

Applied Research Partnerships with Developing and Transition Countries

Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences and Universities of Teacher Education

Project title

Promoting sustainable production methods and socio-environmental certifications among small-scale cocoa farmers in Ghana

Thematic focus

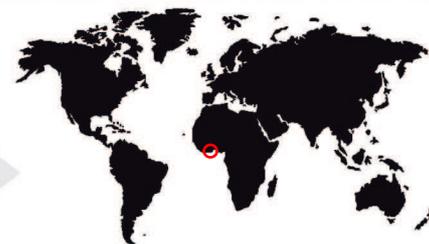
Certifications and sustainable production in the cocoa sector

Year

2012

Project location

Kumasi, Ghana



Swiss Institution

Dr. Ingrid Fromm
School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences
Bern University of Applied Sciences

Partner Institution

Dr. Robert Aidoo
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
(KNUST)

Description

Cocoa is one of Ghana's main export products. There are about 2 million cocoa farmers in Ghana; most of the cocoa is produced on small farms of 3-4 hectares. Small-scale cocoa farmers often benefit the least from the global cocoa industry. Private certification initiatives, such as organic and fair trade labels guarantee that farmers and producers are paid better prices. The aim of this project is to promote the adoption of sustainable farming methods and socio-environmental certifications among small-scale farmers to secure a better income.

The research project will focus on current production methods, factors determining the adoption of sustainable farming methods as well as innovation and the use of labels and certification at the farm level. Capitalizing on the expertise of the staff of the Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) and the Department of Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness and Extension from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), a participatory approach will be applied in farmer training, using the new knowledge base emanating from the research.

Development relevance

Cocoa plays a key role in the socio-economic development of Ghana by employing more than 50% of farmers and contributing more than 60% of the country's foreign exchange earnings. When farmers are able to produce more sustainably and are able to certify their cocoa beans, it will improve the competitiveness of Ghana's cocoa on the international market.

Consequently, the value of Ghana's cocoa will improve further leading to more foreign exchange earnings to fuel social and economic development. The project envisions capacity building for farmers to improve productivity and farm income as well as food security at the household level.



Interview Sheanut Farmers' Association



Interview with farmers

KFH

Rektorenkonferenz der Fachhochschulen der Schweiz
Conférence des Recteurs des Hautes Ecoles Spécialisées Suisses
Conferenza dei Rettori delle Scuole Universitarie Professionali Svizzere
Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Main features of the project

The research will be conducted in three cocoa districts in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Farmers and agents of cocoa buying companies shall be selected for interview through a multi-stage sampling approach. A combination of stratified, systematic and random sampling techniques will be adopted to select respondents for interviews. A standardized structured questionnaire will be used to gather field data through personal interviews. Focus Group Discussions will also be conducted to find the current knowledge level of farmers on cocoa certification and their willingness to adopt sustainable production practices for their cocoa to be certified. Key informant interviews will also be conducted and the target groups will include cocoa certification organizations in Ghana, Ghana COCOBOD officials and some cocoa marketing companies and their agents at the community level.

Also, as part of the project, training meetings will be organized for farmers and key stakeholders in the cocoa industry to share knowledge on sustainable cocoa production methods, cocoa certification and child labor. These training sessions will be conducted in local languages and at the community level to ensure active and full participation of farmers. Apart from the key investigators, 2 postgraduate students in the partner institutions will be actively involved in the research design, field data collection, data entry and analysis as well as all training programs to build their research capacities.



Campus KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana

