



Annual Progress Report 2021 *- Côte d'Ivoire -*

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative: Collective Action to End Cocoa-Related Deforestation

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 end deforestation and restore forest areas. Their combined actions play a crucial role in sequestering carbon stocks in West African forests and addressing climate change, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative delivers on 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 [CocoaAndForests.org](#) and [WorldCocoa.org](#).

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 launched the Initiative in March 2017 and reviewed implementation progress in November 2018.

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. [Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#) respectively lost 26% and 9.3% of their humid primary forest between 2002 and 2020, with a significant portion of deforestation attributable to cocoa farming expansion.

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.

The first priority is the 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.

1 TESTIMONIAL
GODE AGODIO

Lakota – Productivity
GPS COORDINATES: 5.86 01 63 / -5.72 95 06

Lakota is a town located in the West of Ivory Coast, 50km from Gagnoa, where many cocoa producing communities reside from a diverse background. Several cocoa cooperatives are established in Lakota, and have integrated various cocoa sustainability programs.

The cooperative SOCOPDAL has been engaged in sustainability programs for more than 7 years in partnership with Touton and Blommer. Gode Agodio, a farmer who lives in the Neko district, is a member of SOCOPDAL.



"I have become a member of SOCOPDAL in 2017, because I wanted to benefit from Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training, pruning services and coaching. My cocoa farm is 1,25ha and is about 14 years-old. I was harvesting about 500-600kg, which was less than what I wanted and less than what a young cocoa farm should be capable of producing. I wasn't aware of the importance of applying GAP, I was not even pruning my trees but basically harvesting only. When the program staff SOCOPDAL arrived, they talked about pruning and planting forest and fruit trees. I wasn't convinced at first but later I agreed to allow my farm turn into a demonstration farm to show the benefits to the wider community. A few months after the heavy pruning took place, the area that had been pruned looked a lot better: the cocoa pods were beautiful, free from Mirid and pests. So I contacted the pruning team called Cocotechs based in Neko to have them also prune my entire farm. On top of GAP advice, the cooperative also offered to purchase fertilizers on credit, to boost my farm yield. I also registered on the list of recipients for tree seedlings.

Today, after 3 years of continuous pruning, my harvest is strong, and am able to harvest now around 900kg per year.

The income from this bigger production allows me to carry out my projects and build my house. I have already started to gather the concrete I will need for the house. My wife continues her food business, and we are able to pay for our children's school tuition."

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 (in development) to effectively monitor progress on CFI, as well as proactively address threats of new deforestation.

The next critical priority is 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 improved planting materials, 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 final area of focus is 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

2 TESTIMONIAL
MR. OUEDRAOGO

On-going forestry activity in Kpada
GPS COORDINATES: 5.74 91 00 / 4.46 93 40

Located in the village of Kpada and less than a kilometer from Soubré, the Community Forest covers an area of half a hectare.

Mr. OUEDRAOGO Drissa, cocoa farmer, was able to create a Community Forest on his own and wants to be a forest owner.

"Five years ago, our village was suffering from a lack of forest and when the program partners offered us forest tree seedlings to be planted on our farms, I was able to obtain a hundred seedlings.

I planted 30 trees on my 1 ha cocoa farm and with the remaining 70 I created a Community Forest in my village. The following year I planted another 30 trees, leading to 100 trees planted in total in the Community Forest. I am very proud to say that all of the 100 trees in the Community Forest as well as the 30 in my own cocoa farm survived.

Thanks to the awareness activities conducted by program partners on the importance of preserving forests, but also with the increased impacts of climate change and the lack of rain we've suffered from, we decided to grow the Community Forest. Increasingly more of my friends have decided to join me and support and protect this growing forest understood the community forest.

We've planted two species here namely Cedrela and Fraké. continue to ask for many more seedlings to be planted, in order to create more Community Forests in our area. We also continue to encourage other villages too to create Community Forests to gradually reforest Soubré. For us, the solution to the challenges we face by climate change is to plant trees to ensure we have enough rain for our crop."



assessing and mitigating the social impacts and risks of any proposed land-use changes on affected communities.

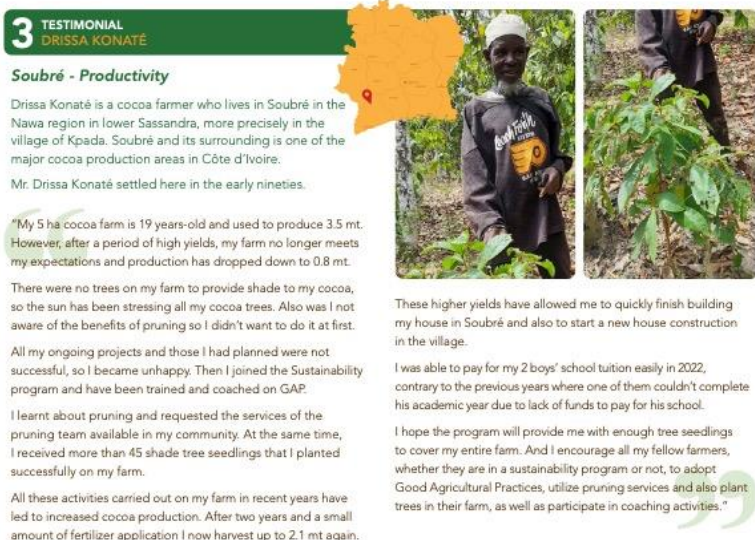
Blommer Cocoa & Forest Initiative Results

