



SUMMARY

GROUPING UNORGANIZED
SMALLHOLDER FARMERS



A FARMGATE COCOA ALLIANCE
COCOA SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

“GROUPING THE UNORGANISED SMALLHOLDER COCOA FARMERS”

Project Owner	Farmgate Cocoa Alliance (FCA)
Funding Partner(s)	
Project Objectives	Secure Long-Term Cocoa Sustainability
Project Duration	2019 – 2025 (6 years)
Project Implementer	Farmgate Cocoa Alliance and Collaborating Partner(s)
Total Project Cost	

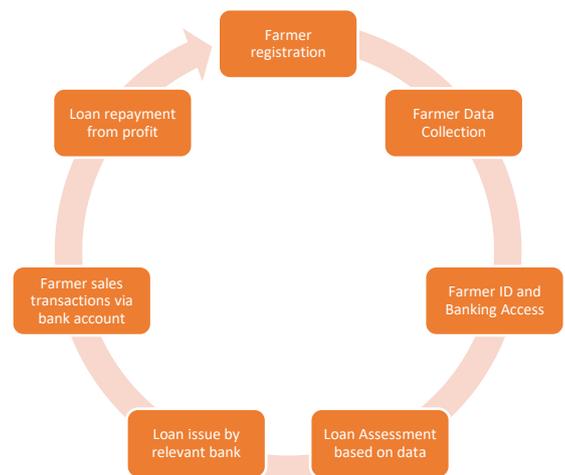
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project aims to identify and group 1 million unorganized smallholder cocoa farmers in cocoa growing communities in Ivory Coast, Ghana and Cameroon by 2025. Using our Community Field Agents (CFC’s) we will identify and group unorganized smallholders’ farmers in West and Central Africa, into groups cocoa growing region, in an effort to strengthen smallholder farmers and secure long-team cocoa sustainability. They will also be train on GAPs, and how to advocate, project will build smallholders capacity, so they are able to manage their cocoa farm as a business and become successful cocoa entrepreneurs.

2. HOW WE DO IT ?

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance (FCA), has a well-trained team at national level. Team member will train Community Field Agents (CFAs), who are selected cocoa farmers. After successfully trained the CFAs can practice activities in cocoa growing regions. The CFAs are local resident in the community he/she is responsible for, to group and train the unorganized smallholder so they have the opportunity to upgrade their farming skills on GAPs and to manage a professional cocoa farming business.

The grouped farmers will also be encouraged to join some of the existing farmers cooperatives or organized groups that are practically implement democratic values expected from farmers driven and lead entity.



To secure successful implementation of this project, key stages have been defined into six elements that are required to be realize, using our local organizational structure described above that will be coordinated by our international and national secretariat staffs.

3. ELEMENTS

Element 1 – Community Field Agents (CFAs)

Community Field Agents (CFAs) are young men and women from cocoa farming communities who are selected and trained by FCA national secretariat professionals. Therefore, to be able to successfully implement this project we have identify and train strong talented young men and women who are locals in the communities where this project will be implemented. They were trained by our experts staff of our national secretariat.

Element 2 Groups Formation

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance trained Community Field Agent’s CFAs ,will identify and group unorganized smallholders within cocoa growing communities into sizeable groups using FCA model of Community Block Farming Method (CBFM). These are groups of farmers who farm in the same area and share boundaries.

Grouping will also identify two categories of unorganized smallholder cocoa farmers which will help pave the way for poverty alleviation and a step forward in professionalizing smallholding cocoa farming. We will be able to distinguish two categories of small-scale cocoa farmer to filter the farmers who have the potential to become professional farmers.

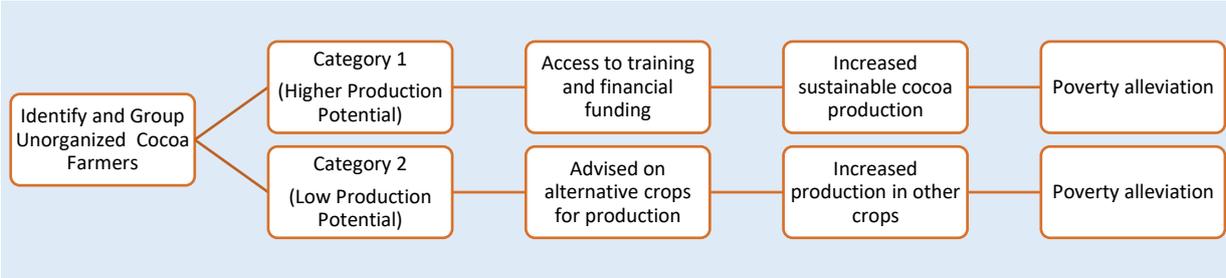
Category 1

The grouped farmers who have the potential to increase annual cocoa yield from a few kilo’s to at least 2 tons on the same piece of land will be considered as “potential professional cocoa farmers” and will be eligible to benefit from support which will include access to training on GAPs, provision of tools, inputs, and financial loans. So, they can invest in their farm which will help them increase annual cocoa bean production and earn more sustainable income.

