SUMMARY

GROUPING UNORGANIZED SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

A FARMGATE COCOA ALLIANCE
COCOA SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT
GROUPING THE UNORGANISED SMALLHOLDER COCOA FARMERS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project Owner</th>
<th>Farmgate Cocoa Alliance (FCA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Goal</td>
<td>Group and Train one (1) Million Unorganised Smallholders</td>
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<td>Funding Partner(s)</td>
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<td>Project Objectives</td>
<td>Secure Long-Term Cocoa Sustainability</td>
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<td>Project Duration</td>
<td>2019 – 2030 (11 years, including a 1 year pilot phase)</td>
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<td>Project Implementer</td>
<td>Farmgate Cocoa Alliance, and Collaborating Partner(s)</td>
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<td>Total Project Cost</td>
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**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 2030. Using our Communality Field Agents (CFA’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-term cocoa sustainability. They will also be trained 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.

**1. 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 challenges including the below listed, can only be address when cocoa farming is recognized as a profession, so farmers are independent entrepreneurs.

- Widespread of poverty among cocoa farmers and farm workers
- Lack of better farming knowledge on GAPs and human rights
- Lack of farm resources like inputs, hybrid seed, fertilizers, herbicides, irrigation and farm management
- Zero access to financial loan, pension benefits and sustainable income.
- Limited value addition to cocoa products and risk benefits
• Insufficient cocoa farming manpower and skills
• Diseases and pests control treats
• Limited access to sustainable and quality input and output markets
• Marginalization of women farmers and lack of capacity
• Emerging threats to create new cocoa farms as a result of deforestation.

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.

2. IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

Phase 1 – Train 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 talented young men and women who are locals in the communities where this project will be implemented. They are trained by our experts staff of our national secretariat.

Phase 2 – Groups Formation

The 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 identify three categories of unorganized smallholder cocoa farmers, and to distinguish smallholder farmers who can become cocoa entrepreneurs and those who can become. Grouping activities will also help entrepreneurs and potential cocoa entrepreneurs based on the following two categories of grouped unorganized smallholder farmers.

Category 1

Category 1 farmers are farmers whose farm produce not lesser than 2 tons and with the potential to increase yields on the same farm if provided with the necessary training and support. Such farmer is considered a cocoa entrepreneur, and is eligible to benefit from the full benefit of the grouping purpose.

Category 2

Category 2 farmers are farmer whose farm can produce not lesser than a ton, and with the potential to increase yields using the same piece of land if being train and supported. Such farmers will be considered as a cocoa entrepreneur. This farmer will benefits from this project,
as the farmer will be necessary support to become sustainable producer.

**Category 3**

Category 3 farmers are farmers whom farms can only produce few kilo’s and there is no potential to increase yields at the same piece of land, even if being supported. Such farmers will not be considered as cocoa entrepreneurs, and will be advise to switch to alternative farming profession like cassava, yam and plantain and or to sell their farm to a larger producer.

The cocoa farmers who are in categories 1 and 2 will after grouping continue to have access to training on GAPs, tools, inputs provision. They will have access to directly sell their cocoa crop, and can have financial loan so, they can invest in their farm and increase annual production, leading to a sustainable income and pave the way for poverty alleviation.

### 3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Mapping & data collection**

During the grouping of the smallholder farmers we will collect farmers 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 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.

Practical Literacy and Basic Business Skills are some of the major obstacles 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 also 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 independently manage their farm as a business.

**Organized workshops**

Every three months CFAs’ will organize workshops in every community. Workshops will consist
of two parts: 1) Continue with sensitization of grouped farmers on issues like: climate change, deforestation, child labour and inequality. 2) Refresh farmers memory on their commitment to fully implement prescribed GAPs practices, and to continue with building their capacity including provision of farm needs. During workshops we will also carry unexpected farm inspection. Farm inspection is to make sure farmers are properly implementing their responsibilities such as; eliminating child labour in farms, best environmental practice, zero-deforestation and respect workers’ rights.

**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.

**4. ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

how we want to professionalize smallholders cocoa farming entrepreneurship, are made clear in this document. We are committed to make smallholders cocoa farming a vibrant business, and to encourage young men and women, to become the next generation cocoa entrepreneurs, so they can build a sustainable livelihoods for themselves, family, and their communities.

Additional skills are designed to give farmers alternative opportunities to improve the living standards of cocoa farmers

**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.

**Variety of cocoa farming**

Since FCA believe that through variety of cocoa farming, including organic and fine flavour as emerging ways to increase income of cocoa farmers in Africa, we will introduce divers ways of cocoa farming for the more experienced small farmers. We provide training to grow organic or fine flavour cocoa. This will also attract youth and buyers.


**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 linkage
- 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 and 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
- 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
5. PROJECT BENEFITS

### Project Activities

Grouping, Sensitization, Training and Capacity for Farmers Building on:

- GAP training, advocacy, Lobby, sustainability practices, business education, Climate Change and Deforestation

### Farmer Benefits

Increased access to training, education, support and resources for smallholders leads to:

- Economic, social empowerment, increase sustainable, traceable cocoa supply, eradication of child/forced labour, transparency, accountability, gender equality

### Wider Benefits

Farmer level objectives lead to wider benefits such as:

- Reduced rural migration, increased youth involvement in cocoa production, increased economic activity, real-time data and social stability

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CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: info@cocoa-alliance.org  Website: cocoa-alliance.org