



**UPL**  
OpenAg®

# Cocoa & Forests Initiative

## UPL Progress Report 2022



Cocoa &  
Forests  
Initiative



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## About UPL

UPL Ltd. is a global provider of sustainable agriculture products and solutions spanning high-performance seeds, biosolutions, crop protection, on farm equipment and services, and post-harvest solutions. We have a presence in more than 138 countries and access to 90% of the world's food basket. Across this footprint, we have 44 manufacturing facilities, 25 R&D facilities, and over 14,000 registrations.

Throughout our 50-year legacy, we have always put farmers first – keeping them and their needs at the forefront of every product we've developed, every program we've led and every partnership we've forged. We are building a network that is Reimagining Sustainability and delivering positive real-world impacts for our farmers, our food systems, our global communities, and our environment.

**138+**  
COUNTRY  
PRESENCE

**43**  
MANUFACTURING  
FACILITIES

**20+** R&D  
FACILITIES

## UPL in Africa

UPL has been active across the African continent for over 35 years, and is the largest distributor of biosolutions and most significant provider of integrated offers that have been specifically adapted to African crops and unique growing conditions.

We maintain a broad footprint across the continent with offices in 15 countries: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia, Tanzania, Togo – and access into most others through distribution partners. Across these markets, our innovations and interventions are centred around two core missions: impacting more farmers, and catalysing the introduction of sustainable technologies.

Delivered through our unique 'farmer-centric' approach, UPL is providing smallholder farmers with a full suite of solutions and services including sustainable inputs, technologies, finance, markets, and post-harvest. This integrated model is designed to sustainably improve yields, living incomes and farmer resilience against pests, disease and climate change effects.





**Jai Shroff**  
Group CEO  
UPL Ltd.

At COP27 this year, the Ghana pavilion was alive with energy, filled with cocoa industry experts, government ministers, private sector executives, and members of the development community for the Cocoa and Forest Initiative (CFI) side event. The packed pavilion signalled a growing commitment to advancing the sustainability of the cocoa sector and a belief in the strength and impact of the CFI – as we collectively looked back at the achievements and lessons learnt of the first 5 years of the initiative, and discussed a roadmap for scale and impact as we transition into CFI 2.0 this coming year.

This year, Ghanaian and Ivorian cocoa farmers have been found themselves at the sharp end of a series of crises - with the converging effects of climate change, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the resulting impact on supply chains and fertiliser availability, and tensions between trade bodies and cocoa buyers for the Living Income Differential (LID) - restricting their ability to grow healthy, bountiful crop and uphold their livelihoods. The challenges that have faced farmers in the past 12 months – added to those experienced in the last few years – have reinforced the importance of our role as a trusted partner to farming communities as well as our

holistic, integrated approach which supports growers and value chain partners across the entire cocoa value chain.

This model goes beyond providing efficacious inputs and solutions to help foster resilient cocoa orchards, to encompass training in stewardship, good cocoa and food crop agricultural practices, women's empowerment, as well as access to finance services. Coupled with our long-standing crop diversification program which is empowering growers to grow secondary food crops as a route to farmer resilience and food security – we are helping foster a sustainable and prosperous cocoa sector.

As the only agri-inputs company to be signatory to the CFI, our belief in the power and transformative impact of collaboration, shared responsibility and accountability is clear. We have been supporting the cocoa industry as a sustainability technical partner for the last 10+ years, so it was very natural for us to join this initiative.

We have led on the development of new technologies like the first bespoke biostimulant for cocoa, the first dedicated tool for cocoa pod breaking and bean harvesting, and innovative integrated approaches to support cocoa orchard rejuvenation strategies.

Beyond our cocoa-related memberships, which also include the European Cocoa Association and the World Cocoa Foundation, we are also global partners to a series of flagship platforms including the Food and Land Use Coalition, the United Nations Global Compact, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Bonsucro, the Water Resources Group and the Climate Pledge.

