



OUTCOME IMPACT CASE REPORT (OICR)

Contributing Projects: Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security program (CAAFS) Phase II project, Climate Smart Cocoa (CSC) and its Influence on Voluntary Standards and Impacts Lending in West Africa.

Status: Completed

Year: 2021

Title: Farmer Training and coaching has increased the knowledge and implementation of Climate Smart Cocoa Practices among over 1000 cocoa farmers in Ghana

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ABOUT CCAFS

The Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) program of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) seeks to marshal the science and expertise of CGIAR and partners to catalyse positive change towards climate-smart agriculture (CSA), food systems and landscapes, and position CGIAR to play a major role in bringing to scale practices, technologies and institutions that enable agriculture to meet triple goals of food security, adaptation and mitigation. The three main objectives of the program is to Sustainably increase agricultural productivity, to support equitable increases in farm incomes, food security and development, adapting and building resilience of agricultural and food security systems to climate change at multiple levels, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. In Ghana, the CCAFS program is being implemented in the cocoa sector by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in partnership with the Rainforest Alliance.

ABOUT IITA

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a non-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. The Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) program in IITA-Ghana is determined to develop tailor-made stepwise climate smart management and finance packages to enhance the resilience and productivity of Ghanaian Cocoa farmers in the face of the adverse impacts of climate change on Cocoa production.

CITATION

Dalaa A.M, Saeed A, Deffor E, Kofituo R, Asare R. 2021. Outcome impact case report (oicr): Farmer Training and coaching has increased the knowledge and implementation of Climate Smart Cocoa practices among over 1000 cocoa farmers in Ghana. CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

Short outcome/impact statement: Farmer interviews indicated that all beneficiary farmers have become aware of the CSC recommendations. Field surveys from the Cope and Adjust zones show that the 1113 farmers coached in the climate smart cocoa have implemented practices at various levels. Each farmer has implemented at least 2 climate smart cocoa recommendations in the establishment and management of their cocoa farm. Farmers who implemented CSC practices observed 30-35% increase in the survival rate of transplanted cocoa seedlings. This implies that the implementation of the CSC recommendation has help cocoa seedlings to thrive in both zones in Ghana.

Outcome story for communications use: The production of cocoa is largely dependent on precipitation. With climatic changes, drought may increase in Ghana and would reduce cocoa production. It is projected that by the year 2050, there would be a temperature increase of about 2 °C and a 1% decrease in precipitation. This has the potential to decrease cocoa cultivation in Ghana [Ref 1]. The need to promote climate smart agriculture among cocoa farmers in Ghana is thus imperative. The focus of the 'Climate change agriculture and food security program (CCAFS) Phase II project', has been to experiment climate smart cocoa recommendations, promote CSC best practices among farmers and support their implementation at the plots level and to generate a business model around climate smart cocoa. IITA/CCAFS and its partners (Agro Eco, Rainforest Alliance and Cargill) raised awareness among cocoa farmers in Ghana on the effects of climate change on their cocoa production, gave them tools (in the form of recommendations) to mitigate these effects and provided technical support in the implementation.

Broadly, farmers are more enthused about the implementation of the CSC stepwise practices. Most farmers know specifically what they need to do at every stage of their cocoa production to increase the resilience of their farms especially with the planting of both temporary and permanent shade a year in advance. With the implementation of these recommendations, both newly established farms and already existing farms showed increased resilience. The evidence of improvement was more profound in the newly established farms. The implementation of the CSC

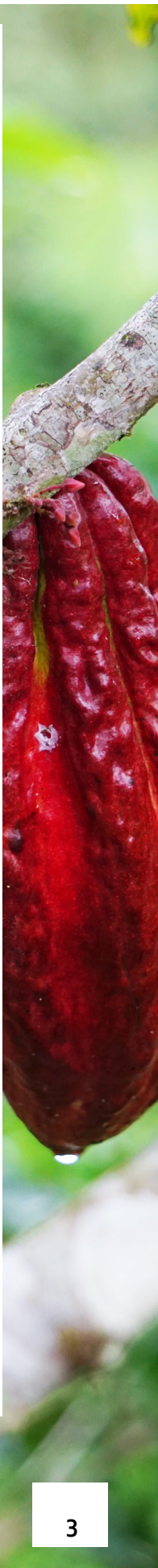


best practices at the establishment phase of cocoa production led to the increased survival of the transplanted cocoa seedlings. Some farmers indicated that they achieved up to 90% survival rate of their transplanted seedlings compared with about 30% when they did not have knowledge in the CSC recommendations.

