ECC Results Reporting Template (2024)

<table>
<tr><td colspan="5">Project Title: Environmentally Sustainable Production Practices in Cocoa Landscape Phase IV</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Name of IP: Ghana COCOBOD</td><td>Date: 1st Jan – November 2024</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">RESULTS PERFORMANCE/ACHIEVEMENTS</td></tr>
<tr><td>Project Results
State project Results (Outcomes of Outputs from approve AWP for reporting period)</td><td>Indicators
The Project outcome or output indicators as stated in the M&E framework and/ AWP)</td><td>Target
Targets agreed by project team on each indicator</td><td>Update on Results
A brief analysis on any relevant changes pertaining to the outcome or output achieved with respect to targets</td><td>Comments</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Outcome 1: Degraded forests restored with the Modified Taungya System (MTS)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Output 1
1.1 Replanting of degraded forest with Modified Taungya System</td><td>1. Distribution of economic seedlings</td><td>Number of seedlings distributed - 140,000</td><td>A key activity approved in the 2024 Annual Work Plan & Budget under ESP IV is to continue with the implementation of the MTS in the Ayum Forest Reserve and to extend the activity to the Pra-Subri Forest Reserve near Atobiase in the Wassa East District. Work has begun in both sites. The Table below shows the status of plot allocation and number of participating Farmers, area planted and the number of seedlings distributed and planted.
<table>
<tr><th>Description</th><th>Ayum Forest Reserve (Goaso)</th><th>Pra-Subri Forest Reserve (Atobiase)</th><th>Remarks</th></tr>
<tr><td>Total area under cultivation in 2024</td><td>130Ha</td><td>13Ha</td><td>Total area cultivated for 2024: 143 ha</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total Number of Farmers</td><td>76 (26 Males & 50 Females)</td><td>58 (40 Males & 18 Females)</td><td>Total # of participants during reporting period: 138</td></tr>
<tr><td>Number of seedlings supplied for planting in 2024</td><td>170,000</td><td>30,000</td><td>Total seedlings purchased, supplied &Planted so far: 200,000 for both beating-up and new plantings. However the project received seedlings donations of</td></tr>
</table></td><td>The Farmers see their involvement in the MTS as an opportunity to have access fertile land for food crop cultivation. According to the results of the study under reference, about 67% and 33% strongly agreed and agreed respectively that their involvement in the MTS will help in restoring the forest by growing woody perennial species. Respondents either strongly agreed (80%) or agreed (20%) that MTS has helped farmers cultivate food crops to sell for additional income. Furthermore, all respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that</td></tr>
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							additional 20,000 from the Unions and Vendors making the total number planted 220,000	MTS has helped to reduce hunger.
	1.2 PES incentives paid	Number of Farmers receiving PES payment - 200	ESP has instituted a PES grant scheme for registered participating MTS farmers meant to reward them with a cash incentive. For each tree planted and nurtured that have survived for at least one year the farmers received GHC2 as performance-based incentive to enable them to continue maintaining their farms. Prior to the payment, a tree census is conducted to establish the survival rate of trees planted the previous year. Census is conducted using digital technology through the use of the Kobo Collect app that is used to generate data on each surviving tree per farmer. One condition attached to the payment is for the Farmer to first, ensure the farm is weeded before any tree counting takes place. This has resulted in the situation where all the recipients/beneficiaries have all properly maintained their farms in order to qualify for the payment. Payment for 2024 for planting done in 2023 is scheduled for Dec & Jan						The PES payment is meant to be used to hire labor to maintain the farms
	1.2.1 Food crops and farm inputs supply	Number of Farmers receiving farm input supply - 200	In addition to other crops such as plantain, ginger and vegetables, the MTS farmers are also growing maize that is often infested with regular outbreaks of the fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*). In order to control the outbreak, the Project supported all the maize farmers with six knapsack Spraying machines and insecticides (chlorpyriphos Noval BT) to spray the worms. As part of the support, a one-day on-farm hands-on training session was organize for the farmers on integrated pest management to deepen their understanding on how to apply the chlorpyriphos Noval BT and how to manage pests generally. The Ministry of Food & Agriculture provided technical backstopping for the training. The supply of the agro-chemical and the training has resulted in an effective management of the outbreak leading to improved yields.						
	Stakeholder engagements and coordination	Number of coordination meetings - 3	Regular stakeholder coordination/consultative meetings have become a key function of this phase. This has created a platform for the various entities including the Farmers, the Union and the Forest Services Division of the FC to meet regularly to discuss strategy. Stakeholders meet quarterly or as at when necessary. The coordination meetings serve as a platform to ensure consistency in the application of the MTS model, information sharing among promoting entities to prevent situations like farmers working on multiple plots they cannot manage, and as a space to review the performance of the MTS work. 2 of such meetings has far been organized.						

