



## ***2020 Progress Report by Meiji - Ghana -***

### **1. WHAT IS THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE?**

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 35 leading cocoa and chocolate companies, representing 85% of global cocoa usage, have joined together in the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#) to end deforestation and restore forest areas. Their combined actions play a crucial role in 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.

The [World Cocoa Foundation](#) (WCF); [IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative](#); and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana drive the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. 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 25% and 8% of their humid primary forest between 2002-2019, with a significant portion of deforestation attributable to cocoa farming expansion.

Cocoa provides crucial employment and income to smallholders in West Africa. An accelerated transition to sustainable livelihoods is essential for ensuring their long-term economic security. Thanks to public and private sector actions, notably through the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, this transition is under way, with recent reports (from [Global Forest Watch](#) and the [United Nations](#)) showing that the rate of primary forest loss was halved in both Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana from 2018 to 2019.

To learn more, follow #cocoaandforests on social media, or visit [cocoaandforests.org](#) and [WorldCocoa.org](#).

### **2. WHAT ARE THE KEY COMMITMENTS IN THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE?**

Cocoa & Forests Initiative activities proceed from three priorities: (1) forest protection and restoration, (2) sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods, and (3) community engagement and social inclusion.

**The first priority is the protection and restoration of forests that have been degraded.** To this end, the 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 are currently updating the maps, including socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, which will further inform private sector investments.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these commitments, companies have pledged to develop verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to the first purchase point for their own purchases of cocoa, and to work with governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability encompassing all traders in the supply chain. The companies will similarly share information with the national satellite monitoring platforms (in development) 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 governments and companies are accelerating investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow “more cocoa on less land.” Key actions include provision of improved planting materials, 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.

### **3. MEIJI'S COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE RESULTS**

Our sustainability programs are carried out in 3 districts (Wassa Akropong A ,B and Bogoso) including 82 societies.

We improved access to agronomic knowledge and extension services such about GAPs training and additional livelihoods.

And we also increased access to planting materials such as cocoa seedling and shade trees.

Meiji invested in sustainable agricultural intensification to grow “more cocoa on less land”, with focused on:

- Training 191 farmers in off-reserve forest land in CSC production including cocoa agroforestry systems and the latest Good Agriculture Practice (GAPs).
- Establishing and providing cocoa nurseries with improved cocoa planting material.
- Distribution improved cocoa 3,525 planting material to farmers and supporting cocoa farm rehabilitation.
- Construction of boreholes in 5 societies for planting material, cocoa farming and their daily life.

<b>TRACKING TABLE / GHANA</b>
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CFI Company Progress Report Tracking Table for Ghana

