

Scaling climate smart coffee and cocoa

Key lessons from using Certification as scaling mechanism for CSA under the CCAFS-funded Climate Smart Coffee and Cocoa Value Chain Project (CSVC)

OUTCOME 4: Landscape work

Another outcome for RA through the participation in the CSVC project has been the replication of the approach through the application and of the risk assessment of climate impacts and the identification and development of CSA recommendations for both coffee and cocoa in other projects and regions the organisation is involved in. Examples are as follows:

- In [Honduras RA is implementing a project](#) that implements a three-year plan to work with vulnerable communities in some of Honduras's most threatened forests. This vital work, to be carried out in alliance with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Honduran micro-finance institution FAMA, and Honduran conservation organization ICADE, aims not only to make smallholder businesses more competitive and self-sustaining but to boost the communities' resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The communities we're working with reside on the Atlantic coast, in the central eastern and Corredor Seco regions, as well as in the remote, northeastern Moskitia area, where about a quarter of Honduras's remaining forests still stands; the commodities they produce include timber, cocoa, coffee, and rambutan. Together with our partners, the Rainforest Alliance will provide access to credit, market linkages, trainings in climate-smart farming methods—all with an eye to making these sustainable businesses more profitable.

The CSA recommendations are based on the approach developed under the CCAFS CSVC project and informed by the [Honduras country brief for coffee](#) developed by CIAT. The project's main beneficiaries are 30 MSME producers of agroforestry and forest products, including coffee, cocoa, rambutan, and timber. These MSMEs are organized into agroforestry cooperatives or producer associations made up of more than 2,706 families, which include members of the Miskitu, Lenca, and other ethnic groups.

In addition to this project, the GCP Honduras country platform in which RA plays an active role through our country representative Ruben Gallozi, has confirmed that the platform will use the approach and recommendations developed as their basis to develop their annual workplan for 2019 (pers. comm. Ruben Gallozi, RA).

- **Cocoa Revolution Project in Indonesia**
The Rainforest Alliance is implementing a comprehensive cocoa value chain project to incentivize 8,000 cocoa smallholders in the North Luwu and North Kolaka districts in South and Southeast Sulawesi, respectively, to promote adoption of on-farm best management techniques that foster sustainable cocoa production and improve smallholder livelihoods.

In Indonesia, RA jointly with Olam implemented a comprehensive cocoa value chain project to incentivize 8,000 cocoa smallholders in the North Luwu and North Kolaka districts in South and Southeast Sulawesi, respectively, to promote adoption of on-farm best management techniques that foster sustainable cocoa production and improve smallholder livelihoods. This initiative was completed in March 2018 and focused on training and incentivizing cocoa smallholder farmers to apply state-of-the-art climate-smart agriculture practices.

As part of the offered training on climate-smart cocoa management practices, farmers were trained in basic climate change aspects and made aware of the impacts their farming can have on climate change. Based on the approach developed under the CCAFS CSCV project, [site-specific guidelines were developed](#) and implemented for practices that are beneficial for climate change mitigation and adaptation (climate-smart). In turn, the illustrations developed for the farmer guide book have been used in several other CCAFS CSVC outputs including the [cocoa training guide for trainers for cocoa in Ghana](#) and Hershey's [cocoalink training application](#) for cocoa that was informed by the training guide for trainers.

In addition to that, the climate risk assessment carried out by CIAT for the region forms part of an assessment to quantifying the greenhouse gas benefits of different land use systems that are present in the landscape including cocoa systems themselves. The aim was to demonstrate the carbon or GHG mitigation potential in form of CO₂ sequestered in established biomass for the identified land use systems and what impact potential land use change could have. One of the main objectives of the project was to reduce the impact of cocoa farming on surrounding forests through expansion of agricultural activities or degradation. This is being achieved through promotion and implementation of climate-smart practices that simultaneously aim to build resilience, reduce its impacts on climate change and increase cocoa productivity, and so reduces the need for further farm expansion into surrounding forests. A policy brief with the results has been drafted but has not been published yet.

- **WBCSD weather station pilot in Western Ghana**

As part of the CSVC consortiums ambition to mainstream the identified CSA recommendations for Ghana more broadly with other supply chain actors, RA was invited to participate in the WBCSD working group on CSA which includes several agribusinesses operating in Ghana. RA took an active role in developing several proposals that were presented to the working group and aimed at further scaling the CSA approach through their existing supply chains and/or pilot new technologies and recommendations that needed further research and proof of concept.

As part of this a weather information pilot was developed between RA, Opus Insights (formerly Kukua) and WBCSD was developed and funded by the latter. The pilot is aimed at establishing a number of weather stations, creating a dashboard accessible to key stakeholders, showing the live data and creating an immediate picture of observations from the field; and to test and establish the most effective means of sharing weather information with the target end user. This pilot is being implemented with a sub set of farmers that are also part of a wider Partnership for Forest funded landscape project implemented by RA and Olam that focuses on establishing landscape level governance structures that are aimed at supporting the scaling of the CSA recommendations developed under the CSCV project through Olam's supply chain of RA

certified cocoa farmers (10,000). As such, the pilot will be looking at how the weather information service (short term) can support the medium to long term agricultural practice recommendations under the CSA strategies and how these can best complement each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Noponen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Martin Noponen

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