



SUCDEN

2022-2023

Cocoa and Forests Initiative

PROGRESS REPORT



Cocoa & Forests Initiative:

Collective Action to End Cocoa-Related Deforestation

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 36 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 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 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 Cocoa & Forests Initiative.



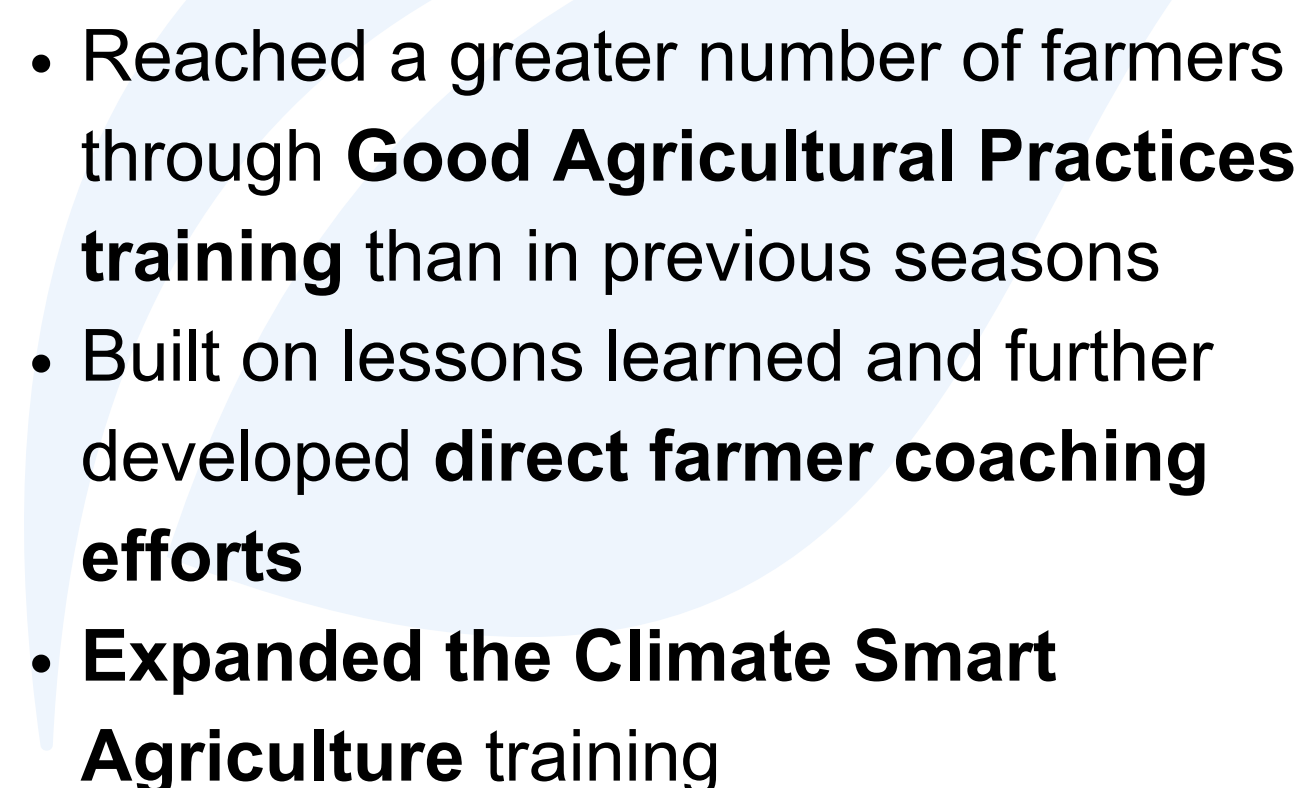
To advance the global climate agenda, including forest protection, deforestation mitigation, carbon emission reduction, support for vulnerable communities, and farmer resilience building, collaborative multi-stakeholder initiatives can help drive impact. The Cocoa and Forests Initiative stands as a pivotal platform for industry leaders such as Sucden to actively contribute towards these essential objectives. Throughout 2022-23, Sucden continued its commitment, aligning its efforts with the pillars of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative and the Sustainable Development Goals.