With the planning and orderly planting of the temporary shade crops e.g., Plantain in newly established field, farmers expressed bigger harvest and increased initial income from these crops. The income from these crops helped farmers investments in their fields.

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement: Training and coaching formed a core part of the achievement of the project. Training was conducted at two level: Training of lead farmers and training of farmers. Fifty (50) lead farmers were trained in both climate impact zones. These lead farmers served as model farmers and provided support to their colleague farmers. A total of 1113 farmers were trained on topics related to CSC. Training of farmers was followed up with in-field support to motivate farmers in the implementation of the recommendations. Farmer coaching was also implemented. The purpose of the coaching was to increase farmers' willingness and commitment to implementing the climate smart cocoa recommendations. As part of this coaching process, feedback meetings were organized with farmers to evaluate the implementation of the previous trainings on their farms, discuss the challenges of their implementation efforts and together plan the solutions. Follow up actions were taken to help address the identified implementation challenges. The use of demonstration farms was part of the implementation approach. Agro Eco, Cargill and PBC collaborated with the beneficiary communities to set up and operate 18 demonstration farms. These demonstration plots served as learning venues for farmers. With the demonstration farms, farmers could practicalize the CSC recommendations for easier implementation on their respective farms. In addition to knowledge, farmers increased their confidence in the implementation of the CSC practices.

Demo days were organized periodically. During this event, there is a thorough



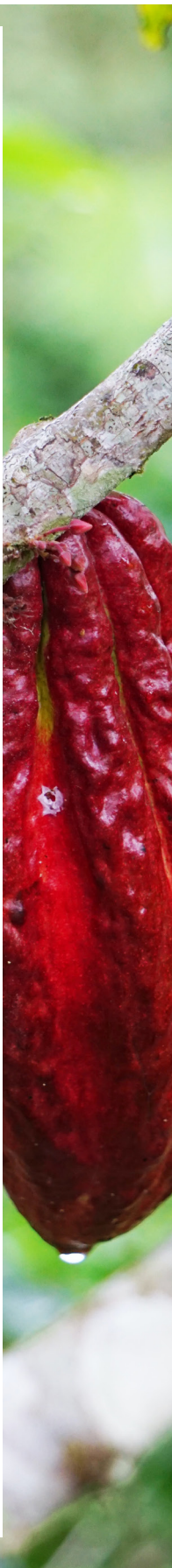
review of the demonstration plots and farmers farms. The purpose was to allow farmersto better judge the outcomes of the implementation of the CSC practices. The demo days also served as feedback meetings for farmers to report back on their experiences on the implementation of the CSC practices. Climate change is at the heart of this project. Farmers were trained in a number of topics including;

- Topic 1: Climate-Smart Agriculture
- Topic 2: Establishment Phase
- Topic 3: Pest and Disease Management
- Topic 4; Crop Management
- Topic 5: Shade Tree Management
- Topic 6: Soil Management
- Topic 7: Water Management
- Topic 8: Increasing Resilience

Out of the 1113 cocoa farmers trained, 375 of these farmers were women (including the youthful ones). Gender role players were organized to get farmers (men and women) to understand each other’s challenges and to find solutions. Gender dialogues sessions facilitated these positive changes which saw men taking up some of the household chores as a way of supporting the wives.

Reference

Schroth, G.; Läderach, P.; Martinez-Valle, A.; Bunn, C.; Jassogne, L. Vulnerability to climate change of cocoa in West Africa: Patterns, opportunities, and limits to adaptation. *Sci. Total Environ.* 2016, 556, 231–241. [CrossRef] [PubMed]





RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
**Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security**



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