Commitments	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# on behalf of clients (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)	# total on behalf of clients (since 2018)
<b>Forest Protection and Restoration</b>							
1. No further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations, and using HCS and HCV methodologies) for cocoa production.	1.1 Conduct farm mapping w/in supply chain to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest land	# of cocoa plots mapped in direct supply chain # and % of cocoa farms mapped in direct supply chain	TBD	0		0	
	1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all sourcing areas.	# of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed	TBD	0		0	
2. No production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms w/in existing legal status.	2.1 Implement traceability tools/technology to ensure no cocoa purchases originate from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves (all forest areas)	% of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point	TBD	0		0	
3. A differentiated approach for Forest Reserves w/ll be adopted, based on level of degradation, with elimination of sourcing of cocoa in less degraded reserves (Cat.1) as of 31 December 2019, and production and sourcing for a period up to 25 years through MTS in more degraded reserves (Cat. 2).	3.1 Support farmers in Category 2 Forest Reserve areas in their restoration and reforestation programs	# hectares of Category 2 Forest Reserve areas restored	TBD	0		0	
4. In highly degraded off-reserve forest lands, cocoa production and sourcing w/ll continue, supported by climate smart cocoa and MTS.	4.1 Train farmers in off-reserve forest lands in CSC production including cocoa agroforestry systems	# farmers trained in CSC best practices	Total 4,000 M 2,046 F 693	Total 191 M 191	Total M F	Total 2,508 M 1,813 F 695	Total M F
	4.2 Train farmers in Modified Taungya System (MTS)	# farmers trained in MTS	Total - M F	Total - M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F
5. Land and tree tenure reforms, and benefit sharing arrangements to incentivize land owners and users to retain naturally regenerated trees will be accelerated, including approval of CREMA mechanism.	5.1 Support farmers w/ll tree registration	# trees registered	TBD	0		0	
	5.2 Support cocoa farmers to acquire land (tenure) documentation	# of farmers with land tenure agreements/documentation etc. obtained via company support	Total - M F	Total 0 M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F
6. Public sector forest law enforcement and governance w/ll be strengthened	6.1 Promote awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on forest law enforcement and tree tenure provisions	# farmers informed, trained, and/or consulted on forest policy/law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	Total 400 M F	Total 0 M F	Total M F	Total 0 M F	Total M F
	7.1 Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration	# individuals receiving PES: law # individuals receiving PES: Total Documentation	Total - M F	Total - M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F
8. Public-private collaboration w/ll be enhanced to identify good practices and technical guidance for forest conservation and restoration, shade grown cocoa, and MTS in Forest Reserves.	8.1 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# farmers applying agroforestry # multipurpose trees distributed for on-farm planting # hectares cocoa agroforestry in development	Total - M F 112,860 TBD	Total - M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F
	8.2 Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation)	# of trees distributed for off-farm planting # hectares of forest area restored off-reserve	TBD TBD				
	8.3 Train farmers in Modified Taungya System (MTS)	# farmers trained in MTS	Already reported 42				
<b>Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods</b>							
9. Promote investment in long-term productivity of high quality cocoa in environmentally sustainable manner and grow "more cocoa on less land."	9.1 Distribute improved cocoa planting material	# improved cocoa seedlings distributed to farmers	200,000	3,525		75,458	
	9.2 Train farmers and producer organizations in the latest Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	# of farmers reached by GAP training programs	Total 4,000 M 2,046 F 693	Total 191 M 191	Total M F	Total 2,508 M 1,813 F 695	Total M F
10. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers.	10.1 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# multipurpose trees distributed for on-farm planting # hectares cocoa agroforestry in development	Already reported 8.1				
	10.2 Promote farm-level crop diversification	# individuals participating in additional Income Generating Activities (IGA's)	Total - M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F
11. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and cocoa farm rehabilitation and renovation.	11.1 Promote expansion of farmer savings	# and % individuals in the current reporting year enrolled in a formal financial products and services (loans, insurance, digital payments, and savings/banks/investments) with support # of members of VSLA groups in the current year # of VSLA groups in the current year	Total - M F TBD	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F
	12.1 Conduct mapping to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries polygon data	# farms mapped within direct supply chain	Already reported 1.1				
	12.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in 100% of supply chain by end-2019	% cocoa supply traceable from individual farms to first purchase point	Already reported 2.1				
<b>Social Inclusion and Community Engagement</b>							
13. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes.	13.1 Organize cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Framework for Action	# farmers informed, trained, and/or consulted on forest policy/law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	Already reported 6.1				
14. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration.	14.1 Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programs for forest restoration/protection	# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program # hectares under CBNRM	TBD TBD				
	15.1 Develop forest protection & restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are youth and gender sensitive	# of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities # of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (age 15-35)	Total - M F Total - M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F	Total M F
<b># Farmers in direct supply/ member sustainability programs</b>					<b>2508</b>		

## RESULT STORIES

Since 2019 when we launched our CFI Action Plan, we have been working on various sustainability programs in Ghana. The main activities are training farmers regarding the latest Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and distribution of hybrid cocoa seedlings, agricultural inputs and equipment, which contribute to the “Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods” programs in CFI. We have also distributed multipurpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry, and enhanced farmer awareness of how important it is to protect off-reserve forest lands, in terms of “Forest Production and Restoration”.

We are regularly visiting societies in Western Region where we are carrying out CFI programs, and having interaction with farmers whom we are providing supports. When our team visited there in December 2019 and October 2020, we received lots of positive comments from farmers, and this reinforced our trust in the Action Plan:



### **CSC training in Ayensukrom Society**

20 farmers joined the training class regarding sustainable cocoa farming in Ayensukrom Society. They learned CSC farming and had a group discussion. They have been facing many difficulties



due to severe drought last two years. Thus they're delighted to have CFI-related activities such as CSC training, distribution of young cocoa plants, et cetera.



**New Borehole in Ayensukrom Society**



### **New Borehole in Ojugkrom Society**

As a CFI-related activity, we constructed 5 boreholes with electric pumping system, purifier filter and large water tank on it. This was not only to establish a cocoa seedling nursery in the society, but also to give an access to clean and safe drinking-water for the local people. Ojugkrom is one of the society, where only few family were living and now more than 10 families have moved in thanks to the borehole. People were living on stream water, which is now polluted by a new galamsey nearby. Local people in the community are thankful because they can raise their small children with safe water from the borehole.