



FIP Pilot Countries Meeting

Integrating Forests and Landscapes – The Ghana Approach to Cocoa Landscapes

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Outline of Presentation

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Introduction of the GFIP

- ▶ The overall goal of Ghana Investment Plan (GFIP) is to finance activities that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity.
- ▶ The GFIP finances three inter-related projects being implemented through Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) as shown in below:
 1. IBRD – Enhancing Natural Forests and Agroforest Landscapes
 2. AfDB – Engaging Local Communities in REDD+/Enhancing Carbon Stocks
 3. IFC – Engaging Private Sector in REDD+

Cocoa Production in Ghana

- ▶ West Africa supplies 70% of the world's cocoa and Ghana is the second largest producer.
- ▶ Cocoa in Ghana is the second most important commodity after Gold even though the country has discovered oil.
- ▶ Cocoa productivity is dominantly based on smallholder farmers (About 3 to 4 acres).
- ▶ Cocoa productivity and quality of farms and farming systems are decreasing, due to e.g. poor agronomic practices, pest and diseases and exhaustion of soils.
- ▶ Cocoa farmers do not have any long term income security due to the fluctuating price of cocoa on the world market.
- ▶ Productivity per hectare keeps declining and this leads to farmers clearing forests to expand their cocoa causing loss of forests biodiversity.

Forest Trend in Ghana

- ▶ Ghana had a tropical high forest cover of 8.2 million ha as at 1900, which has declined to about 4.2 million ha largely represented by the gazetted forest reserves and protected areas distributed widely across the high forest zone of Ghana
- ▶ Rate of deforestation is estimated at 2% per annum (Forestry Commission, 2010)
 - ▶ Agriculture especially expansion of cocoa (50%)
 - ▶ Wood fuel and illegal Logging (35%)
 - ▶ population expansion(10%)
 - ▶ Mining and Mineral Exploitation (5%)

Strategic thrust and Approach to the Problem

1. Ghana acknowledging the threats of the deforestation and forest degradation adopted an integrated approach to a long-term goal of achieving sustainable natural resource management (GSGDA, Climate Change Policy, Forest and Wildlife Policy and RPP strategies).
2. Subsequently, Ghana applied to the Climate Investment Fund (CIF) to implement the Forest Investment Program to address the underlying causes of forest loss.
3. The overall goal of Ghana Investment Plan (GFIP) is to finance activities that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity.
 - ▶ IBRD – Enhancing Natural Forests and Agroforest Landscapes
 - ▶ AfDB – Engaging Local Communities in REDD+/Enhancing Carbon Stocks
 - ▶ IFC – Engaging Private Sector in REDD+

Approach to the Cocoa Landscape

Inter-agency coordination

- ▶ In the past, the forestry sector saw the cocoa sector as the enemy and vice versa
- ▶ This led to many clashes leading to destruction of cocoa farms in forest reserves; removal of trees on farms etc.
- ▶ Under the GFIP, a transformational approach was adopted i.e. making the cocoa sector the allied of the forestry sector.
- ▶ Strong coordination was established between the two sectors headed by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD).
- ▶ The development of the IP and the programs under the IP were developed in close collaboration therefore there is a strong buy-in and ownership of the interventions

Approach to the Cocoa Landscape

Research and Development

- ▶ There was a growing perception that Ghana cocoa thrives better without shade this led to removal of shade trees on farms and gradual shift to “Sun loving cocoa” when in fact places in Ghana where cocoa yields are higher are closest to forest reserves.
- ▶ Through the forged relationship with COCOBOD, The Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana published the “Cocoa Manual” to guide cocoa cultivation. The manual recommends a minimum of least 18 shade trees fairly distributed on a hectare of cocoa farm.
- ▶ This was based on extensive research carried out by the Institute over the years.
- ▶ The results was higher and sustainable yields over a long period of time.

Approach to the Cocoa Landscape

Participatory Planning and Landscape Approach

- ▶ In the past, there has been distrust between farmers and the forestry Commission mainly because of destruction of farms during timber harvest, lack of benefit from nurturing naturally occurring trees and inadequate community involvement in resource management.
- ▶ Through the GFIP, the concept of Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) has been adopted on the cocoa landscape where individual farmers come together with their cocoa farms to form a CREMA.
- ▶ They agree to manage the area based on agreed principles which are normally passed into byelaws. This approach allows the farmers to join certification schemes thereby getting premium prices for their cocoa.
- ▶ Through the proposed Legislation of tree tenure, benefit sharing and carbon rights under the GFIP, farmers are incentivized to nurture naturally occurring trees and plant more trees on their farms to improve yields and gain direct benefit from the trees.

Approach to the Cocoa Landscape

Capacity Building and Innovative Extension

- ▶ Through the GFIP, The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with COCOBOD to support the implementation of the projects in many ways
 - ▶ Extension services to project beneficiaries
 - ▶ Training of Forestry Commission Staff to undertake Extension Services
 - ▶ Training of project beneficiaries on agribusinesses
 - ▶ Coordinating License Buying Companies (LBC) and Farmers
 - ▶ Provision of timely agro inputs to cocoa farmers in project regions
- ▶ All these interventions has contributed to the buy-in on the approach adopted by the program on the cocoa landscape

Approach to the Cocoa Landscape

Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness creation

- ▶ Paramount to the approaches identified is sensitization and awareness creation.
- ▶ Without strong stakeholder engagement and consultations, the message cannot get to the beneficiaries and the targeted groups
- ▶ The GFIP is sponsoring a number of stakeholder platforms to disseminate the information to the grassroots.
- ▶ The Ghana Cocoa Platform is being sponsored annually to organizer regional plenary sessions to create awareness on the interventions proposed by the GFIP.
- ▶ The Cocoa Platform is made up of cocoa farmers, Ghana Cocoa Board, License Buying Companies, Certification Groups, Civil Society, Private Sector etc.
- ▶ Other Platforms like the National Forest Forum, Regional and District Forest Forums and the District Assemblies are key allied of the GFIP

Conclusion

Even though the implementation of the GFIP is at the early stage, Other Organizations are already on the field and have implemented these interventions for some years now. The success stories are clear to show and the GFIP is constantly learning from the bottlenecks to improve the approach under the program

THANK YOU