares of cocoa farmland for the past 12 years. In 2024, he joined the JB Cocoa sustainability program, becoming one of 1,576 producers in his region cultivating 4,052.98 hectares and producing about 2,483 tons of quality cocoa beans.

Since joining the program—particularly through the plot pruning initiative—Mr. Konan Roger has experienced a clear increase in yield and bean quality. “Before the program, my production was around 350–500 kg/ha. Now, I produce between 500–1,000 kg/ha.” These results stem from targeted interventions such as professional pruning carried out in May 2025 and proper fertilization.

Practical training in school fields and demonstration plots further strengthened his technical skills, enabling him to adopt best agricultural practices. As a result, he successfully prevented brown rot this year, breaking a recurring cycle of crop loss.

Beyond farming improvements, the program has positively impacted his social and economic life. He is now an active member and president of an AVEC (Association Villageoise d’Épargne et de Crédit). The plot pruning program has also reinforced community bonds and collaboration between SGI and group members.

This initiative shows that plot pruning revitalizes cocoa trees, reduces pests and diseases, lowers input costs, and improves yields and bean quality. These benefits enhance family well-being and help secure a better future for cocoa-producing households. Through his commitment and the program’s support, Mr. Konan Roger has become a model of success and expresses sincere gratitude to his cooperative and its partner, JB Cocoa.



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Mr. Sawadogo Harouna, 45 years old and pictured below wearing an orange T-shirt, is a dedicated cocoa producer living in the village of Jeunessekro, located 7 km from Duekoue in western Côte d'Ivoire. For the past 15 years, he has been diligently cultivating his 5 hectares of cocoa farmland. In 2022, he joined JB Cocoa's sustainability program, followed by the CLMRS project focused on child welfare. He is now one of 40 producers in his area who collectively cultivate 139 hectares of cocoa and produce 87.6 tons of quality cocoa beans.

Thanks to the various initiatives under the program, Mr. Sawadogo Harouna has seen his production increase year after year, along with a notable improvement in bean quality. This success reflects several key interventions, including practical training sessions, school-field activities for continuous learning, demonstration plots for testing best agricultural practices, and the distribution of the Bongo shovel—a tool designed to extract beans from pods without damaging them during pod-breaking.

Beyond its agricultural impact, the project has also strengthened the social fabric of Jeunessekro. The distribution of school kits as a remedial action—both to Mr. Sawadogo Harouna's children and to children across the community—has significantly helped reduce the rate of school dropout in the village over the past two years.

This initiative illustrates how the CLMRS program goes far beyond addressing child labor within the cocoa sector. It actively supports the well-being, education, and future of children in local farming families. Through his determination and the program's support, Mr. Sawadogo Harouna has become an inspiring role model, motivating his community to believe in a more sustainable and prosperous future, grounded in children's education and improved access to essential resources.

In light of all the positive outcomes mentioned above—and the many additional community development actions involving women, such as AVEC initiatives—he express his deep gratitude and joy to the leaders behind these transformative efforts that continue to change the lives of our children. He extends his deepest gratitude to his cooperative and its partner JB Cocoa.

Sawadogo Harouna, 45





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Mr. Bolly Issiaka, 45, is a dedicated cocoa producer from the village of Tiemenson, located 35 km from Duekoue in western Ivory Coast. For the past 17 years, he has diligently cultivated his 4.5 hectares of cocoa. In 2022, he joined the JB Cocoa sustainability program, becoming one of 421 producers in the area who collectively manage 1,112.63 hectares of cocoa plantations and produce approximately 702,579 kg of quality cocoa beans.



Bolly Issiaka, 45

Since participating in the plot-pruning program, Mr. Issiaka has experienced a noticeable increase in production alongside significant improvements in bean quality. This progress is the result of strategic actions, including the pruning of his plot by brigadiers in March 2025, followed by appropriate fertilization. Furthermore, continuous training through school-field sessions and the use of demonstration plots to apply best practices enabled him to avoid brown rot this year, effectively ending the cycle of the disease that had previously damaged his harvest.

Beyond its agricultural benefits, the plot-pruning program has also strengthened community cohesion within the village and deepened collaboration between SGI and the farmer groups. This initiative demonstrates that plot pruning not only revitalizes cocoa trees but also effectively combats pests and diseases, reduces production costs, increases yields, and enhances bean quality. These improvements contribute directly to family well-being and help secure a better future for children in cocoa-producing households.

With determination and the support of the sustainability program, Mr. Bolly Issiaka now represents an inspiring example of success, encouraging his community to believe in a sustainable and prosperous future where increased income supports children's education. In light of these positive impacts, he expresses his gratitude and joy to the leaders responsible for these transformative initiatives. He extends his sincere thanks to his cooperative and its partner JB Cocoa.



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TRACEABLE
FROM ORIGIN



FOREST-POSITIVE
PROTECTING FORESTS,
RESTORING NATURE



SUSTAINABLE
EMPOWERING PEOPLE,
DRIVING IMPACT



**Cocoa &
Forests
Initiative**



**World Cocoa
Foundation**