



**Solidaridad**

# TRAINER'S MANUAL

**CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HIA GOVERNANCE MEMBERS' AND COMMUNITIES  
UNDER THE GHANA COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAM (GCFRP)**



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## **CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HIA GOVERNANCE MEMBERS' AND COMMUNITIES UNDER THE GHANA COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAM (GCFRP)**

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# Background of Training

The contents of this training material will enable communities and other GCFRP stakeholders to better understand the implementation context of the GCFRP, their roles and responsibilities under the Emission Reductions program governance structures. It will also seek to promote understanding of the concepts and processes of the Benefit Sharing Plan at Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIA) so that they can improve their ownership of the program. This is expected to stimulate effective participation in the program activities and offer more benefits as stakeholders find their voices in decisions. A good understanding will also help stakeholders manage their expectations toward the program and properly align with the implementation modalities.

**The training has been categorized into 6 modules. Each module gives a brief description of the contents, and the learning outcomes.** Trainers must seek to deliver in practical ways to promote comprehensive understanding among the trainees.



# Target Audiences

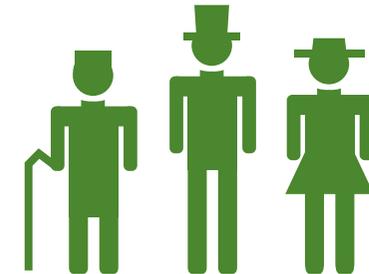
The material is targeted at the following actors and stakeholders within the HIAs of the GCFRP implementation.



**HIA Functional Units**  
(CRMCS, CECs/ZEC, SHEC, HMB)



**Farmers and community members**



**Chiefs and traditional authorities**



**Other stakeholders** (local NGOs, CBOs, staff of District and Municipal Assemblies, Assembly members, staff of Cocoa Health and Extension Division within the HIAs as well as Forestry Commission staff)



# THE BACKGROUND CONTEXT THAT NECESSITATED THE FORMULATION OF THE GCFRP

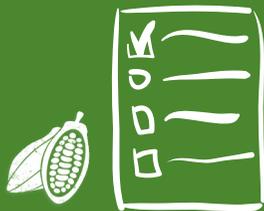
# Learning outcomes:



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop a common understanding of cocoa-led deforestation**, its drivers and the agents causing it.



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop increased understanding and knowledge of climate-related challenges** associated with cocoa farming.



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop an overall knowledge of practices and occurrences related to cocoa farming and tree exploitation** that resulted in the need for a response intervention.

# Why the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program?

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ program is being implemented to address the challenges associated with the way cocoa farming is being done in Ghana. These include:



i. Cocoa farms being expanded into forest reserves and the increase in illegal logging in forest reserves and farmlands leading to deforestation



ii. Production of cocoa through conversion of more land instead of increasing yield on the same land

# Why the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program?



iii. Inadequate rainfall and high temperatures killing cocoa farms



iv. Farmers' willingness to give out their cocoa farms for gold mining

# Why the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program?



v. Farmers' willingness to give out their cocoa farms for gold mining

vi. Farmers' inability to plant adequate trees in their cocoa farms to provide shade for the cocoa, resulting in low yields of the commodity

vii. Limited alternative livelihoods for farmers aside cocoa farming

viii. Farmers' difficulty with tree rights and ownership in cocoa farms

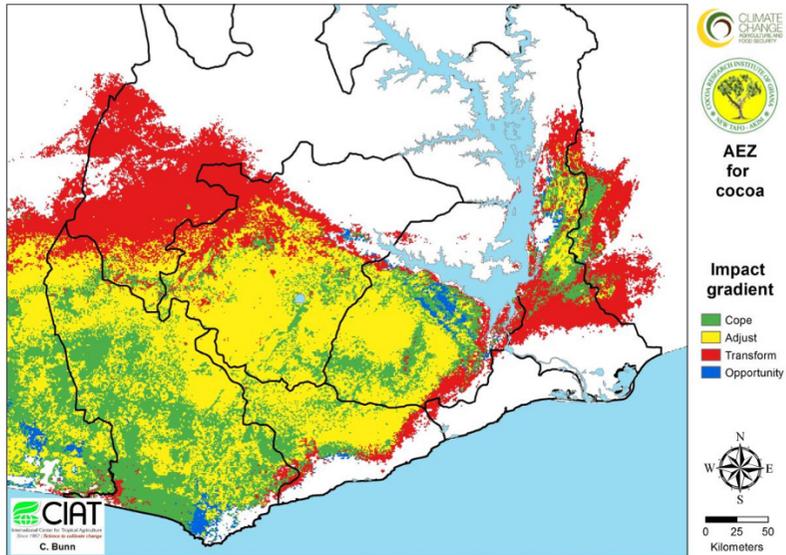


Figure 1: Impacts of high temperature and low rainfall on the suitability of the HIA landscape for cocoa cultivation



