

Best Practice Example to Address Deforestation in the Cocoa Sector

Project Title

Olam/Rainforest Alliance Climate Cocoa Partnership and REDD+ Pilot Project by Olam

Summary

The project aim was to improve the capacities of farmers to mitigate and adapt to climate change while simultaneously increasing productivity. The project focused on organizing individual farmers, establishing landscape management structures, reduce pressures to further encroach on surrounding forestlands, and restoring ecosystems within cocoa agroforests and other degraded land-use systems. The project also focused on developing a landscape-level project centered on sustainable practices that conserve biodiversity, provide greater long-term stability to all value chain participants and increase the income of smallholder farmers. Additionally, the project allowed Olam to bring the world's first verified climate smart cocoa to the international market.

Duration

2011 – 2014

Number of Farmers or Local Population Involved

2800 and Landscape Beneficiaries in Juabeso and Bia Districts

Budget

\$1M Matching fund between Olam and GEF Cocoa, executed by the Rainforest Alliance | \$3M Donor support from the United States Agency for International Development and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Location

Western Region: Juabeso/Bia District, Ghana

Partner

Rainforest Alliance



Key Steps

- Created a sustainable landscape that harnessed the transformative power of markets. Made commitments to source climate-smart cocoa, connecting to the company's supply network and consumer base and engaging thousands of farmers. and focused on demonstrating to farmers the value proposition of certification and specifically climate smart farming practices.
- Developed a detailed training curriculum for the SAN Climate Module for the Ghanaian context.
- Increased efforts by partners to attract additional investment into the landscape including facilitating and collaborating with potential private sector and businesses to consider investment in landscape initiatives.
- Enhanced business practices to support efforts to conserve biodiversity in its production landscapes, contributed to provide greater long-term stability to all value chain participants and help to increase income for smallholder farmers.

Outputs and Outcomes

- Trained 2,847 farm operations in the integrated SAN standard and climate smart curriculum. Verified a total of approximately 6,052.80 ha in 34 communities to be climate smart in landscape.
- Developed the capacity for farmers to assess the risks that climate change poses to their livelihoods and to design and implement an adaptation plan for their farms.
- Increased climate education and overall awareness to ensure the climate-smart farm level practices are escalated and replicated to a landscape and forest management level.
- Planted a total of 50,940 native shade tree seedlings to sow seeds of good agroforestry system in the landscape. A reforestation of 300ha degraded fallow areas through the planting of additional 50,000 timber species to restore the landscape.
- Piloted the tree ownership regime with field activities and fed the results into the national coordination platform, contributing to the adoption of new registration processes for tree ownership in mosaic cocoa systems and landscapes.
- Addressed many organizational and administrative capacity issues through development of cooperatives and the Landscape Management Board (LMB). Expected to guide the development of REDD+ activities after the close of the project and improve coordination with other stakeholders, including the FC, District Assemblies, traditional authorities and the private sector.
- Carried out Natural Ecosystem Assessment to serve as a baseline for future evaluation of the project at landscape level, mapping 1550 farms in addition to those mapped by Olam through their Olam Farmer Information System (OFIS).
- This project has led to further climate smart initiatives in other geographies, notably in Indonesia, The Millenium Challenge Account MCA-I Compact's Green Prosperity project began on July 1, 2015 helping to further climate adaptation efforts amongst 8,000 cocoa smallholders in the North Kolaka and North Luwu districts in Southeast and Southern Sulawesi.

For more information, please visit olamgroup.com/supporting-cocoa-smallholders-transcend-boundaries-climate-change-2.

Cocoa and Forest Initiative Launch

March 16, 2017