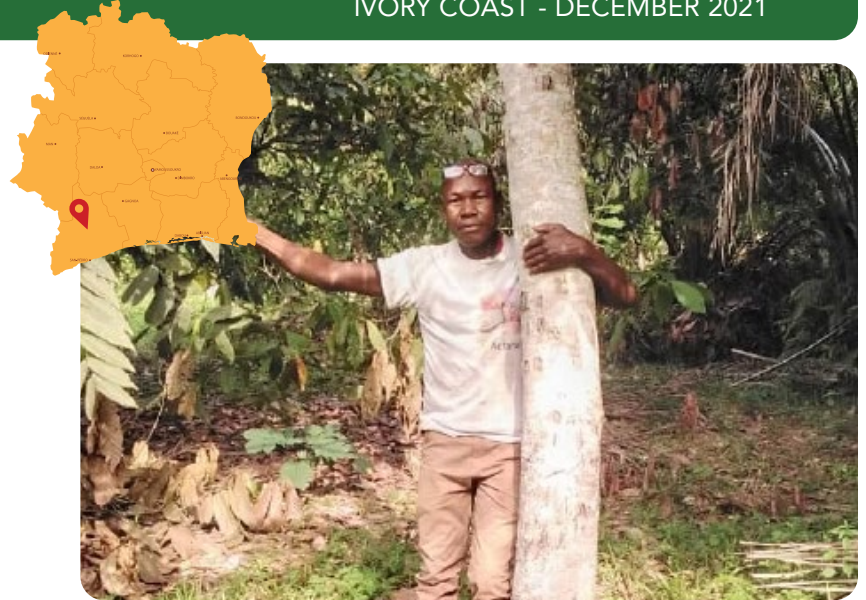


INSPIRATIONS IN SUSTAINABILITY

IVORY COAST - DECEMBER 2021

Guiemde Sidibé Alexandre

Located in the Nawa region, 49 km South of Soubré, the regional capital, the city of Méagui is home to several cocoa cooperatives. Among the cooperatives operating in this area, the SCAES cooperative is one of our partners in our Sustainable Origins program. We met with Guiemde Sidibé Alexandre, a cocoa farmer who integrated our sustainability program at the beginning of the 2013-2014 cocoa campaign.



Guiemde Sidibé Alexandre

"I live in the district of Gniti Touadji where I created my cocoa farm in 1990. Between 2008 and 2009, I cut almost all the non-cocoa trees in my farm. At the time, I thought their presence in my field was a source of disease and unproductivity and the trees would prevent the sun from touching my cocoa trees. A few years later, my cocoa trees began to die in large numbers under the action of the strong rays of the sun. Insects also invaded my farm, the soil became dry and poor, and cocoa trees were losing their canopy. I wasn't making enough money anymore.

When I joined the sustainability program, I was able to rehabilitate a good part of my field whose cocoa trees had died. I also attended trainings during which the lead farmers and the program supervisors talked about the benefits of planting trees explaining that the absence of shade trees in our fields exposes our cocoa trees to the sun's rays.

I have received fruit and forest trees every year from the program since I joined in 2013. Today, I have 35 trees in my farm; among which I have species like the fraké, the akpi and the Framiré which grow very well and now produce fruits that are a source of income for my family.

My farm looks nice now and I am very happy and proud because the sun no longer kills my cocoa trees. I also engage pruning teams to maintain my farm and apply good agricultural practices. My harvest has doubled in the past two seasons.

Thanks to the income from my cocoa crops and some small others business, my wife was able to start a vegetable business. I also plan to open a hardware store for the family at the end of this cocoa campaign.

I urge all my cocoa farming friends regardless of their locality to plant trees in their farms because I believe they can also benefit from it!"

Blommer is a signatory of the Cocoa and Forest Initiative through which we have announced our commitment to end deforestation and forest degradation in our direct supply chains in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. To promote reforestation, the Fuji Group also committed to plant 1 million forest and fruit trees in cocoa growing areas by 2030. We continue to deliver on those commitments through our Sustainable Origins program and partnerships with suppliers and customers.