Figure 2: Parts of a forest reserve that has been converted into a cocoa farm

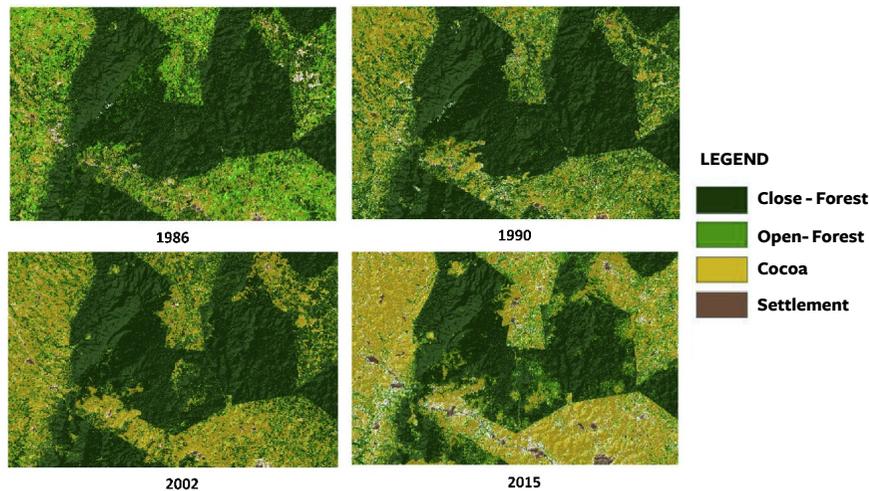


Figure 3: A satellite image of parts of the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve showing forest conversion to cocoa

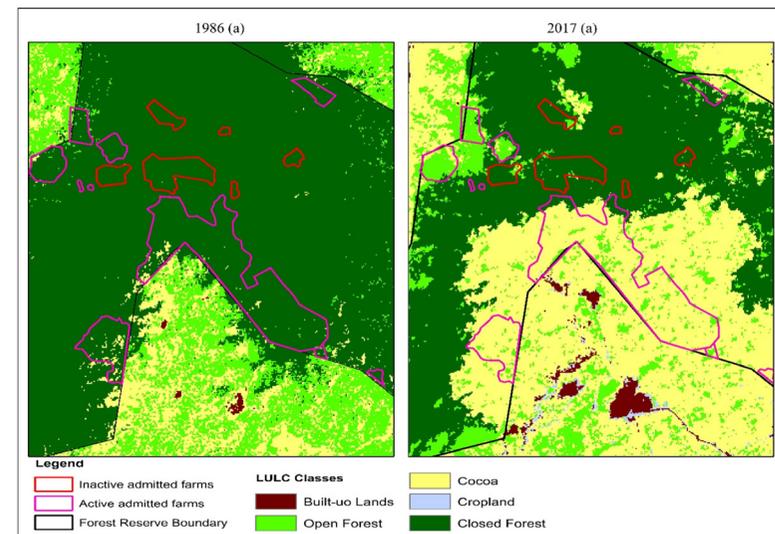


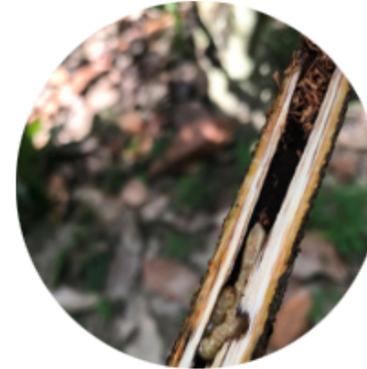
Figure 4: Parts of the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve showing admitted farm expansion into the forest reserve