3 TESTIMONIAL
DRISSA KONATÉ

Soubré - Productivity

Drissa Konaté is a cocoa farmer who lives in Soubré in the Nawa region in lower Sassandra, more precisely in the village of Kpada. Soubré and its surrounding is one of the major cocoa production areas in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Drissa Konaté settled here in the early nineties.



"My 5 ha cocoa farm is 19 years-old and used to produce 3.5 mt. However, after a period of high yields, my farm no longer meets my expectations and production has dropped down to 0.8 mt.

There were no trees on my farm to provide shade to my cocoa, so the sun has been stressing all my cocoa trees. Also was I not aware of the benefits of pruning so I didn't want to do it at first.

All my ongoing projects and those I had planned were not successful, so I became unhappy. Then I joined the Sustainability program and have been trained and coached on GAP.

I learnt about pruning and requested the services of the pruning team available in my community. At the same time, I received more than 45 shade tree seedlings that I planted successfully on my farm.

All these activities carried out on my farm in recent years have led to increased cocoa production. After two years and a small amount of fertilizer application I now harvest up to 2.1 mt again.

Blommer recognizes that the cultivation of agricultural commodities, including cocoa, has been a driver of accelerated deforestation and forest degradation in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the world's leading producers of cocoa. In response to this challenging problem, Blommer, working with other industry leaders and key development partners, helped to establish the Cocoa and Forests Initiative. Through this effort we have announced our commitment to end deforestation and forest degradation in our direct supply chains in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Given the vital role that smallholder cocoa farming plays in providing for employment and income in local communities, efforts to end deforestation and forest degradation must be done in a socially acceptable manner. In all of our efforts, we understand the critical need for a balanced and comprehensive approach between farmers' livelihoods and the environmental challenges.

Blommer's vision for the end of deforestation and establishing reforestation efforts in our direct supply chains aligns with our broader sustainability goals of farm crop diversification which allows for supplemental household income, and improved nutrition for families. It is through this lens that Blommer's agroforestry and shade tree strategy will be developed to ensure that tree varieties introduced to cocoa farms are native and provide not only canopy development but direct benefit to the farm and/or the farming family. These benefits may include, but will not be limited to, improved soil fertility, medicinal uses and direct food sources. In this way, the farm family can realize some more immediate benefits of tree introduction and the overall strategy can provide solutions that avoid a vicious cycle of trees only planted for later timber harvesting.

With a clear and comprehensive approach which builds upon on long standing agroforestry activity and in alignment with our farmer partners, Blommer believes that success can be achieved where all stakeholders benefit.

West Africa Cocoa Farm Dataset and DRA

- To help realize effective landscape partnerships, and contribute to deforestation monitoring, the World Cocoa Foundation and Climate Focus in partnership with the World Resources Institute are working with companies to develop a comprehensive dataset of cocoa plot locations in the direct supply chain and an aligned method for assessing deforestation risk.
- An aggregate view of cocoa plot locations across West Africa will provide a basis for identifying opportunities for pre-competitive collaboration. Paired with the outputs of the risk assessment, collaboration can proceed in the areas that matter most for addressing deforestation.

- Creation of the comprehensive dataset is underway, and a beta version of the risk assessment has been developed. The final risk assessment will go through a peer review process and be made available as a freely accessible public good through WRI's Global Forest Watch platforms to help drive aligned deforestation risk management across the cocoa sector for impact at scale.

Same as in previous years, Blommer focused its attention in 2021 on the distribution of 47,086 fruit and forest trees to farmers to be planted on their existing cocoa farms. We promote the planting of 20 forest and fruit trees/ha so have - with the distribution of the trees - lead to an estimated 2,210 ha of shade grown cocoa or agroforestry under development.

In terms of farmers' livelihoods, Blommer promoted the planting of 260,598 cocoa seedlings which had been sewn in 13 cocoa nurseries leading to the rehabilitation of 195ha of cocoa farms. During 2021, a total of 3,418 farmers were trained on GAP as part of group trainings and/or individual coaching.

Under Empowered Communities Blommer is working with 5 communities in 2021 across a variety of community development activities including VSLA. A total of 1,121 farmers of which 79% women were participating in 42 VSLAs.