Category 2

Farmers whose farms can only produce few kilo’s and there is no other potential in the same piece of land if being supported on the same farm land, will be considered as not a “professional cocoa farmer”. Such farmers will be advised to switch to an alternative farming profession like growing cassava, yam and plantain which enable them to have a sustainable income to take care of themselves and their family.

2 Categories of Unorganized Farmers



Mapping & data collection

During the grouping of the smallholder farmers we will collect data and map the farms. Data will include: name and gender of farmers, date and place of birth including that of direct family

members, farm size and names of bordering farms owners, annual yield, farming methods, community and farm location, just to name a few. This activity will only take place for the group of category 1 farmers, as they have the potential to become cocoa entrepreneurs.

Training on GAPs and capacity building

The grouped farmers will receive training and capacity building from their local Community Field Agent (CFA). Training will include key education on GAPs, sustainability practices, production improvement techniques and business practices so they have the tools and knowledge to manage successful farming business. Training will be organized once a month simultaneously in the diverse regions in Ivory Coast, Ghana and Cameroon

Organized workshops

‘During the grouping farmers will also be sensitized. Every three months CFAs’ will organize workshops in every community. Each workshop will have at least 62 participants. Workshop will consist of two parts: 1) keep sensitizing farmers and building their advocacy capacity and to train them on how they can collectively address common challenges affecting their lives and profession. The advocacy will focus on topics such as; eliminating child and forced labour in cocoa production, gender inequality, female farmer empowerment, protection of farmers and workers’ rights and ensure a better working condition. 2) Refresh training on GAPs and capacity building and to discuss the implementation on that was farmers have learned.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of the activities will take place at least 3 times a year (on unspecified timetable) in every community. This will be done by a monitoring team of four persons (two implementers and two project funder). Once a year results of the monitored activities will be send to partner(s) and published on our website.

6. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Some Challenges

Smallholder cocoa farmers particularly in west and central Africa, continues to face challenges in their profession as cocoa entrepreneur, including low income, climate change, deforestation and lack of bargaining power.

These coupled with bad infrastructure, weak representation at national and international level, zero involvement in research, poor access to innovative farming skills, low productivity, lack of money to reinvest in farm, and unfair cocoa policy at national and international levels.

These challenges including the below listed can only be address when cocoa farming is recognized by other relevant stakeholders in the sector including government as a business.

- i. Widespread of poverty among cocoa farmers and farm workers
- ii. Lack of better farming knowledge on GAPs and human rights
- iii. Lack of farm resources like inputs, hybrid seed, fertilizers, herbicides, irrigation and farm management
- iv. Zero access to financial loan, pension benefits and sustainable income.
- ii. limited value addition to cocoa products and risk benefits

- iii. Insufficient cocoa farming manpower and skills
- v. Diseases and pests control treats
- vi. Limited access to sustainable and quality input and output markets
- vii. Marginalization of women farmers and lack of capacity
- viii. Emerging threats to create new cocoa farms as a result of deforestation.