**Black pod and pod borer**



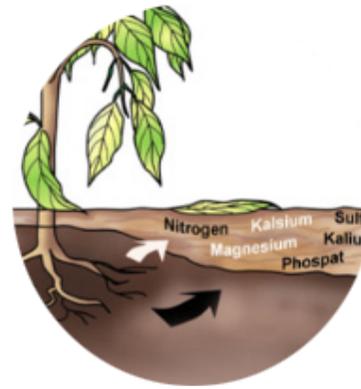
**Stem borer**



**Stem canker**



**Nutrient loss**



**Cocoa flowers failing**

Figure 5: Effects of low rainfall on cocoa farms



# THE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND EXPECTED OUTCOME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GCFRP

# Learning outcomes:



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop increased understanding of structures** to ensure effective landscape planning and governance



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **improve their understanding of interventions** being implemented under the GCFRP

# What should a person do to benefit from the GCFRP?

To benefit from the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme, one has to engage in the following activities:



i. Don't cut trees but plant them in cocoa farms



ii. Register your trees with the Forestry Commission

# What should a person do to benefit from the GCFRP?

To benefit from the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program, one has to engage in activities that reduce carbon emissions such as:



iii. Replant old and diseased cocoa farms

# What should a person do to benefit from the GCFRP?

To benefit from the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program, one has to engage in activities that reduce carbon emissions such as:



iv. Don't give your cocoa farms for small-scale mining



v. Join and be an active member of a cocoa farmer cooperative/association

# What should a person do to benefit from the GCFRP?

To benefit from the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program, one has to engage in activities that reduce carbon emissions such as:



vi. Actively participate in CREMA activities

vii. Participate in tree planting exercises in farmlands and forest reserves

viii. Don't plant cocoa in forest reserves

ix. Practice climate-smart cocoa production

x. Instead of expansion, practice cocoa intensification

xi. Respect social and environmental safeguards including buffer zone protection, not spraying into water bodies, using recommended agrochemicals, practising integrated pest management,



Figure 6: Farmers practicing cocoa agroforestry

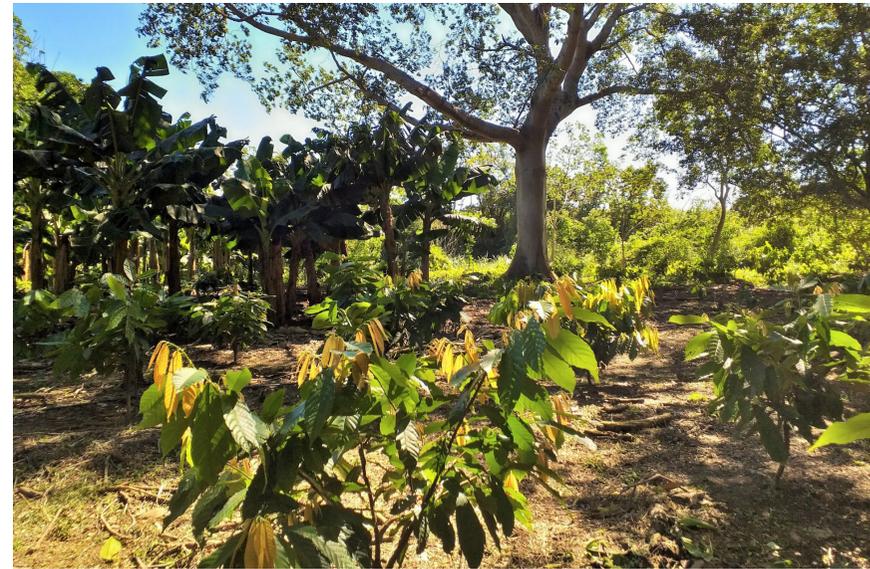


Figure 7: Farmers practicing cocoa agroforestry



Figure 8: Tree nursery establishment for distribution to farmers

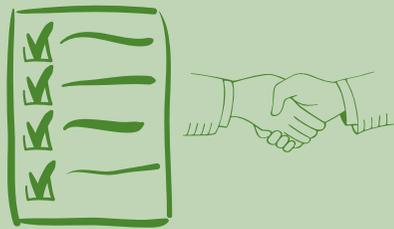


Figure 9: Tree nursery establishment for distribution to farmers

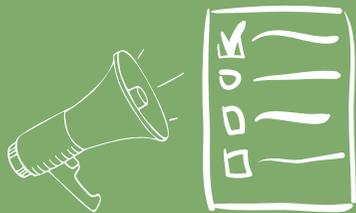


# PROGRESS OF THE GCFRP TO DATE AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES THAT COULD POTENTIALLY HINDER THE REALIZATION OF THE GCFRP OUTCOMES