4 TESTIMONIAL
SANKARA ABDOULAYE

SCOOPAZEG cooperative

Sankara Abdoulaye is 50-year-old man who lives in Gbagbam in the region of Gbokle, department of Fresco, with his his wife and 4 daughters.

Mr. Sankara has a 6-ha cocoa farm and is a member of the SCOOPAZEG cooperative.



"A few years ago, I started noticing that rainfall dropped and at the same time temperatures rose. This situation has caused the death of many cocoa trees and declining yields. There are increasingly longer periods of drought and less reliable months with rain making it less predictable. This change in climate negatively affects our yields. It's evident that the vegetation cover is gradually disappearing, partly due to drought and partly due to CSSV spreading.

This is why the program partners organized a training during which they talked about climate change and deforestation that are the main causes for the lack of rain I witness. Coop staff came to map my farm and I learnt that my farm is 6 ha. The cooperative has given me 100 trees since 2014. I planted them all and 80 are still alive today and provide shade to my cocoa trees. I'd like to have more seedlings to replace the 20 that died. It's also worth saying that the village chief of Gbagbam plans to set up a Community Forest this year and I was selected to lead the project. I do not know yet how to proceed to obtain my land title. And what's worse is that to my knowledge, I will need to pay 50,000 FCFA to register 1ha of land. But for the time being, I have more than 80 large and visible trees of different species on my farm. Even better, the cooperative negotiated a hectare of uncultivated land that will be transformed into a Community Forest.

The whole community has been made aware of deforestation and is now supportive of the creation of this Community Forest that will promote tree planting to fight climate change and deforestation. On top of that, the women and youth of the village will take an active part in the creation of this Community Forest. In my opinion it is necessary to engage women and youth in the decision-making and in carrying out all activities that relate to the well-being of our community, because women and youth hold an important place in society."

Key Highlights in 2021

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Prosperous Farmers

3,418 farmers trained in **good agriculture practices**

1,711 farmers with valid **Farm Development Plans (FDP)** developed and agreed by farmers

Empowered Communities

1,121 farmers participated in **42 village savings and loan association**

235 individuals participating in **youth focused projects and activities** (15-35 years old)

Healthy Planet

6,574 or 86% of **farms mapped** in our direct supply chain

47,086 **multi-purpose trees** distributed to farmers for agroforestry leading to an approx. development of 2,210 ha of cocoa agroforestry

1,000 seedlings distributed for **off farm planting** in and around schools

5,694 farmers trained on **CSC practices**

4,263 farmers informed or trained on the new **Forest Code, law enforcement, forest protection and restoration**

GHANA

Prosperous Farmers

1,800 **farmers** trained in **good agriculture practices**

175 farmers with valid **FDP** developed and agreed by farmers

Empowered Communities

230 individuals participating in **youth focused projects and activities** (15-35 years old)

Healthy Planet

1,473 **farms mapped** in our direct supply chain

3,500 **multi-purpose trees** distributed to farmers for agroforestry leading to an approx. development of 194 ha of cocoa agroforestry

1,800 farmers trained on **CSC practices**

1,800 farmers informed or trained on the new **Forest Code, law enforcement, forest protection and restoration**

The following table only includes data on our programs in Côte d'Ivoire as our program in Ghana was not originally part of our 5 year CFI commitment (2018 – 2022).

Indicator	2022 Target	# Through direct investment (Current reporting year)	# On behalf of clients (Current reporting year)	# Through direct investment (Since 2018)
FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION				
# of cocoa plots mapped in direct supply chain	3,300	7,189	32,399	
# of farms mapped in direct supply chain	3,000	6,574	29,286	
# of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed			37,404	
% of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point*	100%	70%		
# hectares restored in Forest Reserve / Forêts Classée			26	
# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code, law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	600	4,263	15,959	
# farmers applying agroforestry		1,941	12,311	1,941
# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	135,000	47,086	272,020	141,139
# hectares cocoa agroforestry in development	6,750	2,210	13,440	6,913
# of trees distributed for off-farm planting		1,000	25,275	1,000
# hectares of forest area restored off-reserve / in rural zone			188	
# farmers trained in CSC best practices		5,694	19,839	
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND FARMERS' LIVELIHOOD				
# improved cocoa seedlings distributed to farmers				260,598
# of farmers reached by GAP training programs	3,000	3,418	23,098	
# individuals participating in additional Income Generating Activities (IGA's)		330	2,058	
# of individuals in the current reporting year enrolled in a formal financial products and services with support from companies			14,235	
# of members of VSLA groups in the current year	300	1,121	5,957	
# of VSLA groups in the current year	10	42	214	42
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY				
# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program (CBNRM)			3	
# hectares under CBNRM			5	
# of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities		1,121	4,699	
# of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (15-35 years old)		235	498	
* In alignment with enforced CFI definition, volumes traceable can be counted only when a farm has all the known related farm plot fully mapped with a polygon.				