

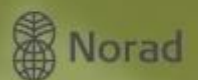


CocoaSoils

JANUARY, 24 2019

Annual CocoaSoils Forum - Ghana

FORUM DAY REPORT



Contents

Introduction	1
Summary of the forum	1
Opening and welcome	1
Presentation of the CocoaSoils program	3
Panel discussion	3
Poster exhibition on Research for Development (R4D): presenting the specific research topics	4
Thematic presentations: Cocoa and Forest Regeneration	4
Partnership for Delivery (P4D): Linking research with dissemination	5
Closing.....	6
Conclusion	6

OUR PARTNERS



Norad



Transforming African Agriculture



CGIAR



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



BARRY CALLEBAUT



the sustainable
trade initiative



World
Agroforestry
Centre



CIAT



CENTRE NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE



World Cocoa
Foundation



Report - CocoaSoils Annual Forum

Accra – Ghana
January 24, 2019

Introduction

On January 24th, 2019, the first annual forum for the CocoaSoils program took place in Accra, Ghana. The forum brought together program coordinators, representatives from national and international research institutes, government representatives, non-program industry companies, farmer organizations, in-country cocoa authorities, farmers and the media among others.

The forum followed three days of Science Committee meetings in which the research- and project partners came together to assess the quality of the trials' implementation, assure transparent and accessible dissemination of research outcomes, and provide inputs into the research of the different partners.

The annual forum aimed to build a common understanding of the CocoaSoils program by sharing the outline and progress so far, and engaging partners to further strengthen agronomic research in West- and Central Africa.



Figure 1: Opening by Dr. Bernard Vanlauwe (IITA), Daniel van Gilst (NORAD), Dr. Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh (COCOBOD), and Dr. H.K. Dzahini-Obiatey (CRIG) (from left to right)

Summary of the forum

Opening and welcome

Jonas Mva – Program Director Cocoa from IDH – opened the forum by introducing the agenda for the day and gave a short outline of the CocoaSoils program. He mentioned the geographical range of the CocoaSoils program as being in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Nigeria, Indonesia, and possible expansion to Latin America. Eventually, the program should improve the livelihoods of the cocoa

farmers, who are to be the end-beneficiaries of the program. Subsequently he welcomed all the participants of the forum, especially Dr. Bernard Vanlauwe (IITA), Dr. Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh (COCOBOD), Daniel van Gilst (NORAD), and Dr. H. K. Dzahini-Obiatay as the chairman of the day and the anti-trust statement was shown and explained to all the participants.

Bernard Vanlauwe highlighted the importance of the CocoaSoils program stating that it answers questions on how to fertilize the soils of cocoa trees. The program which is funded by NORAD is poised to translate the results into practice adding that the public-private partnerships is an important part of the program with the forum earmarked not only to speak to the audience but also to gain inputs to improve the program.

Daniel van Gilst took the opportunity to explain that it has been a while since NORAD was involved in soils and fertilizers. This is not only in Norway, but globally research on the appropriate nutrients needed by the cocoa tree, is limited. The problem of poor soil management is an important one because too many people are affected by cocoa and too many households depend on the crop. As a donor of the program, it is essential to look at the expected impact of the program. In CocoaSoils, these are

1. A 30% increase of yield
2. An increase in income for smallholder cocoa farmers
3. Target 90,000 farmers
4. No increase of deforestation
5. No child labour and
6. No increase of carbon stock due to the program.

He further in explained the important role of all program partners in the CocoaSoils program: the national research centres and private sector companies – and prospective partners– for the research and management of the core trials, the fertilizer companies for contributing minerals and the discussions, the international research organizations and PhD students for their researches, World Cocoa Foundation for initiating the program, and IITA, Wageningen University & Research and IDH for the coordination. He emphasized that the participation and enthusiasm by everyone in the program is impressive but concluded that also many things really need to be carried out soonest stressing on the delivery of the baseline study and good communication with all the partners.

Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh welcomed the in-country cocoa authorities, research committees, participants of the forum and especially NORAD. He continued that the program could help avoid deforestation by improving intensification and cocoa farmers’ livelihoods. He stated that he is very aware of the poor soil fertility and therefore shows much interest in the program. An economist would say that the private sector is key to the success of the program and therefore he is happy that this public-private partnership is established. He emphasized that the Ghana COCOBOD is committed to the success of all the activities within the program and hopes that the research component will filter down to the farmers and positively affect the cocoa production in Ghana.

H. K. Dzahini-Obiatay is the last to open the forum and took note of three important issues that need to be done in the program:

1. Ensure the private sector involvement of the project in both Nigeria and Cameroon
2. Finalize the baseline study in May 2019 and
3. Operationalize the satellite trials. The program needs to seriously work on these three components to achieve the envisioned outcomes.

Presentation of the CocoaSoils program

Dr. Richard Asare (IITA) – Program Coordinator of CocoaSoils – presented the CocoaSoils program outline with the title *"Sustainable intensification of cocoa production through the development and dissemination of Integrated Soil Fertility Management options"*. He first highlighted the program's context: risk of cocoa sourcing moving out of West-Africa, lower yields in cocoa productions, increasing deforestation in cocoa-producing areas, low usage of fertilizers, higher yields are realistic to achieve, and risk of climate change effects on cocoa farming.