# Learning outcomes:



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop increased awareness and knowledge of intervention activities that have been successfully implemented** under the GCFRP



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop increased awareness and knowledge of intervention activities that are yet to be successfully implemented** under the GCFRP

# What are we doing under the GCFRP?

Under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ program we are currently:



i. Planting trees in cocoa farms



ii. Minimizing farm creation in forest reserves

# What are we doing under the GCFRP?

Under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ program we are currently:



iii. Replanting old and diseased cocoa farms

# What are we doing under the GCFRP?

Under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ program we are currently:



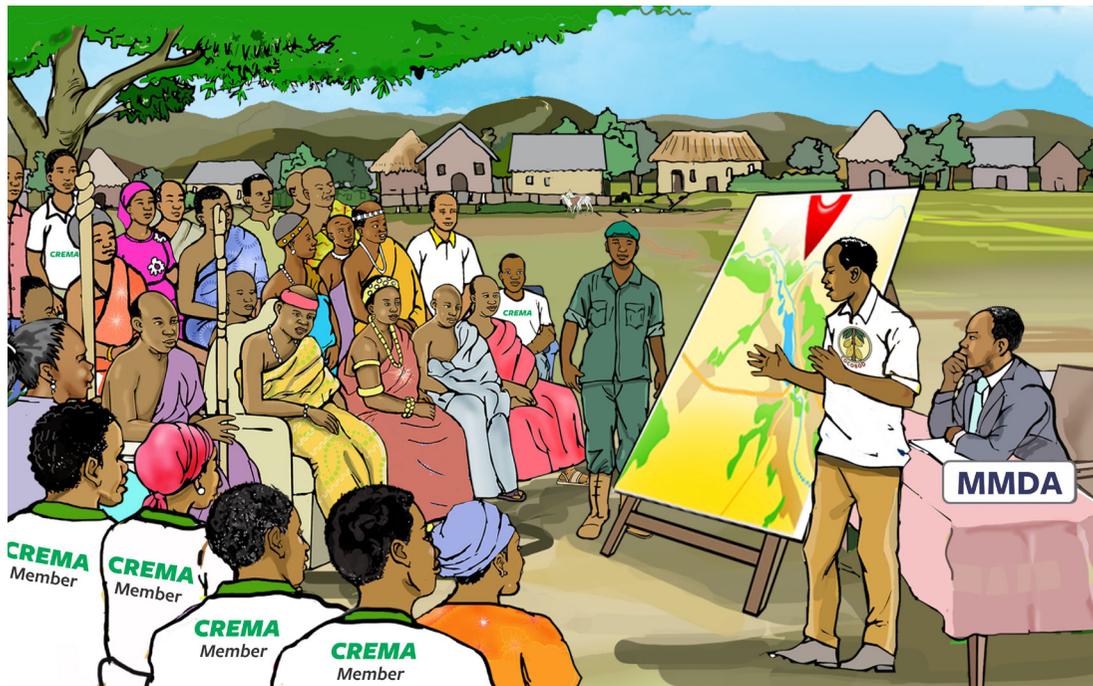
iv. Increasing cocoa yields



v. Planting trees in forest reserves

# What are we doing under the GCFRP?

**Under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ program we are currently:**



vi. Improving forest and resource governance through the HIA approach

- vii. Planting trees in cocoa farms
- viii. Rehabilitating degraded forest reserves
- ix. Reducing carbon emissions
- x. Supporting alternative/additional livelihoods activities

# What do we need to do more now?

The following activities will improve the realization of the GCFRP outcomes:



i. Increase participation in tree registration in cocoa farms



ii. Completely avoid cocoa farm encroachment into forest reserves

# What do we need to do more now?

The following activities will improve the realization of the GCFRP outcomes:



iii. Replant old and diseased cocoa farms

# What do we need to do more now?

The following activities will improve the realization of the GCFRP outcomes:



iv. Don't give your cocoa farm for illegal mining



v. Adopt more yield improvement practices

vi. Increased incorporation of trees in cocoa farms (cocoa agroforestry)



WHAT BENEFITS ARE TO ACCRUE FROM  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GCFRP AND  
HOW WILL THEY BE SHARED?