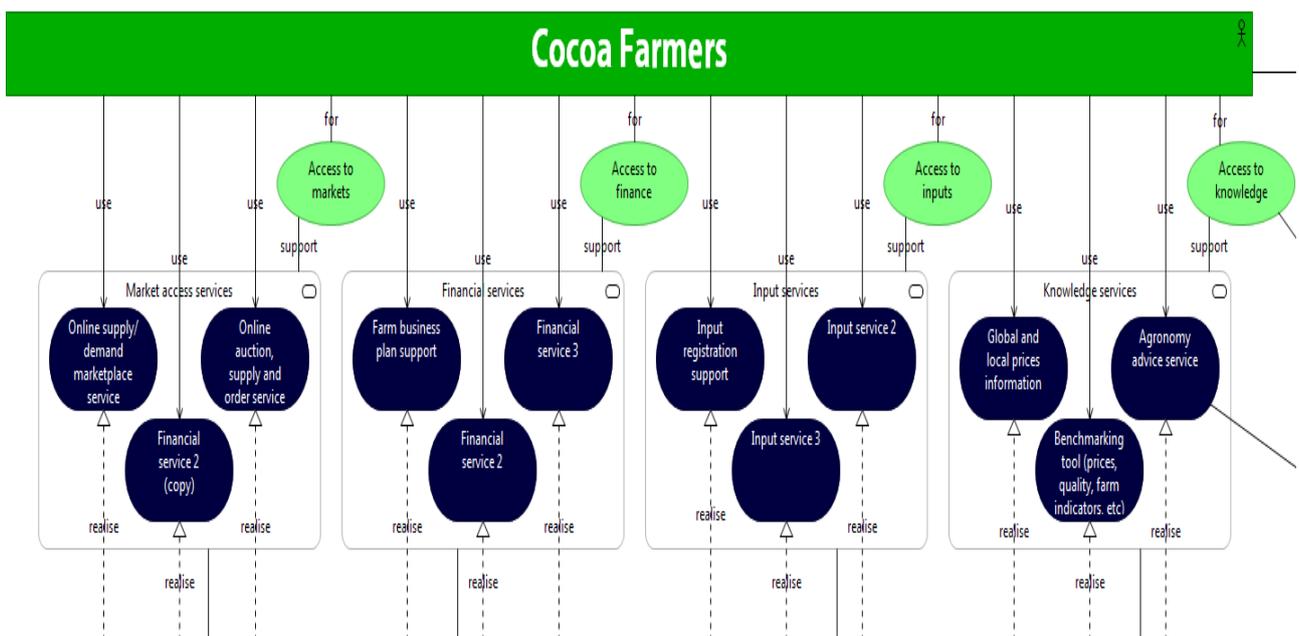
Element 3 - Other Steps

Our steps to professionalize cocoa farming so, Cocoa Farming is recognised by all stakeholders as a Business. In this document we have made clear our concept on how FCA want to make cocoa farming to become a vibrant business that will encourage millions of young men and women, build lives and sustain cocoa communities and the cocoa industry at large.

This Concept is design to improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and enhancing cocoa farming business, planning and management of their farming activities. This mixes with the Extension Support activity, guiding training on cocoa crop production, marketing development and governance.

Practical Literacy and Basic Business Skills are some of the major obstacle preventing farmers to be able to manage successful businesses and is thus impacting on the social and economic capacity of farmers particularly the smallholders. As such we are focus in building farmers skills through our comprehensive training programmes, which focuses on literacy, numeracy and basic business skills for the cocoa farmers who are engage in our activities, so they have greater capacity to manage their farm as a business.

Strengthening Leadership and Governance: We train individual cocoa farmers, cooperative, association, unions and organise groups to uphold and implement democratic values in their management activities. we also deliver regular training and updates to leaders of cooperatives, association and organise groups to ensure a genuine representation and voice of their members.



Areas of training include the following

Organic production of cocoa crop, Soil fertility management in organic systems, Soil and water management, weed management in organic Agriculture, Post-harvest handling, conduct unplanned Internal Control and providing training to Internal Quality Management Staffs.

High Skills Trainer of Trainers

We provide high skill specialized trainer(s) using experts from our members and partners organization from leading fine and flavour regions (Caribbean Community and Latin Americans) by such, providing and addressing specific needs in organic cocoa farming from experience team. The training is offered to farmers at free of charge and in some situation on affordable cost.

In addition to offering subsidized services to farmers and farm workers such as:

- Training in organic cocoa farming
- Project management
- Organic market promotion
- Market linkages
- Designing and developing Internal Control Systems
- Designing and developing Internal quality management
- Training on organic production, processing, and marketing
- Feasibility studies
- Cost benefit analysis
- Value chain development
- Training needs assessment

Specialized and tailored made services are also provided to individual groups / companies after an in-depth evaluation of the specific group needs and constraints that may require a tailored response in any of the fields mentioned above.

Training activities include:

- Modern organic production practices
- Locally produced organic farm inputs
- Technical advice on pest and disease management
- Training and advice on sustainable farm weeding and clearing methods
- How to conduct farm assessment and plan farm activities

Training, Research & Extension

- Farm post-harvest handling
- Awareness creating on standards and certification
- Training on market creation sustenance,
- Development and research
- Developing Internal Control System (ICS)
- Develop Internal Quality Management Systems (IQM)
- Developing training materials
- Conducting field /Exchange visits

Delivers regular training and updates to the governance entities to ensure continued and genuine representation of membership.