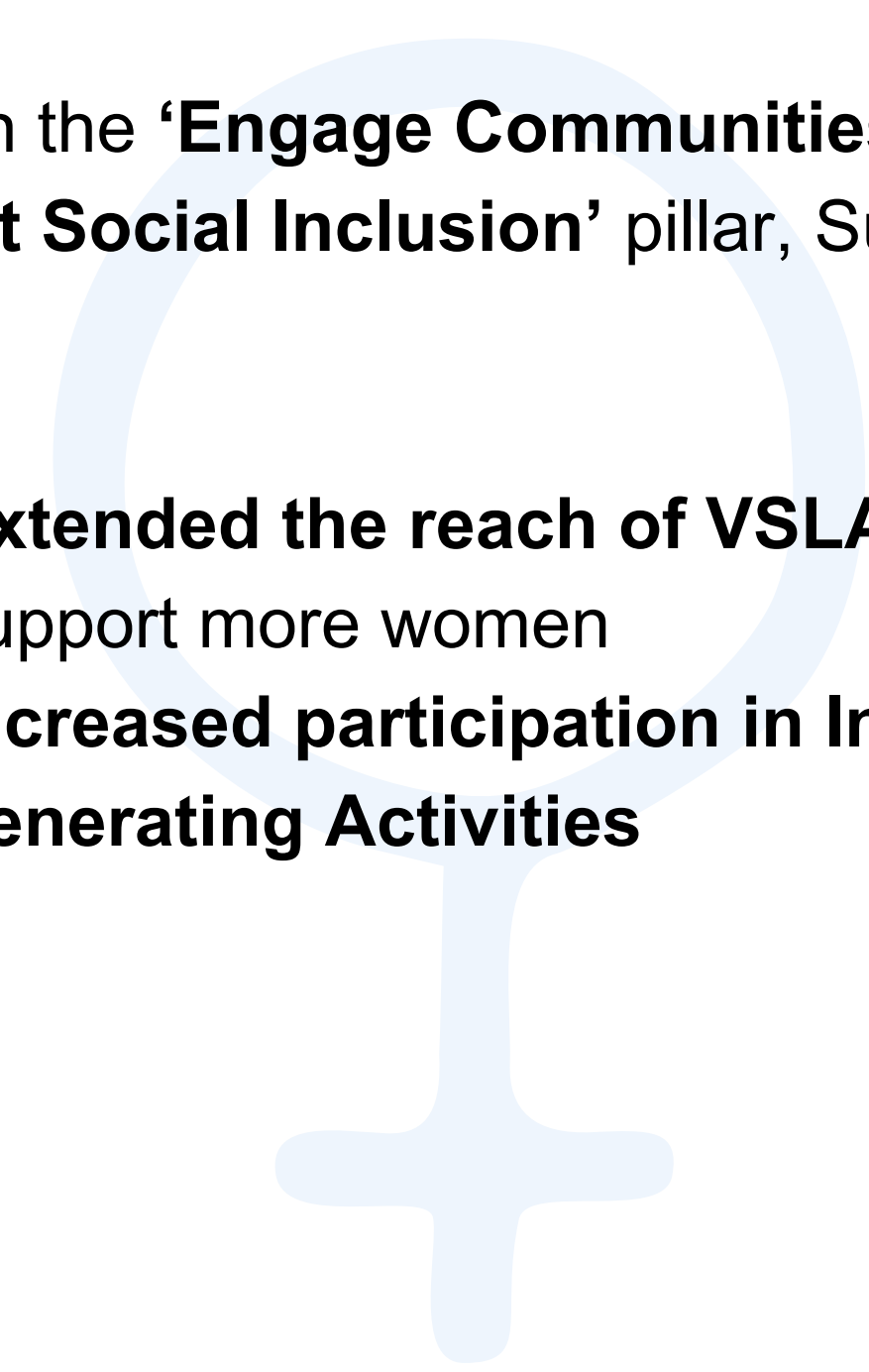
Within the '**Protect and Restore Forests**' pillar, Sucden:

- **Expanded polygon mapping** cocoa farms to better monitor for deforestation risk
- Supported the **establishment of community nurseries**
- Increased seedling distribution for **agroforestry development**
- Grew off-farm **restoration efforts**