Guided by our OpenAg purpose, we believe that in order to tackle the biggest issues facing the cocoa sector, namely living income, child labour and deforestation, we must work hand-in-hand with farmer communities, the confectionary industry, governments, and civil society. That is why we are proud to be a part of CFI, and proud of the achievements we have collectively made over the past 5 years. On a personal level, I would like to extend my gratitude to our dedicated teams in W&CA whose hard work has seen us surpass all of our 2022 CFI targets. The impact we have seen has inspired us to go further and reach higher, and we look forward to continuing our journey to change the game for cocoa communities and Reimagine Sustainability for the sector as a whole.



**Hubert Ehouman**  
W&CA Cocoa Lead  
UPL Ltd.

Continuing on the positive trajectory seen over the last few years of our involvement with this important initiative, we are delighted to publish our 2022 Progress Report outlining our efforts over the past 12 months to contribute to the achievements of the CFI. We are pleased to share that across all of our indicators, from training in GAPs, post-harvest practices, income-generating activities and women's empowerment, to access to financial products and participation in VSLAs, we have met and exceeded all of our defined 2022 targets. Our engagement with cocoa farmers is steeped in a deep respect and understanding of the history behind their cocoa orchards and the way they work, and a desire to help them do better for their families, their communities and the environment.

In a bid to support cocoa growers through the challenges they've faced this year, UPL has deepened its impact - increasing the landscape for crop diversification projects, launching again innovative products that can help farmers produce more on less land, and providing input credit to smallholder farmers to access new tools and technologies.

Our biosolutions portfolio has continued to expand, with the launch of innovative products for black pod control EVITO P and GENIUS in Côte d'Ivoire, alongside the launch of Banzaï Bonus® - a new formulation of our well known biostimulant spray, specifically designed for cocoa farmers which delivers an impressive +40% increase in yield.

Likewise, our diversification initiatives have had a significant impact by improving farmers' capabilities, increasing incomes, reducing pressure on forests, and strengthening food security outcomes.

As recognised by one of our farmers Kwadwo Ampomaning, this project has helped him *"improve [his] economic wellbeing and catered for important responsibilities such as children's school fees."*

Such feedback reinforces the wider socio-economic benefits and catalysed by our interventions, and pushes us to go further.

As we look back at our involvement as the only agri-inputs member to the CFI, we are grateful to the platform for its sustained efforts to advance a sustainable transformation of the cocoa sector, we are grateful to our project partners who have enabled us to scale our impact and reach, and we are grateful to the farming communities who place their trust in us each and every day. We are committed to fulfilling our role as a reliable partner to these grower groups, and moving into 2023, we aim to consolidate our lessons learnt, broaden our offering, level-up our initiatives, set new ambitious targets, and make a greater sustainability impact across the cocoa sector for years to come.



GHANA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

TRAINING IN GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

ENROLLED IN FORMAL FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

5,210

In 2022, we reached a further 5,210 Ghanaian farmers in GAP training programs.



2022 target

4,622

In 2023, we reached a further 4,622 farmers in Ghana with training that promotes IGAs.



2022 target

45,200

In 2022, we enrolled 45,200 Ghanaian farmers in formal financial products and services.



2022 target

11,240

In 2022, we reached a further 11,240 Ivorian farmers in GAP training programs.



2022 target

3,700

In 2023, we reached a further 3,700 farmers in Côte d'Ivoire with training that promotes IGAs.



2022 target

57,300

In 2022, we enrolled 57,300 Ivorian farmers in formal financial products and services.



2022 target

# Highlights



GHANA

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

93

In 2022, we conducted **93** CNAs and established **93** CAP Groups in Ghana.



2022 target

## MEMBERS OF VSLA GROUPS

4,622

In 2022, another **4,622** farmers joined as members of VSLA Groups in Ghana.



2022 target

## AMOUNT OF VSLA GROUPS

93

In 2022, we established an additional **93** VSLA groups in Ghana.