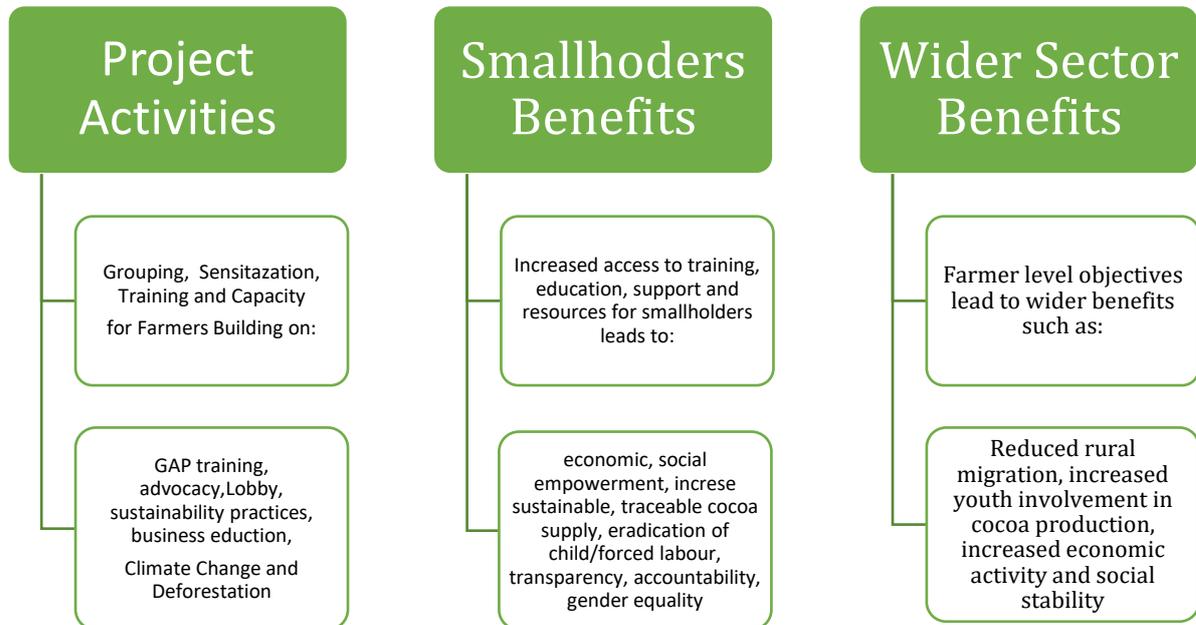
- Encourage women to join as members and stand for positions of office in Committees at all levels of the system. Female role models spearhead this, with 50% of women.
- Reaching members and the broader community with up to date information and advice on how to increase their social and economic productivity from smallholder farming, including improving their capacity for democratic governance of farmer groups.
- Undertaking a Global Information Systems survey would allow the mapping of the size and location of member plots, so that accurate crop estimations can be made which can better guarantee fulfilment of customer contracts. In addition, having a visual map of membership allows more specific targeting of programmes, to provide greater benefits to members.
- Support and create local business training centres for farmers leader and providing them with improved access to information and providing the community with business services to generate income for the Associations.
- Training will be prioritised where it will improve management, improve development of programmes, increase innovation and ultimately contribute to improved member livelihoods.
- To increase the impact and reach of their technical support FCA provide training to CFAs who are selected local cocoa farmers. These CFAs also pass on the techniques and information to their fellow farmers in a peer-to-peer approach.
- Invests in a robust monitoring and evaluation package which is designed to report outputs and results from activities and projects, as well as evaluating the ultimate impact of these interventions on members lives and livelihoods.
- promoting technologies and encouraging the use of stoves and less wood to produce for cooking of domestic food and other energy activities. Encourage the use of waste products from the mechanised groundnut shelling process, to produce briquettes that can be used as charcoal substitutes.

Project activities be the following:

1. Assist young men and women in cocoa communities' secure access to lands suitable to for cocoa farming.
2. Train and provide advanced farming methods to these young talented farmers to ensure proper implementation of GAPs and to manage a sustainable farming business.
3. Secure better livelihood for them in the short and long term so they can educate their kids and take care for their families.
4. Collaborate with partner to provide direct market access for them to sell their crop in fair price based on the expenses acquired and to realise profit.
5. land preparation for new farms and maintenance of old farms
6. nursery of seedlings
7. weeding and shade management
8. better soil management
9. better spraying methods
10. application of fertilizer and other farm inputs
11. harvesting and pod breaking

- 12. sustainable fermentation practices
- 13. sustainable drying methods
- 14. facilitate access to market

7. PROJECT BENEFITS



8. MORE INFORMATION

For more information you can reach us through mail. Please send your mail to: projects@cocoa-alliance.org.

Headquarters

Farmgate Cocoa Alliance
 Savannahweg 17
 3542 AW UTRECHT
 Phone: +31(0)302765110
 Fax: +31(0)306336524
 Email: info@cocoa-alliance.org
 Web: www.cocoa-alliance.org