# Learning outcomes:



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders develop a deeper understanding and knowledge of **carbon and non-carbon benefits** accruing from the implementation of the GCFRP.



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders develop a deeper understanding and knowledge of **monetary and non-monetary benefits** accruing from the implementation of the GCFRP.



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders develop a deeper understanding and knowledge of reasons resulting in the generation of these **carbon and non-carbon benefits**.

# What benefits are we going to gain now under the GCFRP?

**By participating in GCFRP activities, cocoa farmers and their communities are going to enjoy some benefits.**

Benefits would accrue because farmers and other cocoa stakeholders have engaged in cocoa farming practices that have avoided deforestation, increased timber trees in cocoa farms, improved tree planting in forest reserves and minimized illegal chainsaw operations.

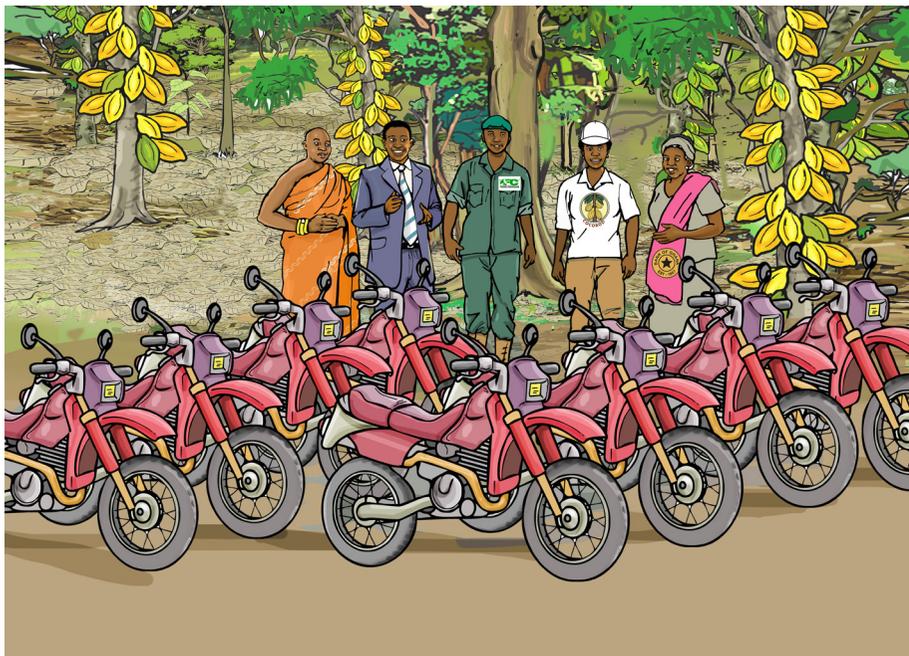
There are two types of benefits under the program namely, **carbon** and **non-carbon benefits**.



# Carbon benefits

The carbon benefits are primarily focused on incentivizing and appreciating farmers and key stakeholders for contributing to changing behavior of farmers and other stakeholders on cocoa farming practices that do not deforest but encourage the adoption of agroforestry, improving yield on the same land without expanding and avoiding illegal harvesting of timber.

Carbon benefits may be **monetary** or **non-monetary goods and services** which have been generated because of the improvements associated with the implementation of the GCFRP.

