The role of the cocoa sector in the REDD + process:
The current IITA experience in Cameroon

_Denis J. Sonwa_\(^1\&2\), _Rachid Hanna_\(^1\), _Nathalie Ewane_\(^1\), _Francis Silatsa_\(^1\), _Adolph Kemga_\(^1\)

(1) International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA);
(2) Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR);

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Plan

- Expectation from cocoa farms
- Piloting REDD+ activities
- Understanding cocoa environment to improve REDD+
- Conclusion and way forward
What implications for cocoa in the REDD+ agenda?
Expectation from cocoa farms

- West Africa had been deforested with the contribution of cocoa expansion.

- The earth of the continent is still green (Ex. DRC), but may be the next frontier of agro-industries extension after west Africa.

- What can we learn from Cameroon experience?

Expectation from cocoa farms

- Sustainable cocoa production

- Ecological services (Formerly provided by forest)
  - Biodiversity conservation (inside cocoa and the cocoa/forest landscapes)
  - Carbon storage
  - Zero deforestation

- Diverse livelihood products (plants associated with cocoa)

CBD & UNFCCC
Piloting REDD+ activities

Current Cocoa value chain project locations

Southwest region:
Konye, Muyuka
(KONAFCOOP, MAUCOOP) +3 in 2017

Center region:
Ayos and Ngomédzap
(COCOA+AYOS, SOCOPROCAON)
Working at the plot level

- Characterization of the cocoa production systems – baseline analysis
- Farmer training on good cocoa production and intensification (Farmer Field Schools).
- Promotion of mass plant multiplication of cocoa and associated crops and trees through establishment and maintenance of seed gardens, community-based plant multiplication centers,
- Rehabilitation and regeneration (replanting, grafting, and diversification).
- Succession planning and youth engagement in cocoa farming.
Integration of seed gardens with centers of plant multiplication (CPM)

IRAD (Breeders seeds)

Seed gardens

CPM

CPM

CPM

Distribution of planting material to producers under the auspices of the collaborating cooperatives

CPM: Center for plant multiplication

Contribution of IITA
Baseline assessment – Field verification

Total of 120 fields (30 in each site) were visited: (part of MRV activities)

- Information obtained through the field interviews and visits
  - Field characteristics (size, age, previous land use, source of planting materials, other trees, etc.)
  - Yield and input types (fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides)
  - Labour input (by age, hired/own, gender)
  - Direct assessment of pests and diseases
  - Soil characteristics (texture, pH, carbon and essential nutrients)
  - Shade and carbon stock (in wood, litter, soil, and roots).
  - Diversification, other crops,
Farmer Field Schools

Diffusion of good agricultural practices

- Training of trainers (40; 10 in each locality).
- Target: 12000 producers

- FFS et FLG :
  - Integrated crop protection, good agricultural practices (harvesting and phytosanitation);
  - Occupational health and safety
  - Regeneration of cocoa plantation: planting, replanting and diversification.
Establishment of demonstration plots

- 40 plots (10 in Konye, 10 in Muyuka, 10 in Ngomedzap & 10 in Ayos)

Innovative diversification with plantains, cassava, and trees (fruit and timber trees)
Plant multiplication

Centers for Plant Multiplications (CPM)

- 12 centers of the multiplication of plantains, cocoa, fruit trees, leguminous trees and forest trees.
- Konye, Muyuka, Ayos and Ngomedzap
- Already operational
- Yearly production of ~40,000 cocoa seedlings, 24,000 plantains plantlets, and 8,000 fruit trees.
- Land provided by cooperatives
- Two young attendants per center; one supervisor per région
- Integrate women and youth
- Revenue generating activity
- Business plan under development.
Additional cocoa research to support the future REDD+

- Mirid management (pheromone technology, biopesticide development, delivery system)
- Cocoa pollinators diversity and conservation.
- Impact of climate change on cocoa production and development and promotion of climate change adaptation and resilience practices.
- Soil fertility enhancement and impact on productivity through inorganic soil amendments.
- Succession planning and youth engagement in cocoa farming.
- Cocoa value chain analysis
Climate smart cocoa production

Resilience and climate change adaptation

- 27 plots
- 9 in each of three locations across climate gradient with different levels shading
- Quantifying shades through tree/canopy measurements, fish-eye method, and drones
- Soil fertility enhancement (NPK, Mg, Ca)
- Soil water and plant water relations.
- Data collected on phenology, pest/disease/yield/quality
- Rainfall, relative humidity, temperature; soil and plant water status
Understanding cocoa environment to improve REDD+

Value chain analysis

Source: Maria Geitzenauer
Cocoa dynamic can play an important role in enabling or reversing forest degradation and deforestation.

Cocoa value chain is an entry point for REDD+ activities in Cameroon.

Pledges by private sector constitute an opportunity to use cocoa for REDD+ activities in Cameroon and other countries of West and Central Africa.

Research institutions had an important role to generate knowledge for REDD+, but also to pilot some REDD+ activities and contribute to early lessons learning process.
Thank you

d.sonwa@cgiar.org

Twitter: @SonwaDenis

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