2022 target

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT AND ACTIVITIES

4,622

In 2022, we trained **4,622** individuals in women's empowerment projects and activities in Ghana.



2022 target

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

45

In 2022, we conducted **45** CNAs and established **45** CAP Groups in Côte d'Ivoire.



2022 target

3,700

In 2022, another **3,700** farmers joined as members of VSLA Groups in Côte d'Ivoire.



2022 target

45

In 2022, we established an additional **45** VSLA groups in Côte d'Ivoire.



2022 target

3,700

In 2022, we trained **3,700** individuals in women's empowerment projects and activities in Côte d'Ivoire.



2022 target

GHANA

## SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING PROGRAMS

42,960 MALE

10,740 FEMALE

53,700 TOTAL

## INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

\$47,956 PROSPEROUS FARMERS

\$4,820 EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

\$72,512 SUSTAINABILITY &amp; MANAGEMENT

\$125,288 TOTAL

## OUR COCOA SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS

In 2022, we supported a total of

92,242

farmers with our sustainability training programs across Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

24,702 MALE

13,840 FEMALE

38,542 TOTAL

\$31,144 PROSPEROUS FARMERS

\$1,325 EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

\$198,100 SUSTAINABILITY &amp; MANAGEMENT

\$230,569 TOTAL

In 2022, we invested

us\$355,857

in sustainability programs and development across Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire



# The 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 [CocoaAndForests.org](https://CocoaAndForests.org) and [WorldCocoaFoundation.org](https://WorldCocoaFoundation.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. King Charles III (then known as 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 Cocoa and Forests Initiative is an example of successful collaboration between cocoa origin governments and cocoa supply chain companies working together with cocoa producing communities to strengthen the sustainability of the cocoa sector by ending deforestation, promoting reforestation and improving sustainable livelihoods for cocoa farmers and their communities.

### CFI signatories

UPL (formerly Arysta), Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Cémoi (1), CocoaSource (1), Chocolats Halba (2), Cococo Chocolatiers, ECOM Group (2), The Export Trading Group, Ferrero, GCB Cocoa (1), General Mills Inc., Godiva Chocolatier Inc., Guittard Chocolate Company, The Hershey Company, Indcresa (2), JB Foods (1), Lindt & Sprüngli Group, Marks & Spencer Food, Mars Wrigley, Meiji Co. Ltd. (2), Mondelēz, Nestlé, Olam Cocoa, Puratos (1), Sainsbury's, SIAT (1), Starbucks (1), Sucden, Toms Group (2), Touton, Unilever (1), Valrhona, J.H. Whittaker & Sons (2)

(1) Côte d'Ivoire only

(2) (2) Ghana only

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# The Cocoa & Forests Initiative

## Collective Action to End Cocoa-Related Deforestation

**The first priority is the protection and restoration of forests that have been degraded.** To this end, the signatory 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. Companies have made significant investments in the promotion of cocoa agroforestry and the restoration of degraded forests.

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 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 participating governments and CFI signatory companies are accelerating investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow "more cocoa on less land." Key actions include provision of planting materials for the promotion of cocoa agroforestry, 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 assessing and mitigating the social impacts and risks of any proposed land-use changes on affected communities.



# Our programs and progress





## Crop diversification & Income Generating Activities

What began as an informal campaign to help growers adapt to changing climatic conditions and changing consumer demands, has now become a flagship UPL project in Western Africa. Over the last few years, our crop diversification program has offered farmers novel ways for increasing and variegating their income sources, spreading their production risks, whilst also achieving environmental benefits such as improved biodiversity and soil health. This year, in both Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, we are pleased to announce that we have exceeded all our 2022 targets of training farmers in income-generating activities. In line with our OpenAg commitment, we have partnered with OLAM, Barry Callebaut and Cargill (the 3 major cocoa exporters in W&CA) to take the training programs to more farming communities at scale. As part of the program, we set-up and invited farmers to see demonstration plots, and provided holistic training to ensure they were equipped to perform the best agricultural practices and successfully grow crops including peppers and okra.

