

AGROFORESTRY MEASURES AT TONY'S OPEN CHAIN PARTNER COOPERATIVES

The circumstances:

- Over 60% of the world's cocoa comes from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.
- Longer dry seasons and increasing temperatures mean farmers are already feeling the consequences of climate change.
- Driven by an increase in demand for cocoa, a decrease in current arable land and a diminution of cocoa production from aging trees, much of the growth in supply has come from land that has been illegally deforested.
- Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are estimated to have lost 80-95% of their forests in the last 60 years. 1/3 of that the result of cocoa production.

This is why it is vital that cocoa production means agricultural activity incorporating the cultivation of trees – agroforestry. Tony's Open Chain has an agroforestry policy in place that applies to all regions in the two countries Tony's Open Chain sources from, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. One of our five Sourcing Principles focusses solely on these efforts: Quality & Productivity. We focus on climate-smart agriculture interventions and adaptations to build resilience of farmers to climate change for all farmers in the supply chain.

Conducted agroforestry-related activities:

- Implement farmer coaching at all partner cooperatives (and therefore all farmers) with a focus on agroforestry methods including Integrated Pest Management, soil management;
- Provide training and support for all farmers in our supply chain that are transitioning to growing in an agroforestry setting;
- Address farmer agroforestry knowledge through awareness raising, as well as farmer coaching and training focussing on productivity enhancing measures like pruning;
- Address climate change issues via agroforestry programs such as creating local shade tree nurseries, many of them female run, to support the planting of shade trees;
- Implement pilot projects that cover smaller groups of farmers and/or specific partner cooperatives. Projects include a dynamic agroforestry project (done by Fairtrade) at the Ghanaian partner cooperative ASUNAFO and a voluntary organic cocoa production at the Ivorian partner cooperatives ECAM and Kapatchiva (piloting organic production with the aim to expand organic volumes).

In Ghana, already 33% of farms are growing in an agroforestry setting with 18 or more shade trees per hectare. The full data set for Côte d'Ivoire is not yet available, but estimations show a comparable status to Ghana.

We aim to have 100% of our cocoa grown in an agroforestry setting and we aim to have all farms at 18 shade trees per hectare with a minimum of 6 species per farm by 2025. More than 500,000 trees are expected to be planted by the 2023-2024 cocoa planting season.