

PRO-PLANTEURS

Professionalising cocoa producers and their organisations

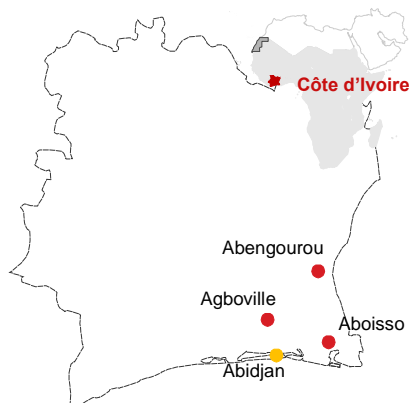
Introduction

PRO-PLANTEURS is a joint project of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (**BMEL**), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (**BMZ**), the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (**GISCO**) and the Ivorian Conseil du Café-Cacao (**CCC**). GISCO is an alliance of the German confectionery industry, the German retail grocery trade and civil society organisations with the German Government, represented by BMEL and BMZ. The project aims to **professionalise 20,000 small-scale cocoa farmer households and their farmer organisations in Côte d'Ivoire**.

The **project's objective is to improve the cocoa farming families' livelihoods by increasing their incomes and improving nutrition**. In particular, it aims to provide women with opportunities to improve their income situation and create a better nutritional basis for their families. In addition, the project contributes to making cocoa production more attractive for young cocoa farmers and female cocoa farmers.

PRO-PLANTEURS contributes to the implementation of the National Cocoa Strategy of Côte d'Ivoire, 2QC (Quantité – Qualité – Croissance), and the CocoaAction Strategy of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF).

The project cooperates with **35 selected farmer organisations** in three regions in the east and south-east of Côte d'Ivoire.



The Project's Approach

The main focus of PRO-PLANTEURS and its project activities are divided into four areas:

1. Strengthening Farmer Organisations

In order to ensure organisations can meet the needs of cocoa farmers, they must be professionally organised as a formal structure and work effectively and efficiently. This includes planning and control instruments such as business plans, production plans and banking books.

>> PRO-PLANTEURS supports the farmer organisations through training and coaching to improve their internal organisation and management. In addition, they are supported in improving services for member farmers and their families. Women are encouraged to take up more responsibility within the farmer organisations.

2. Improved Cocoa Production

Low yields on cocoa farms inhibit an increase in income of farmer families. However, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), suitable fertilizers, and selected plant material enable an increase in productivity. The project strives for a 55% yield increase.

>> PRO-PLANTEURS supports male and female cocoa farmers through direct advice and trainings. Trainings on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) aim at achieving a long-term improvement of productivity and cocoa quality and are based on the curricula of the Farmer Field School and demonstration plots. To improve entrepreneurship and farm management, producers are trained in Farmer Business School (FBS).



3. Diversification of income and improved nutrition

For many farmers in the south of Côte d'Ivoire, cocoa is an important source of family income. Yet, the cultivation of cocoa should not displace other crops, including essential food crops.

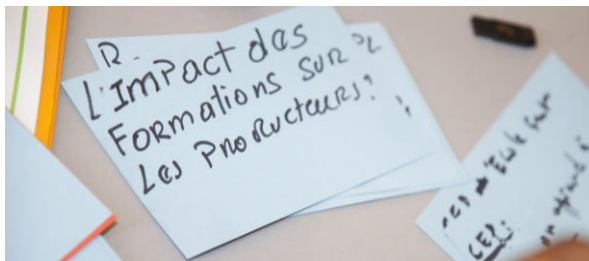
>> **PRO-PLANTEURS promotes diversification of agricultural cultivation and husbandry.** This part of the project focuses on women. By supporting them in activities such as production, processing and marketing, they are enabled to improve their income. Project activities also focus on overcoming seasonal food shortages and promoting a balanced nutrition.



4. Promoting Joint Learning

In addition to their formal functions, farmer organisations play a key role in the exchange of knowledge and experience.

>> **PRO-PLANTEURS fosters dialogue among farmers and disseminates best practices and success stories.** Dialogue and learning platforms allow organisations to pass on knowledge and experiences between partners, organizations and on to farmers. The project fosters this exchange through platforms, e.g. the PRO-PLANTEURS Day or through the PPP-Platform by the Conseil du Café-Cacao.



Project Progress 2015 – 2019

Until end of 2018, PRO-PLANTEURS trained 74 managers of **18 farmer organisations** in four five-day training sessions. At the same time, the farmer organisations were accompanied by on-site coaching sessions and an operational monitoring over a period of **12 months**. Consequently, professional management instruments are available at all trained farmer organisations. Training and coaching of the second group of **17 farmer organisations** started in July 2019.

200 Farmer Field Schools and 20 demonstration plots were set up and serve to train more than **5,000 farmers, in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)**. More than **6,000 farmers** were trained in farm management in so-called **Farmer Business Schools (FBS)**.



Furthermore, the project raised the awareness of **9,000 farmers on agroforestry systems** and the new forest code. In addition, **nine service units with around 300 young entrepreneurs** were trained to provide services, such as phytosanitary treatment, in cocoa fields.

For the project's activities on **nutrition**, specific training materials were developed, and **76 female members "Animatrices Rurales"** of the farmer organizations were trained in **cooperation with the National Food Program (PNN)**. The *Animatrices Rurales* conducted the **awareness-raising sessions for 16,000 families**. By the end of December 2019, **14,000 farmers** took part in technical trainings on **diversification** (food crops and husbandry) to increase their income generated by other agricultural sources than cocoa. In addition, **sixteen projects** (Income Generating Activities) with **2,100 women** are currently ongoing with women's groups in the farmer organisations.

Studies, exchange workshops and field visits are organised to share experiences and deepen knowledge.

PRO-PLANTEURS is a joint project of



Le Conseil du Café-Cacao
Le Conseil de Régulation, de Stabilisation et de Développement de la Filière Café-Cacao



Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao
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