Over the years, farmers have responded extremely positively to the crop diversification program. Those who have taken part in the project have made additional income during the lean cocoa season, whilst improving their knowledge on vegetables' technical itineraries. Looking ahead, we intend to expand into additional areas across West and Central Africa to enhance the livelihoods of growers and make every cocoa bean more sustainable.

Testament to the success of our collaborations around crop diversification, as we move into 2023, we are currently at the 3rd scale up with Nyonkopa involving 1823 new farmers in 78 new communities and 2nd scale up with Cargill involving 2543 new farmers in 80 new communities.

With the right tools, techniques and solutions, farmers can cultivate thriving secondary crops –improving their food security and diet quality, increasing their incomes and livelihoods, and encouraging them to remain in the cocoa sector due to their lessened risk exposure.

*“Due to the additional income and knowledge transfer received, farmers remain in cocoa production rather than venturing into other non-agricultural economic activities. Farmers feel a sense of safety and assurance that even when cocoa is out of season, their livelihoods can be sustained through growing vegetables.”*

Samuel Apana, Cocoa Sustainability Manager,  
Cargill

# 8,322

Ivorian and Ghanaian  
farmers trained in IGAs in  
2022

# 18,238

Ivorian and Ghanaian  
farmers trained in IGAs  
between 2019-2022





# Training

Well informed and skilled farmers who have a reliable income source and positive livelihoods, are more resilient and better positioned to grow more sustainably. Training cocoa farmers in good agricultural practices and stewardship methods is key to unlocking this positive cycle and delivering win-win outcomes for growers, consumers and the planet.

Across the world, UPL has a long history of helping farmers, trainers and technicians to equip them not just with the required tools and technologies for sustainable agriculture, but complementing this with capacity building, knowledge transfer and upskilling. This role takes on greater significance in rural economies in the developing world who typically face lower accessibility to information, education and services. Our training programs in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire equips farmers with knowledge on best practices covering all phases from seed planting through crop growing and onto the harvesting and post-harvest stages.

Through a combination of training campaigns and demonstration plots, which combine GAPs and specifically designed input packages, we are growing farmers confidence and are helping them achieve their yield potential.

And through our various stewardship programmes, known locally as Applique Bien (Cote d'Ivoire) and N'Guso Papa (Ghana) we are promoting cocoa grower wellbeing, safety and environmental protection – training farmers on protective equipment, sprayer use, product labels and safety.

**16,450**

Ivorian and Ghanaian farmers reached in 2022 with training in GAPs

**Our Integrated approach**





## Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs)

Across West & Central Africa, many cocoa communities live in rural and remote locations without access to formal financial services such as banks – impacting their ability to save, take on new business endeavours, or respond to unforeseen challenges. This leaves growers livelihoods highly vulnerable to fluctuations in their income, and also limits their agricultural capabilities.

The Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) scheme, launched by our cocoa industry partners, play a significant role in supporting growers across the region, to increase access to, and control over, their financial resources. VSLAs are informal small groups of people that provide their members with practical support to save, invest, and keep their money secure whilst accumulating interest. In so doing, the VSLAs empower growers to save more easily, which in turn contributes powerfully to their household security, and growing prospects. VSLAs strengthen local communities, allowing for scalability

because there is an exchange of knowledge and experience across smaller groups with less effort.

Over the year's we've heard first-hand from farmers about their new-found confidence and resilience as a result of their participation in VSLAs – claiming that they have used their financial resources to buy new equipment, improve their entrepreneurial skills, and also to better support their families.



### Ghana

Between October 2021 – September 2022, working on behalf of clients, we recorded an additional 4,622 farmers participating as members of VSLA Groups in Ghana – taking the total recorded between 2019-2022 to 11,150 and surpassing our 2022 target of 5,000.