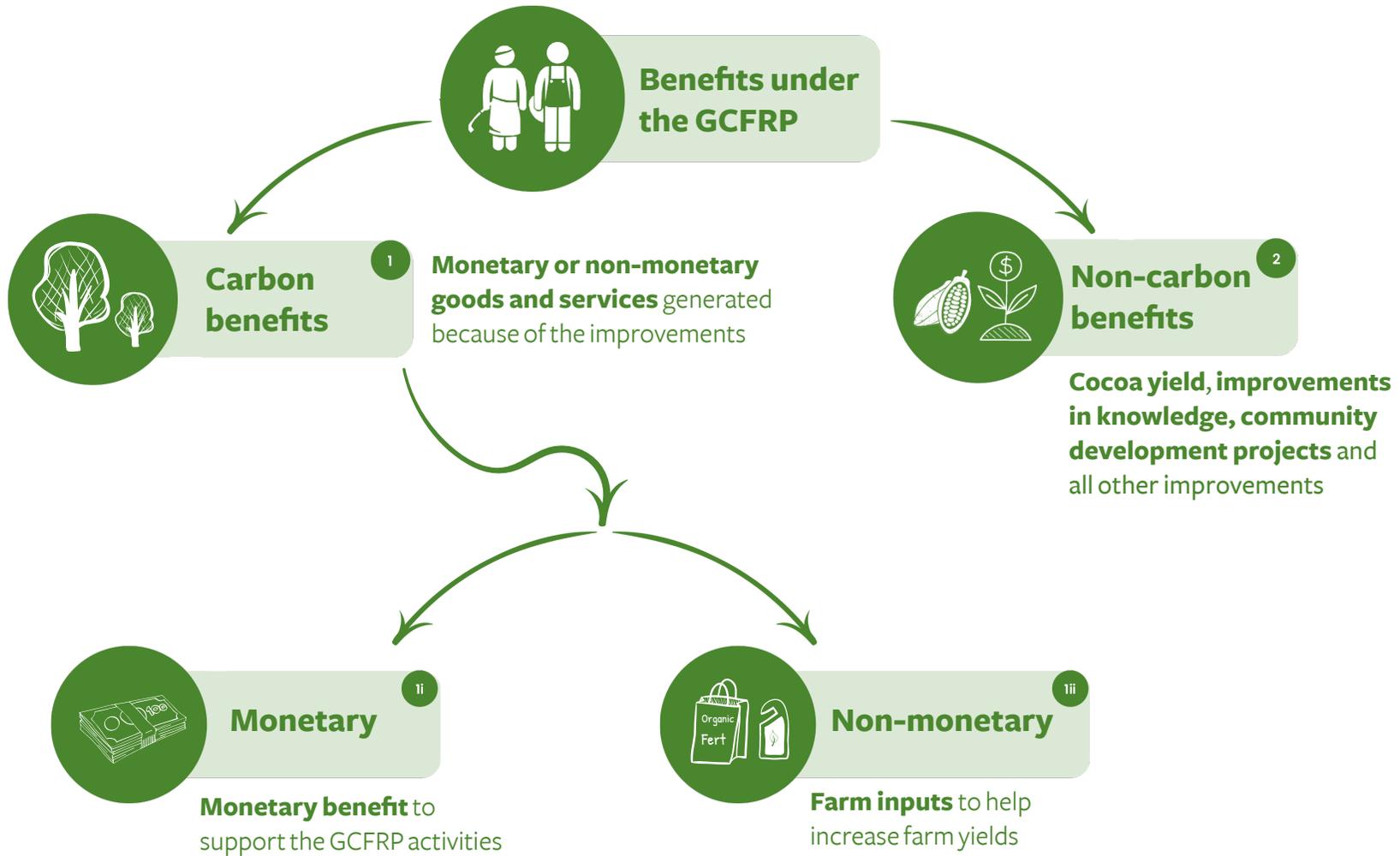


# Non-carbon benefits

Non-carbon benefits are intangible benefits which include cocoa yield, improvements in knowledge and all other improvements which were co-generated as a result of the implementation of the GCFRP.



# GCFRP benefits



# Benefits to farmers

Generally, the following are some examples of the GCFRP benefits to farmers:



HIA farmers benefit from **increased yields**



HIA farmers benefit from **income diversification**



HIA farmers benefit from **increased climate resilience**



HIAs benefit from **improved protection of the forest**



HIA farmers, communities and Traditional Authority benefit from **Carbon Fund**



## SHARING OF THE BENEFITS - WHO CAN BENEFIT AND WHAT THE BENEFITS COULD BE USED FOR?

# Learning outcomes:



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop a deeper understanding of the beneficiaries of carbon and non-carbon benefits** accruing from the implementation of the GCFRP.



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop a deeper understanding and knowledge of why beneficiaries have been selected and classified** and primary and secondary.