Within the '**Promote Sustainable Cocoa Production and Farmers' Livelihoods**' pillar, Sucden:

- 
- Reached a greater number of farmers through **Good Agricultural Practices training** than in previous seasons
 - Built on lessons learned and further developed **direct farmer coaching efforts**
 - **Expanded the Climate Smart Agriculture** training

Within the '**Engage Communities and Boost Social Inclusion**' pillar, Sucden:

- 
- **Extended the reach of VSLAs** to support more women
 - **Increased participation in Income generating Activities**

Cote d'Ivoire

Forest Protection and Restoration

Farm Mapping and Deforestation Risk Assessment

In our commitment to provide trustworthy cocoa to our clients, we maintained our rigorous traceability practices, tracking all cocoa from the farm to the final client. In 2023, we expanded our efforts significantly, supporting the mapping and verification of a total of **40,795 farmers** in Côte d'Ivoire.

Sucden also continued deforestation risk assessments by verifying polygon quality and ensuring no overlap or proximity with protected areas. In total, we assessed **107,456 hectares** in Cote d'Ivoire during the 22/23 season. With this information, Sucden is better able to reduce the risk of encroachment of farms into primary forests and High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) areas, contributing to the prevention of illegal deforestation and to the protection of biodiversity.

Off-Farm Restoration

Our off-farm reforestation endeavors in Bayota have reached a successful conclusion, with the distribution and planting of **11,080 native trees** over 17 hectares of previously degraded forest area. In total, more than 22,000 native trees were distributed in the region. Additionally, we have concluded another significant reforestation project in collaboration with a key client in Pécoskro. Thanks to our partners, we met the two-year objective of this restoration project to plant **22,000 trees** across 32 hectares of degraded land, with 11,030 seedlings successfully planted in 2023.

In the second year of our climate-focused agroforestry and forest restoration project, we furthered our efforts by planting an additional **56,359 trees** for restoration in five communities. The overarching aim of this project is to bolster agroforestry and forest restoration by distributing a targeted 500,000 trees over the subsequent five years.

Crucially, all restoration initiatives encompass a community development facet. Local governance committees have organized women's groups to manage funds derived from PES, linked to tree survival, to facilitate income-generating activities specifically tailored for women. These activities include gender-sensitive forest restoration projects, ensuring holistic community involvement and empowerment.



Cote d'Ivoire

Forest Protection and Restoration Story

Sana Souleymane is a 56-year-old cocoa farmer residing in Nouveau-Village, Bas-Sassandra, Ivory Coast. Sana is a member of a cooperative where a Cocoa and Forests Initiative aligned program has been implemented. The program, which focuses on farmer training on topics such as forest conservation and sustainable agriculture, has implemented training sessions in Nouveau-Village, reaching Sana and his community. Field agents were hired and trained to hold awareness raising sessions on forest topics, such as deforestation, climate smart agriculture, and the New Forest Code. The importance of community cooperation is emphasized in these Farmer Field Schools, as community involvement plays a pivotal role in forest protection and restoration efforts.

"Our community actively participates in protecting and restoring forests," Sana reflects when asked about the training. Collective action, driven by awareness campaigns and supported by local cooperatives, relies on a sense of shared responsibility. For Sana and the Nouveau-Village community, forest conservation is understood. **"Forests are vital for our climate's stability"** Through sustainable forest management practices, Sana and his community aim to safeguard their environment for future generations.

Women and youth are integral to these efforts. "Women and young people actively participate in our awareness campaigns and contribute to forest protection," Sana notes. Their involvement reflects the inclusive approach of community-driven training and initiatives. In addition to cocoa, Sana cultivates other trees like avocado and orange on his farm. "These trees diversify my farm and provide additional income," he states. The integration of shade trees not only sequesters more carbon but also offers economic resilience to farmers like Sana. His implementation of agroforestry and income diversification serves as an example for nearby farmers. Through community cooperation, education, and sustainable practices, Sana and his fellow farmers are working towards further safeguarding their livelihoods and nurturing the environment for a sustainable future.