### Cote d'Ivoire

Between October 2021 – September 2022, working on behalf of clients, we recorded an additional 3,700 farmers participating as members of VSLA Groups in Côte d'Ivoire – taking the total recorded between 2019-2022 to 4,960 and surpassing our 2022 target of 1,400.



## Financial Inclusion

Access to finance remains a challenge for cocoa communities across Africa, impacting grower's ability to afford quality inputs and equipment, and provide for their families. The barriers to accessing finance is unfortunately even greater for female growers.

We've been working to strengthen farmer's access to working capital and investment funds. It is proven that providing farmers with various financial products and services such as loans, savings accounts, insurance, and innovative technologies such as digital payment solutions, help them plan for upcoming seasons, handle new challenges effectively, and improve their livelihoods. In this case, they would typically need financing for the input packages ahead of the cropping season and repay upon harvest time. These short-term credits literally boosts their productive potential. They are also encouraged to save from one season to the other through VSLA groups.

### Ghana

In 2022 we reached 45,200 Ghanaian farmers with access to financial products and services – bringing our total number of growers supported throughout the 2019-2022 period to 84,200. We are grateful to Nyonkopa, a subsidiary of Barry Callebaut, for helping us reach and exceed our 2022 target of 50,000.



### Cote d'Ivoire

Our dedicated teams reached an additional 57,300 Ivorian farmers with access to financial products and services in 2022, taking our total number of growers supported throughout the 2019-2022 period to 133,158. This work has been led with our microfinance institution partner Advans, and is being delivered in cooperatives in Côte d'Ivoire.



# 217,358

Ivorian and Ghanaian farmers reached with access to finance to promote farmer savings between 2019-2022





## Women's empowerment

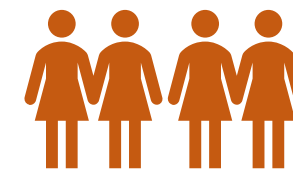
Women are the backbone of rural economies, playing a critical role in agricultural production. However, amongst the number of challenges they face – women disproportionately lack access to education and training which limits their growing potential and economic prospects.

Upskilling female farmers in GAPs and supporting them to produce secondary food crops, offers a clear route to economic and climate resilience, whilst also furthering sustainability and stewardship objectives.

Our stewardship programme is providing Ghanaian and Ivorian female farmers with the training needed to diversify their crops and revenue streams through producing secondary foods. The training programs are designed to encompass the acute needs of individual farmers and their wider communities, in order to create lasting benefits and inclusive growth.

We are pleased to have continued on our positive impact trajectory, in 2022 reaching a further 3,700 farmers in Côte d'Ivoire with training in women's empowerment activities and projects. This takes our total number of participants across the 2019-2022 period to 5,560 – far exceeding our 2022 target of 1,400. In Ghana, we involved a further 4,622 farmers in women's empowerment activities and projects in 2022, taking our total over the 2019-2022 period to 11,500.

In 2023 we plan to expand our programme throughout the region in order to reach as many female farmers as possible. We want to ensure that equality becomes a part of the everyday narrative surrounding sustainable farming, and that female farmers are empowered to thrive throughout the industry.



# 17,060

Ivorian and Ghanaian farmers reached with training in women's empowerment activities and projects between 2019-2022





# Callighana Productivity Package

Demo plots are a powerful tool for evidencing impact and gaining farmer trust, as well as facilitating capacity building and knowledge transfer. allow us to both highlight the impact of selected.

From February 2021 through to April 2022 we conducted demonstrations of our productivity package inputs across five districts in southern and south-eastern Ghana: Elluokrom, Sefwi Asawinso, Sefwi Wiawso, Tepa and Assin Fosu.

CPP offers a combination of pesticides and biostimulants designed to help farmers effectively protect their crops while also improving their revenues and yields.

In each district a one acre plot was divided into three sections:

1. The control plot – Crops were grown using the farmer’s traditional approach without using the CPP inputs.
2. CPP plot – Crops were grown using the pesticide inputs.
3. CPP and biostimulant plot – Crops were grown using the pesticide inputs in conjunction with the biostimulant input.