He explained the overall objective of 30% increased productivity of cocoa farms and efficient use of agricultural inputs and improved rural livelihood of 90,000 farmers while avoiding deforestations. This objective target 4 groups: smallholder cocoa farmers that will benefit through enhanced cocoa productivity, and improved livelihoods, national research agents who will gain skills, knowledge and tools, policymakers who will be empowered in supporting the cocoa farmers and the society as a whole because they will benefit from avoided deforestation.

Additionally, the program consists of a Research for Development (R4D) component, that involves (scientific) research on various program elements such as understanding the cocoa physiology, climate change effects, and forest and biodiversity monitoring.



Figure 2: Dr. Richard Asare (IITA) presenting CocoaSoils program

The other component, Partnership for Delivery (P4D), works on the dissemination of the research results by training, capacity building, and policy adjustments. Satellite trials create the link between the perfectly managed core trials in the R4D and the P4D component in which the results of the latter are conducted in a less controlled environment. Over

the whole program, a monitoring, evaluating and learning (MEL) framework is used.

He further explained the structure of the program as follows: the program coordinators are IITA, Wageningen University & Research and IDH, the National Agronomic Research Centres are represented by CRIG (Ghana), CRIN (Nigeria), IRAD (Cameroon), and CNRA (Côte d'Ivoire), the international Research Centres are represented by UNEP-WCMC, CIAT, and ICRAF, and the industry partners involved in the program are Mondelēz, Mars, Yara, Nestlé, Barry Callebaut, ICL, and World Cocoa Foundation. The program is funded by NORAD through IITA.

Panel discussion

After a coffee break, Prof. Ken Giller (Wageningen University & Research) continued the forum with the facilitation of a panel discussion, that consisted of five panellists.

During the discussions, Dr. Olubamiwa Olayiwola (Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria) explained that research often ends after publication, but in the case of CocoaSoils, it doesn't end after publication but, it proceeds to the farmers to improve their livelihoods. It is their hope that in Nigeria, increased soil fertility and production is achieved. This will be a win-win situation for everyone in the

value chain (farmers, government, companies, etc) who need to act faster for quick changes since much of the soil is already degraded.

Michael Akowuah (Forestry Commission) mentioned that they identified cocoa farming as one of the major drivers of deforestation in Ghana. The Forestry Commission started advocating for Climate Smart Cocoa and shaded cocoa as they can help in forest protection. These programs started in 5 of the most important cocoa growing regions. Climate smart agriculture supports the right kind of fertilizer, and therefore they have high expectations of the CocoaSoils program to augment other interventions.

Derrick Tuffour-Mills (Yara) carried on and said Yara has done a lot on fertilizers but there is the need to know something about the crop to be able to select the right fertilizers. Less information can be found in literature, but Yara has gained a lot of data in its own research studies and to include in their programs, training of farmers in the right fertilizer usage. Yara’s expectation of the CocoaSoils program is that the research learnings will be shared with the farmers to encourage them in making the right investment decisions.

Samuel Adimado (Kuapa Kooko) started by emphasizing that their members are prohibited to make use of child labour, deforesting, and use of wrong chemicals on their farms. They continuously invest in replanting and planting shade trees, but they still see that, the impact of climate change is aggressively affecting the cocoa farms. The knowledge gap in fertilizer usage is identified as fertilizer suppliers have incoherent advice on fertilizer usage. Therefore, they hope the CocoaSoils program will contribute to generalized recommendations for fertilizer usage to improve cocoa yields.

Dr. Hervé Bisseleua (World Cocoa Foundation) is very supportive of the CocoaSoils initiative. He stated that WCF believes in clean and affordable planting materials for farmers, and that their initiatives such as Cocoa Action Program also has collective action around sustainability in the cocoa sector. His expectation of the CocoaSoils program is that the collective action within a collaborative network leads to sector-wide implementation of recommendations.

Poster exhibition on Research for Development (R4D): presenting the specific research topics

During lunchtime, a poster exhibition that presented the different research topics was organized. PhD students had the possibility to present and show their research studies, while the participants of the forum had the opportunity to gain more in-depth information on their research or ask questions on specific parts of the program.



Figure 3: Poster exhibition

Thematic presentations: Cocoa and Forest Regeneration

After the lunch break, thematic presentations were given on Cocoa and Forest Regeneration. Dr. Eric Rahn (CIAT) presented “Cocoa crop modelling for climate change adaptation and avoided deforestation” which is a Research & Decision-support tool. With this tool it is possible to identify how climate affects cocoa, the highest yield gaps, and how to adapt the cocoa crop to climate change. The tool identified much diversity in yield possibilities throughout West-Africa due to various agro

climatic zones. The Terra-I tool presented is key in detecting loss of forest, and mapping cocoa-related deforestation dynamics.