Cote d'Ivoire

Forest Protection and Restoration

In our ongoing commitment to sustainable development, Sucden continues to make significant strides in promoting agroforestry and reforestation initiatives in Cote d'Ivoire. In partnership with local expert implementer, FOA, Sucden has contributed to the establishment of **11,144 hectares** of agroforestry in the 2022/23 season. In total, we distributed over **349,824 multipurpose trees** to support **8,726 farmers** in applying agroforestry.

After farmers receive the seedlings, FOA, one of our agroforestry partners on-the-ground, provided on-farm planting assistance to train farmers on best practice with regards to planting. Additionally, for certain agroforestry projects, Sucden supports the distribution of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) based on tree survival, with a portion allocated to the community. These funds are utilized to finance gender-sensitive forest protection initiatives, including the establishment of tree nurseries managed by women's groups and distribution schemes for community development. The direct engagement of the community's women's association ensures that gender-sensitive initiatives funded through PES are tailored to the specific needs and priorities of the community.



Cote d'Ivoire

Sustainable Production and Farmers Livelihoods

Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Training and Farmer's Coaching

Sucden's farmer training program is robust and multifaceted. In addition to farmer field schools, we collaborate closely with selected farmers who express interest in enhancing their farms and crafting farm rehabilitation plans. This effort is facilitated through Adoption Observation work conducted by trained farmer coaches, who use specialized software to track 21 key farm indicators regularly. These observations showcase progress to the farmers, aiding in farm care and productivity enhancement.

Integrated pest management and agrochemical training are integral parts of our training sessions. These approaches, when adopted by farmers, can lead to better insect, cocoa disease, and weed management while reducing pesticide usage. Through collaborative efforts between farmers and coaches, tailored actions for improvement are identified, culminating in the creation and execution of personalized, long-term farm improvement plans.

Throughout the 22/23 season, our collaboration with local partners persisted in training farmers to embrace sustainable agricultural practices. Working hand in hand, we conducted Farmer Field Schools (FFS) as group sessions, reaching **27,783 farmers**. Additionally, tailored individual coaching was provided through farm development plans. The training sessions encompassed educating farmers on the ramifications of climate change on cocoa production. **23,673 farmers** received training on specifically enhancing climate resilience and reducing emissions on their farms.



Cote d'Ivoire

Social Inclusion and Community Engagement

Women's Empowerment and Income Generating Activities

In 2023, our dedication to empowering women in cocoa-growing communities in Côte d'Ivoire continued through collaborative efforts with experts to devise and execute projects aimed at bolstering women's financial and entrepreneurial capabilities. These projects facilitate the development and expansion of income-generating activities (IGAs) among women.

Furthermore, these IGAs are interconnected with Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), enabling women to reinvest in their enterprises. VSLAs, self-managed groups pooling savings, provide members with access to loans for various purposes such as starting businesses or covering educational expenses. Through our initiatives and investments in women's empowerment, we facilitated the establishment of **120 VSLAs**, nearly tripling the previous count of 42 from the 2021/2022 season. These VSLAs, in turn, catalyzed the launch of new income-generating activities, benefiting **2,829 individuals** by diversifying their sources of income.



IGA of Madame Daple

Ghana

Forest Protection and Restoration

Farm Mapping and Deforestation Risk Assessment

As part of our efforts to provide trustworthy cocoa to our clients, we continued to polygon map cocoa farmers in our direct supply chain from the farm level to the client, with a total of **32,844 cocoa plots** mapped in 2023. To ensure quality, we verify the accuracy of farm polygons twice.

Sucden compares these plots to maps of Protected Areas to assess deforestation risk by ensuring no overlaps with or encroachment on these protected areas. Sucden has assessed a total of **30,688 hectares** for deforestation risk by analyzing the plot boundaries with Protected Areas. With this information, Sucden is better able to reduce the risk of encroachment of farms into primary forests and High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) areas, helping prevent illegal deforestation and protect biodiversity.

Agroforestry

In Ghana, we continued to facilitate the distribution of multi-purpose tree seedlings to participating farmers for on-farm planting. These seedlings not only offer shade but also represent a potential additional income stream, depending on the specific tree species involved. Sucden facilitated the distribution of **80,943 multi-purpose tree seedlings** in 2023, compared to 15,944 in 2022. A total of 4,057 farmers were beneficiaries of this initiative, receiving six species of shade trees, encompassing varieties of timber and fruit trees.