Output 2: Community organization for natural resource management and additional livelihood opportunities strengthened through the CREMA				
CREMA Management	CREMA coordination and logistical support	Number of CREMAs under management - 2	Work is ongoing in the two CREMAs to continue assisting them with technical and administrative support to carry out their mandate. 3 quarterly meetings have taken place within the reporting period in both CREMAs to discuss about how to make the CREMAs independent, functional and sustainable in the end. This is in addition to monitoring visits to selected communities to continue the sensitization campaign on the CREMA by-laws and constitution. The purpose was to educate the CRMC's on the dos and don'ts within the CREMA and to ensure that the constitution and the by-laws are being diligently applied. The visits also afforded the ESP Team to assess the performance of the CRMCs. The CREMA structures at the community level in both CREMAs are functioning well, despite the lack of financial resources. They demonstrated a lot of dynamism and willingness to ensure the compliance of all articles of their bylaws.	
	Promotion of alternative livelihoods	Number of alternative livelihoods promoted -2	As part of the overall support, the Project continues to build capacities of the CREMAs in selected areas including the promotion and development of additional livelihoods. For the 2024 planning period, beekeeping was identified as a profitable venture for promotion in the CREMAs in addition to the cultivation of food crops at the MTS. As part of this additional livelihood scheme, 40 farmers were selected from the two CREMAs (20 each) to pilot a beekeeping initiative. They were trained in how to set up and manage beehives. Each farmer was equipped to operate a 4-bee hive apiary to form the basis of a viable beekeeping production unit after the training. So far, only 60% of the hives are colonized and efforts are underway to re-locate those that are not yet colonized to other suitable areas.	

2. GENDER SPECIFIC RESULTS *(Please report specific gender disaggregated results)*

Gender equality is essential if cocoa communities are to thrive. That is why promoting women's empowerment has been a crosscutting theme for EPS and the whole of the Cocoa Life Program. As part of its gender mainstreaming efforts, ESP is working with the other CL IPs, in the following areas:

- Ensuring the active participation of females in all training events; increase women's access to finance, farm inputs, land ownership and membership of farmer organizations.
- Help women develop other livelihood options by increasing their access to finance through the establishment of the Village Loans and Savings Schemes and improving business entrepreneurial skills and teaching the importance of household food security.
- Empowering women to play an active role in decision making in households, communities and district and national farmer forums; engage women in developing Community Action Plans.
- Train community leaders, Cocoa Life implementing partners and staff in gender awareness; engage district and national government institutions on issues affecting women.
- Support literacy programs in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and community reading clubs.
- Track progress against key performance indicators and local metrics in response to the commitment to gender mainstreaming for each program objective and focus area.

Across the program, training is being tailored to meet women's needs – for example by ensuring that farmer-training sessions are held at suitable times and locations. Our gender action plan includes training to support women to plan time and delegate tasks to enable them to participate in group activities. We are also seeking to increase the number of women able to acquire land and tree ownership. Existing tenure systems work against this and so we have begun a sensitization program among community leaders and male family heads to support women owning land to cultivate cocoa and other crops as well as plant economic trees on their farms.

3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- Inadequate rainfall that affected the planting calendar. The normal June, July rains did not come until mid-August. For the last two years, March and April have recorded some wet periods. Tree planting should be spread to cover the period of the early rains.
- The Pra-Subri Forest Reserve MTS site in Wassa East is not very accessible by vehicle unless by foot. It would be very crucial to consider site accessibility as important selection criteria.

4. LESSONS LEARNT AND OPPORTUNITIES: *(Please describe new understanding or insights gained from project activities that can contribute to improving future project design and implementation. Give specific examples)*

The weather has become very unpredictable. It has therefore become very important to target the early rains in March and April to commence the planting of seedlings.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED ACTION

- To find lasting solutions to the challenge of funding for the CREMAs, ESP is working with other stakeholders under the auspices of the National Technical Working Group on CREMAs to continue the dialogue on the subject. In addition, arrangements are almost concluded to train and equip at least 40 farmers from the two CREMAs in beekeeping as an additional livelihood option.

6. KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2025

All activities implemented in 2024 would be repeated in 2025

7. Risk

Risk	**Current Situation**
Current land and tree tenure policies does not provide enough incentives to farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable production practices	Currently, the project management unit is involved in discussions with the Forestry Commission of Ghana towards a review tree registration and mechanism for registering trees planted on farms. Land tenure rights on the other hand is considered complex and may call for policy reforms to address them.
2. Increasing demand for cocoa in general (2-3% per year) and high-quality Ghanaian cocoa specifically will drive expansion of areas under cocoa also into forest, thereby undermining biodiversity benefits through changing practices on existing cocoa farms.	The project addresses this through its tree integration program and reforestation work in degraded forest reserves. The Government of Ghana is committed not to increase the cocoa area and focus on increasing cocoa yields from existing farms and the rehabilitation of old cocoa farms.
3. Lack of clarity on the role of CREMAs in the exercise of their devolution of authority	The Parliament of Ghana has enacted a new Wildlife Law that seeks to revise and consolidate all laws relating to wildlife and protected areas, and bring the new legislation in conformity with existing policies in the sector. It will also ensure the implementation of international conventions on wildlife, of which Ghana is a signatory. The law provide legal backing for the work of CREMAs and thus empower them in their role of co-managing natural resources.
4. The project impacts only a limited region and the recommended land use and sustainable practices are not	The project's strong level of support from government will enable its results to be integrated into national strategies for

adopted more widely	biodiversity, poverty alleviation, land rehabilitation and cocoa production. Partnership with COCOBOD and other cocoa sector projects will provide channels for dissemination of project successes at a national (and international) scale.