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop a deeper understanding of what the benefits can be used for.**

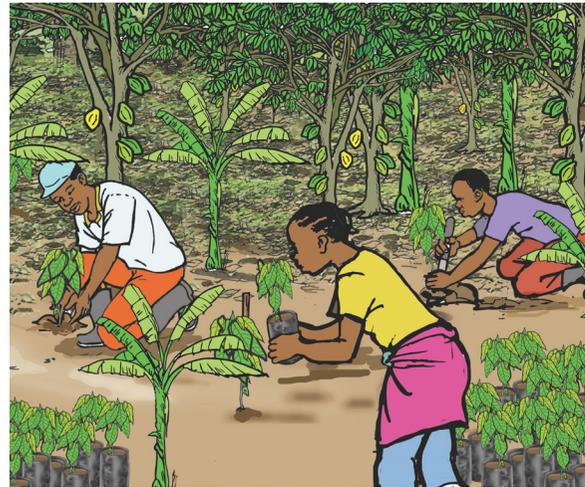
# Who benefits from what?

The beneficiaries of the carbon benefits are grouped into **primary** and **secondary beneficiaries**.

The primary beneficiaries are GCFRP stakeholders who contributed directly to the following:



i. Avoiding cocoa encroachment into forest reserves



ii. Planted timber trees in cocoa farms according to COCOBOD recommendation (incorporated agroforestry trees in cocoa farms)



iii. Secured trees in their cocoa farms.

# Who benefits from what?

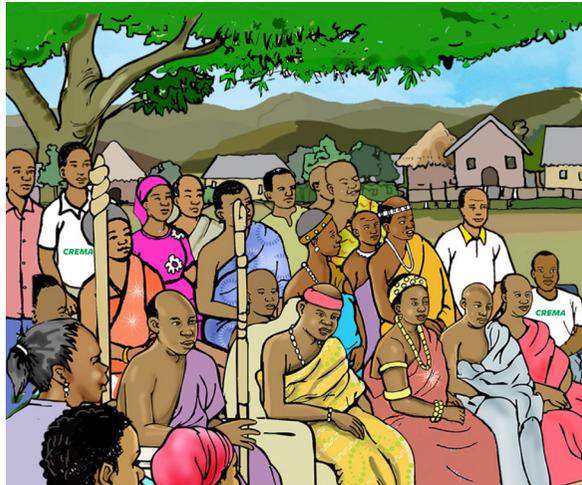
The primary beneficiaries include the following:

**Registered farmers in HIA groups:**



They will receive non-monetary benefits in the form of farm input packages to support climate-smart cocoa production, community development initiatives such as boreholes and other community projects

**Traditional councils:**



They will receive monetary benefits

**Forestry Commission:**



They will receive monetary benefit in the form of logistical support for HIA monitoring and law enforcement, restoration of degraded forest reserves, implementation and monitoring of social and environmental safeguards and general coordination of GCFRP

# Who benefits from what?

The secondary beneficiaries are GCFRP stakeholders who provided indirect and supporting roles in avoiding cocoa encroachment into forest reserves, planting trees in cocoa farms according to COCOBOD recommendations and secured trees in their cocoa farms. The secondary beneficiaries include the following:

## HIA and Sub-HIA communities:



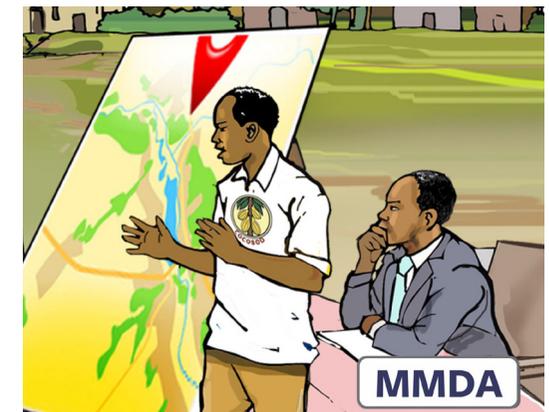
They will receive non-monetary benefit in the form of community development projects

## COCOBOD:



They will receive monetary benefit to support the activities of climate-smart cocoa extension activities. These include Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme, Cocoa Diseases and Pest Control Programme (CODAPEC), Cocoa HiTech (Fertilizer) Programme, Free Hybrid Cocoa Seedling Distribution, Artificial Hand Pollination, Mass Cocoa Pruning, Cocoa Management System (CMS) and Irrigation