Ghana

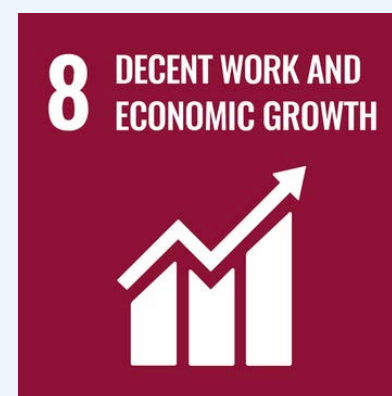
Sustainable Production and Farmers Livelihoods Social Inclusion and Community Engagement

Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Training and Farmer's Coaching

In 2023, our collaboration with CAA, KKFU, Fludor, Federated Commodities, and Adikanfo was expanded to provide comprehensive training on Good Agricultural Practices to **27,503 program farmers**, compared to 13,622 in 2022. This training aimed not only to boost cocoa production on limited land but also to advocate for environmentally sustainable farming techniques. Our training sessions, facilitated through Farmer Field Schools, covered a diverse range of topics essential for sustainable cocoa farming. To further bolster farmer incomes through increased productivity, strategic partnerships with CAA, KKFU, and Fludor were instrumental in distributing cocoa seedlings to program participants. Through our partners, Sucden facilitated the successful production and distribution of a total of **96,800 cocoa seedlings** to 934 program farmers.

Women's Empowerment and Income Generating Activities

Our focus on women's empowerment and community support continued in 2023. Building upon previous efforts, training on IGAs conducted through KKFU highlighted the challenge of limited access to formal finance for launching new ventures. To address this, our VSLA initiatives, initiated in 2021, were sustained, establishing **75 VSLAs** across cocoa-growing communities, a significant growth from the ten established in 2022. These community-based finance mechanisms facilitated access to funds for purchasing farm inputs or initiating IGAs, supporting a record **1,989 members** in Ghana. By year-end, over **2,840 individuals** benefited from ten new IGAs launched, fostering income diversification and economic empowerment.



Ghana

Sustainable Production and Farmers Livelihoods

Good Agricultural Practices Training Story

My name is Charles Agyei from Aggreso Society in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. I am a 42-year-old farmer. I was part of the farmers who were present during the trainings on pest and disease control last season. It was very helpful to me, since I had a problem with pest infestation on my farm. Being part of the training session on pest and disease control has really given me the techniques to tackle pest and disease issues on my farm. The general trainings were good, but I think I was able to get more knowledge from the one-on-one coaching that took place. These were more personal, and I could talk about the issues I faced in particular. I have learned about identifying pest and disease, implementing good agricultural practices, and utilizing pest control methods.



Charles Agyei

I believe that these were very effective because of the changes I keep seeing on my farm when I followed the guidelines given to me. By applying them, I have seen a reduction in crop losses and an increase in yields. One of the aspects I truly enjoyed was the discussions around climate change and how it affected the farm. The Technical Officers who came around told us about shade trees and their importance on our farms. After distributing the trees for planting, they encouraged us to plant the trees immediately to enable good survival rates during periods where the weather was favorable. I was one of the farmers who was given 10 shade trees for planting, and this covered almost an acre of my cocoa farmland. The Officers also told us these trees will further minimize the emissions of greenhouse gases. I am happy that I can play a part in helping the environment, at the same time helping my farm. They [Officers] also came to monitor the shade trees and I was happy to show them the good survival rate of the trees.