Across the five districts, the plot sections using the CPP and biostimulant package showed consistently higher yields of between 64% and 113% than the control and CCP-only plots. Based on these results, the demo plots suggest that the average Return On Investment (ROI) for farmers from using the CPP and Banzai package would be a ratio of 6.70 with an average additional income GHS 4,425 (US\$345). For cocoa farmers, this means the potentially doubled income if a CCP and Banzai package is used.



## PRODUCTIVITY PACKAGE



**Insecticide - Akate Brafo:** This input is rapidly absorbed by crops and works on contact and ingestion by a wide range of common cocoa pests including mirids and borers. It can be applied by either atomizer or sprayer, expanding farmer options, and poses a low risk or irritation to farmers.



**Fungicide – Fantic:** This input is designed as a single use bag that is particularly affordable for smallholders as well as being easy and practical to handle and transport. When applied it is rapidly and systemically absorbed by crops attacking both the harmful fungus and also providing a healing effect for the crop.



**Biostimulant – Banzai:** This input is specifically formulated to increase yields in cocoa plants by promoting flowering, limiting flower and cherry falls, and improving crop resistance to diseases and external stress.

5

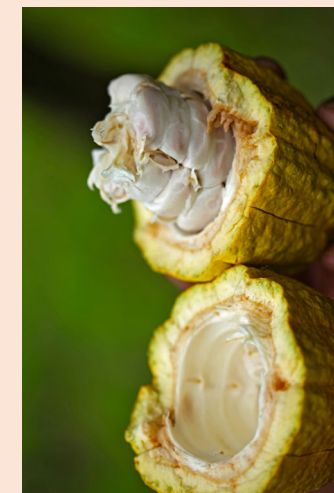
Demo plots established

84%

Average yield increase

100%

Farmer income increase



## Stories from the field

**Abdulai Tanko**

My name is Abdulai Tanko at Lineso in the Anhwiaso District, I am a cocoa farmer who sells cocoa been to Cargill. I was part of the vegetables project, and it has been very beneficial to me and other members of my group. Through this program, I participated in the number of trainings sessions on vegetable cultivation, and the proper handling of agri-inputs.

We experienced high yields from the pepper crop we grew, making good profit from the sales.

We used some of the revenue to provide for some of our household needs, and used some of the harvested crop for cooking. This helped us to make some savings.

I have improved my knowledge and experience in vegetables cultivation, thanks to this project. I will appeal that this project is sustained and extended to other farmers in other district where Cargill operate so that they can also enjoy the benefit.

**Kwadwo Ampomaning**

I am Kwadwo Ampomaning at Amoada in the Bekwai District. I was part of the first phase of the vegetable project. I can confidently say that there was a significant increase in our yield courtesy of the introduction of the diesel powder irrigation pump.

I have benefited a lot from this project in terms of knowledge and skills in vegetables cultivation as well as financial support.

Through the knowledge I acquired, I have started vegetable cultivation on my own to supplement the income I made from cocoa. This project has helped me to improve my economic well-being and catered for important family responsibilities such as paying of my children's school fees and other stuffs.

I want to thank Cargill for these intervention and opportunity given to us. It is timely and very rewarding for farmers. I kindly request that this intervention should be extended to other farmers so they can also benefit.



## Stories from the field



**Samuel Apana**  
Cocoa Sustainability Manager  
Cargill



The main ambition of the project is to empower the farmer groups financially by diversifying their income sources and enhancing their knowledge and skills in vegetables production. We began a pilot project with UPL in 2021, encompassing cocoa growers from 12 communities in the North-West of Ghana working on 2-acre plots. At the beginning of the program, we supported farmers to produce Okra and Chilli Peppers, scaling our scope to 15 communities in 2022. Following on the success of our intervention, in 2023 the number of communities involved to increase significantly, to around 80 groups. Within the partnership, UPL is responsive for providing the training and technical backstopping, as well as the inputs which included seeds, solutions and the irrigation facilities.