Next, Dr. Marieke Sassen and Dr. Andy Arnell (UNEP-WCMC) presented "*Deforestation and Biodiversity assessment: global focus and threats from Cocoa*". They explained the objective of UNEP-WCMC in the CocoaSoils is to develop scientific analyses to help the cocoa industry and relevant stakeholders in sustainable development in relation to biodiversity and ecosystems services.

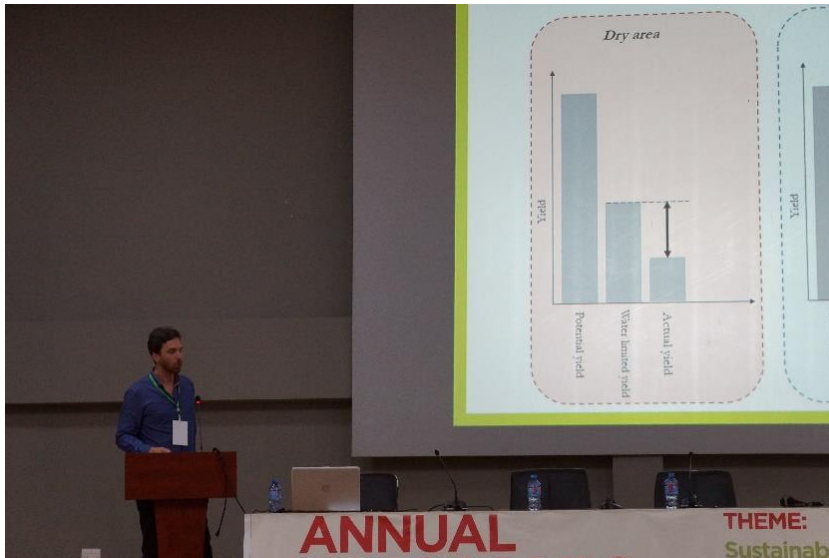


Figure 4: Dr. Eric Rahn (CIAT) presenting cocoa crop modelling

They presented the mapping of the risks to biodiversity in the cocoa zones in West-Africa and made predictions on the highest risks to deforestation in unprotected areas in 2050. Cameroon and Liberia are expected to be the highest risk areas according to this model. When linking cocoa

farming with biodiversity, cocoa plantations host fewer species than secondary forests but natural shade systems can preserve richness of relatively high species. They concluded by explaining that in highly suitable cocoa farming areas such as Liberia and Cameroon, careful land use planning is needed to maintain high biodiversity. In Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, where forests are already converted to agriculture, cocoa can increase tree coverage by using natural shade systems.

Jonas Mva (IDH) ended this part of the program by presenting on the Cocoa & Forests Initiative and linking it to the CocoaSoils program. This initiative started with a statement of intend by 35 cocoa companies and followed by a Framework for Action developed in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, and later in Colombia. The initiative focused on three pillars: forest conservation and restoration, sustainable intensification and diversification of farmers' yield and income, and engagement and empowerment of cocoa growing communities. The Cocoa and Forests Initiative could strongly benefit from the CocoaSoils program because it has the potential to benefit the three pillars: it develops agroforestry schemes that can be implemented in agroforests, the yield intensification leads to 'more cocoa on less land', and cocoa farmers become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Partnership for Delivery (P4D): Linking research with dissemination

The next section of the forum was on the Partnership for Delivery (P4D) component of the CocoaSoils program and presented by Dr. Wandji Njankoua (IITA). This component provides Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) recommendations that should lead to investments with a better input-output ratio, and subsequently lead to zero deforestation in cocoa farming practices. The objectives of this component are:

- 1) To provide access to the technology for 90,000 cocoa farmers across West-Africa.
- 2) To strengthen the ISFM capacity of extension specialist and sustainability managers in both public and private sector.
- 3) To facilitate the development of an enabling environment of cocoa ISFM knowledge.

These objectives are implemented through alignment with national policies and cocoa authorities and creating in-country partnership committees to link the research component within the national frameworks. He furthermore explained the organizational framework of the delivery component on the national level.

The program continued with breakout sessions where the forum participants worked in groups to discuss topics on organizing linkages between the R4D and P4D components, how to disseminate ISFM technologies, and alignment with national policy frameworks. The working groups returned and presented their ideas.



Figure 5: Working group session

Closing

Ken Giller concluded the day with some closing remarks. He emphasized that CocoaSoils is a highly strategic and visible programme which is attracting considerable attention, and that we all must strive to provide excellent quality in our work to make the project a success. He thanked the participants for their active participation in the forum and thanked the organization team for enabling the meetings to be a success.

Conclusion

The first annual CocoaSoils forum had excellent participation from invited guests and gave partners the chance to share the status of the CocoaSoils program with a wide range of participants. The inputs given by participants helped with the development of the next steps within the program. In the next annual forum, the progress of these next steps will be presented. The next forum will take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon in the fourth week of January (21 -25), 2020.

ANNEXES

- [Forum 2019 - Program](#)
- [Presentations – CocoaSoils Forum](#)
- [Participants List – CocoaSoils Forum](#)