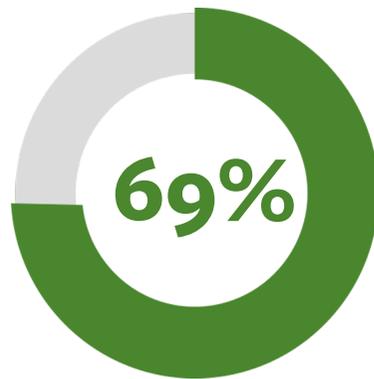
## MMDAs (Local government):



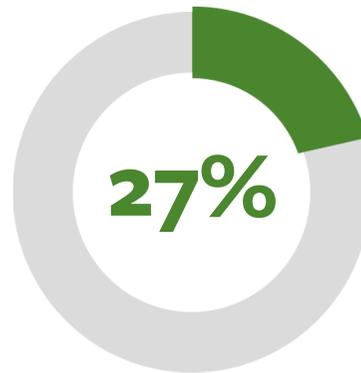
They will receive non-monetary benefits to support their effective participation in landscape management and enforcement of laws to safeguard trees from illegal harvesting and farmer encroachment into cocoa farms.

# Who benefits from what?

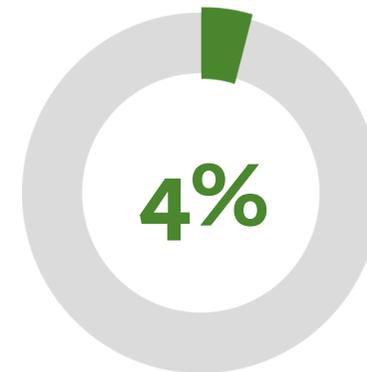
Of the total money accruing from the carbon benefits,



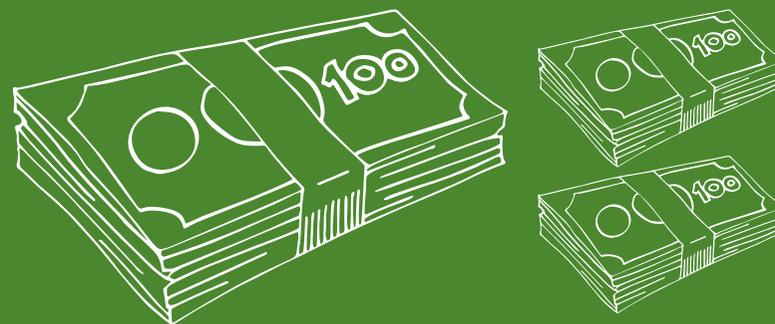
will go to **farmers, traditional authorities** and their communities



will go to the **government**



will go to the **Forestry Commission**



# THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS UNDER THE GCFRP

# Learning outcomes:



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop a deeper understanding of the governance structure for the carbon benefits.**



HIA Functional Units, farmers and other stakeholders **develop a deeper understanding of the procedure for accessing funds**

# How will the benefits reach you and who will ensure that it is done right?



1. A **secured account** (REDD+ Dedicated Account) has been created at the **Bank of Ghana for the receipt** of carbon payments from the World Bank. The account is being managed by a committee of trustees known as the RDA Steering Committee. The committee is represented by the government, civil society, traditional authorities, and World Cocoa Foundation. The members will ensure that the funds are distributed transparently in line with the GCFRP outcomes.



2. HIA accounts have been opened at the **landscape level** for the receipt of carbon payments from the RDA.

3. Based on the **relative performance of the HIAs**, funds are released to the accounts.



4. This HIA account will be **governed by the HIA Implementation Committee**, which is made up of **HIA Management Board Members** who are mostly community people and, Consortium Partners (Government, NGOs/CSOs and Private Sector).

# How will the benefits reach you and who will ensure that it is done right?



v. The HIA Implementation Committee, also known as the HIC, will **vet applications received from the HIC to ensure due diligence before funds are released for community projects as well as for the purchase of farm inputs/services and their distribution.**



vi. Funds received from the RDA will be used in line with the activity/action plan. Once this committee accepts the application, the funds in the form of **farm produce and farm services** will be released to the applying community or farmer group.



**For more information, please contact:**

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