So far, a total of 3,551 farmers have benefitted, 1065 of which were women. The yield from the farms are sold on the local markets and the profit is shared among farmers.

This enhances the financial position of the farmers especially when cocoa is out of season. It helps them to undertake financial responsibilities like paying their children school fees among and putting food on the table.

We are pleased that this project is proving successful in supporting the sustainable development of the cocoa sector. Due to the additional income and knowledge transfer received, farmers remain in cocoa production rather than venturing into other non-agricultural economic activities. Farmers feel a sense of safety and assurance that even when cocoa is out of season, their livelihoods can be sustained through growing vegetables. This in turns helps retain the number of cocoa producers on the project, and also encourages more farmers to sign on!

For Cargill, this program helps improve our farmer's knowledge, skills and income, whilst advancing our overall sustainability ambitions.

Progress Tracking Table: Côte d'Ivoire

CFI Theme	Indicator	Target	Total # Reached 2019-2022	# Reached in 2022
Empowered Communities	<b>EC-01</b> Communities covered by Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP) for community development activities	70	123	45
	<b>EC-05</b> # members of VSLA groups in the current year On behalf of clients	1,400	4,960	3,700
	<b>EC-06</b> VSLA groups in the current year on behalf of clients	70	123	45
	<b>EC-08</b> # individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities	1,400	5,560	3,700
Prosperous Farmers	<b>PF-IND-01</b> - # farmers reached by GAP training programmes	10,000	28,061	11,240
	<b>PF-IND-03</b> - # individuals participating in training that promotes Income Generating Activities (IGAs)	4,000	7,088	3,700
	<b>PF-01</b> - # individuals participating in training that promotes IGAs	4,000	7,088	3,700
	<b>PF-03</b> - # individuals in the current reporting year enrolled in formal financial products and services with support from the company	67,000	133,158	57,300

## Progress Tracking Table: Ghana

CFI Theme	Indicator	Target	Total # Reached 2019-2022	# Reached in 2022
Empowered Communities	<b>EC-01</b> Communities covered by Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP) for community development activities	300	336	93
	<b>EC-05</b> # members of VSLA groups in the current year On behalf of clients	5,000	11,150	4,622
	<b>EC-06</b> VSLA groups in the current year on behalf of clients	300	336	93
	<b>EC-08</b> # individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities	5,000	11,150	4,622
Prosperous Farmers	<b>PF-IND-01</b> - # farmers reached by GAP training programmes	6,500	17,498	5,210
	<b>PF-IND-03</b> - # individuals participating in training that promotes Income Generating Activities (IGAs)	5,000	11,150	4,622
	<b>PF-01</b> - # individuals participating in training that promotes IGAs	5,000	11,150	4,622
	<b>PF-03</b> - # individuals in the current reporting year enrolled in formal financial products and services with support from the company	50,000	84,200	45,200

## Cross Cutting Results

Country	Indicator	Total # Individuals reached	Additional Data: Gender
Ghana	CC-07 Individuals benefitting from member sustainability programs	53,700	Male: <b>42,960</b>
			Female: <b>10,740</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	CC-07 Individuals benefitting from member sustainability programs	38,542	Male: <b>24,702</b>
			Female: <b>13,840</b>

Country	Indicator	Direct Value (\$USD)	Additional Data: CFI Pillar (\$USD)
Ghana	CC-11 Total investment by company in sustainability programming	125,288	Prosperous Farmers: <b>47,956</b>
			Empowered Communities: <b>4,820</b>
			Healthy Planet: <b>0</b>
			Sustainability Operations & Management: <b>72,512</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	CC-11 Total investment by company in sustainability programming	230,569	Prosperous Farmers: <b>31,144</b>
			Empowered Communities: <b>1,325</b>
			Healthy Planet: <b>0</b>
			Sustainability Operations & Management: <b>198,100</b>

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