SOCODEVI

COCOA AS A CATALYST FOR SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE MODEL

Since 1985, SOCODEVI has played an active role in the cocoa value chain in both West Africa and Latin America. In 2021-2022, we supported some 100 cooperatives in this sector, representing more than 30,000 women and men members.

COOPS AT THE SERVICE OF PRODUCERS

An active, vibrant cooperative provides its members with products and services that improve their income and living conditions.

In all its initiatives, SOCODEVI applies strategies and actions that incorporate all stakeholders across the cocoa ecosystem, from cocoa producers to cooperatives and production associations, government departments and technical and financial support agencies, private firms, etc.

RESULTS THAT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Here are some figures that show the positive impact of SOCODEVI's efforts on co-op member producers.

HONDURAS

The women and men members of the four supported cooperatives have :

- Improved their cocoa production by 29%, from an average 734 kg/ha to 946 kg/ha ;
- Improved their average net income by 27%, from an average CAD$ 1,753 to CAD$ 2,212/year per household ;
- Adopted new environmentally friendly farming practices, including diversification of their plantations into agroforestry systems that are resilient to climate change and based on models validated in collaboration with the World Cocoa Foundation.

Women have been involved in all project activities and have :

- Improved their empowerment index from low to medium, resulting in greater participation in household decision-making ;
- Improved their access to land through the use of the commodat (transfer of land use rights to the woman for a period of 5 to 10 years).

Cooperatives have diversified their commercial activities and services. More specifically, they have :

- Supported members with a view to expanding the acreage under organic and fair trade certification, thereby increasing the proportion of certified beans from 20 to 60% of all sales ;
- Shifted cocoa commercialization strategies toward specialized markets to fetch better prices ;
- Improved their sales by 141% and their net profit by 301%, on average ;
- Developed environmental action plans and put in place innovative measures such as the recovery of cocoa fermentation byproducts for soil fertilization.

COLOMBIA

The 5,000 member families of the 33 cooperatives supported by the project have :

- Improved their agroforestry practices to optimize the benefits of their agroforestry systems, in accordance with national standards, on an area of 3,600 ha ;
- Increased their average cocoa production by 15%, from 224 kg/ha to 281 kg/ha.

Women represent 52% of the individuals participating in the project, and have :

- Improved their level of empowerment, resulting in an increase from 67% to 88% of women making joint or individual decisions on cocoa production activities: cultivation, inputs, commercialization.

The cooperative and associative enterprises supported by the project have :

- Increased their sales revenue by 32%, which is equivalent to an increase of CAD$ 4.23 million.

"I want to make our plantation a profitable and model family business, in order to show the benefits of working legally to the community, and to motivate young people. I think there's something truly magical about cocoa. That's why I say cocoa is peace, it is life."

- Camila Caicedo,
daughter of a member of the AGROPASI association.

"It's one of the products we women care about the most. With the cocoa, we have reclaimed our power, we have emancipated ourselves. We can be leaders even at home, and contribute economically. I believe in cocoa."

- Margoth Albañil,
member and purchasing officer, AGROCAMPA.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The 3,100 member families of the four cooperatives supported by the project have :

- Adopted new environmentally friendly practices in 72% of cases ;
- Planted new shade trees on their cocoa plots in 52% of cases.

Women have been involved in all project activities and have :

- Increased their participation in household economic decisions from 52 to 70% ;
- Increased their participation in the general assemblies of the cooperatives, from 21 to 60%.

The cooperatives supported by the project have :

- Increased the membership of women producers ;
- Diversified their services to members by setting up two shade tree nurseries, each producing 50,000 forest seedlings per year ;
- Integrated climate change decision-making tools into their strategies to support members' production ;
- Improved their sales by 186% and their net profit by 190%, on average.

In 2021, Farmers Hope Cooperative (FAHO) was named « Best Cocoa Cooperative in the Indénié-Djuablin Region » by the Ivory Coast coffee-cocoa council ! This regional distinction rewards the contribution of a cooperative to the development of the cocoa sector and to the improvement of the living conditions of member families.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

"I didn't understand why my parents had left the big trees and fruit trees in the cocoa field. I wanted to cut them down. But after attending the SOCODEVI training, I understood their importance. I feel fortunate to have this priceless legacy. I now have the ability to preserve it and pass it on to my children. I'm also committed to educating my loved ones about the need to preserve the forest and plant trees in the cocoa fields."

— Edmond Kouamé Koffi,
member of the FAHO cooperative.

SOCODEVI'S VISION

To improve the living conditions of cocoa farming families and their communities through capacity building and the development of collective, innovative and environmentally friendly solutions within autonomous, profitable, sustainable and inclusive co-op enterprises.

PROVEN STRATEGIES

adopted by SOCODEVI to support cooperatives, their members and the business landscape

- **Diversified agroforestry systems** that promote adaptation to climate change, preservation of biodiversity, restoration and protection of healthy ecosystems, value of traditional expertise and women's inclusion in the cocoa value chain through the cooperative formula.
- **Production of forest seedlings** and improved varieties to support or improve the diversification of agroforestry plantations, improve the income of the cooperatives that manage them, and allow everyone to have access to forest seedlings at affordable prices.
- **SOCODEVI field schools' integrated training** covering technical, environmental and gender equality aspects in the same curriculum, for an in-depth transformation of gender dynamics within households, the reduction of child labour and the adoption of agri-environmental practices.
- **Performcoop's approach** to helping cooperatives manage change in order to become autonomous, profitable, sustainable and inclusive. Such cooperatives are able to offer their members products and services that improve their living conditions.
- **Effective business approach** for all activities that add value to cocoa : certification, fermentation, drying, processing, market research and promising niches.
- **Partnerships with the public and private sectors** to improve the business ecosystem in which co-ops are situated.

SOCODEVI

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SOCODEVI, A COOPERATIVE AND MUTUALIST NETWORK

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