Annex 1. Cote d'Ivoire KPIs

Progress Report Tracking Table 2022 – 2023

Cocoa & Forests Initiative - Annual Data Report			
Country		Aggregation	
Côte d'Ivoire		Individual Company View	
		Company	
		Sucres et Denrees (SUCDEN)	
Description	Target (Current reporting year)	# Through direct investment (Current reporting year)	# On behalf of clients (Current reporting year)
FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION			
# of farms mapped in direct supply chain: Total Active	4,204	3,194	39,113
# of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed	12,093	9,650	97,806
# metric tons of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point (target is 100%)		3,734	53,943
# hectares restored in Forest Reserve / Forêts Classée	0		0
# trees registered	40,000		
# of farmers with land tenure agreements/documentation obtained via company support	21		0
# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code, forest policy, law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	2,542	2,831	20,841
# Individuals receiving incentives to protect and restore forests and / or adopt agroforestry (e.g., PES): New	2,382	1,868	1,645
# Individuals receiving incentives to protect and restore forests and / or adopt agroforestry (e.g., PES): Total Active	2,382	4,402	19,333
# farmers applying agroforestry: New		2,482	6,244
# farmers applying agroforestry: Total Active		4,295	12,108
# farmers provided with technical assistance to adopt and expand agroforestry	4,644	188	604
# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	175,525	112,960	236,864
# hectares cocoa agroforestry: New	4,644	3,416	7,727
# hectares cocoa agroforestry: Total Active		6,035	16,028
# of trees distributed for off-farm planting	44,400	44,653	33,816
# hectares of forest area restored off-reserve / in rural zone	0	66	51
# farmers provided with technical assistance to be more resilient to climate change and reduce and remove carbon emissions on farm (e.g., CSC)	5,189	2,832	20,841
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND FARMERS' LIVELIHOOD			
# improved cocoa seedlings distributed to farmers			
# farmers provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to professionalize & optimize cocoa farming practices	3,408	2,631	25,152
# individuals participating in additional Income Generating Activities (IGA's)		762	2,067
# individuals provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to increase income from non-cocoa sources / IGA's	665	1,276	2,590
# Individuals provided with technical assistance to save money and access finance	1,590	2,449	1,494
# of members of VSLA groups in the current year	1,590	1,804	2,181
# of VSLA groups in the current year	59	43	77
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY			
# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program (CBNRM): New	0	5	3
# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program (CBNRM): Total Active		5	3
# hectares under CBNRM	0	66	51
# of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities	1,290	1,074	2,578
# of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (15-35 years old)	300	1,578	924

Annex 2. Ghana KPIs

Progress Report Tracking Table 2022 – 2023

Cocoa & Forests Initiative - Annual Data Report

Country

Ghana

Aggregation

Individual Company View

Company

Sucres et Denrees (SUCDEN)

Description	Target (Current reporting year)	# Through direct investment (Current reporting year)	# On behalf of clients (Current reporting year)
FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION			
# of farms mapped in direct supply chain: Total Active	725	2,117	30,727
# of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed	590	1,478	29,210
# metric tons of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point (target is 100%)		1,975	21,400
# hectares restored in Forest Reserve / Forêts Classée	0		0
# trees registered	0		0
# of farmers with land tenure agreements/documentation obtained via company support	0		0
# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code, forest policy, law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	660		9,146
# Individuals receiving incentives to protect and restore forests and / or adopt agroforestry (e.g., PES): New	0		0
# Individuals receiving incentives to protect and restore forests and / or adopt agroforestry (e.g., PES): Total Active	0		0
# farmers applying agroforestry: New		175	3,620
# farmers applying agroforestry: Total Active		175	7,197
# farmers provided with technical assistance to adopt and expand agroforestry	100	100	3,620
# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	3,500	3,500	77,443
# hectares cocoa agroforestry: New	100	175	12,752
# hectares cocoa agroforestry: Total Active		175	16,329
# of trees distributed for off-farm planting	0		0
# hectares of forest area restored off-reserve / in rural zone	0		0
# farmers provided with technical assistance to be more resilient to climate change and reduce and remove carbon emissions on farm (e.g., CSC)	1,276		0
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND FARMERS' LIVELIHOOD			
# improved cocoa seedlings distributed to farmers	0		96,800
# farmers provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to professionalize & optimize cocoa farming practices	1,276	1,547	25,956
# individuals participating in additional Income Generating Activities (IGA's)		139	150
# individuals provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to increase income from non-cocoa sources / IGA's	25	259	339
# Individuals provided with technical assistance to save money and access finance	0	259	2,581
# of members of VSLA groups in the current year	5	259	1,730
# of VSLA groups in the current year	5	10	65
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY			
# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program (CBNRM): New	0		0
# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program (CBNRM): Total Active			0
# hectares under CBNRM	0		0
# of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities	100	259	1,730
# of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (15-35 years old)	0		61