Project title : COCOA4FUTURE - Sustainability of production systems and new dynamics in the cocoa sector

Project place	Project cost	Role in the project	Technical and financial sponsors	Dates
Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana	6 000 000 €	Component Manager	EU - European Union, CIRAD - Agricultural Research for Development, Inprobois, Alter Eco, APDRA, Comité Scientifique et Technique Forêt - CST	February 2020 - January 2026

Project's goals and results

Main goals
Contribute to improving the sustainability of cocoa farms while preserving the environment (limiting deforestation and restoring forest cover) by adapting cocoa farming systems to the changing context in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.
Cocoa4future is a project developed by CIRAD that wished to involve Nitidæ in the implementation of certain activities in Côte d'Ivoire.

Specific objectives
SO.1: to identify, assess and promote cocoa farming systems that are efficient, resilient and adapted to the changing context in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.
SO.2: identify, test and promote levers for socio-economic sustainability of cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Beneficiaries
Cocoa farmers, farm households (women, young people, etc.) and their professional organisations in the intervention areas.

Results
R1. Stakeholders identify or co-construct and then assess Agro-Forestry Systems (AFS) that meet farmers' expectations while providing ecosystem services (ES) that contribute to their sustainability.

R2. Research is developing knowledge on the CSSV in Côte d'Ivoire and proposes risk prediction tools and alternative control methods to cocoa uprooting.
R3. Stakeholders are informed about resilience strategies and cocoa farmer dynamics, co-construct and evaluate diversified production systems that ensure household income security.
R4. Research is developing knowledge on the effect of terroirs and AFS on the organoleptic quality of cocoa, and identifies methods of organization in the sector that promote ethical quality and/or quality linked to its origin.
R5. Support services develop tools co-constructed with research, and implement pilot operations using new modes of support to disseminate a range of technical and organizational innovations that enhance the resilience of cocoa farms.

Activities
Nitidæ contributes more particularly to the global project through the co-implementation of the following activities:
Supporting the transition of AFS to organic cocoa farming systems: co-constructing technical itineraries with cocoa farmers and testing agroforestry and organic practices adapted to their needs, in order to improve the productivity of their AFS (complex, old and not very productive, where the potential for productivity gains is important). Activity implemented in the Mé region (former cocoa loop) where Nitidæ has already set up a support system for cocoa farmers, in partnership with the Mé Organic Cocoa Producers' Cooperative and Alter Eco.
Identification of products other than cocoa (NTFPs in particular) and support for their marketing: also carried out in the Mé region, this activity will involve establishing an exhaustive inventory of uses, characterizing these products, evaluating their economic potential and identifying market opportunities to enhance their value.
Valorization of wood from cocoa FAS as additional income: organize the marketing of standing wood lots between owners (land certificate holders) and wood manufacturers. This involves making an inventory of the wood to be marketed by each cocoa farmer, drawing up operating specifications to limit as much as possible (or even compensate) for the damage caused to the cocoa farms and finally, putting the batches made up of the wood on sale.