



Report

Côte d'Ivoire Cocoa Platform Meeting

15th March 2023
Abidjan



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Introduction

P4D Committees in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria have transitioned into Cocoa Platforms comprising national research partners and private sector companies in the cocoa sector. The platforms are mandated to support research activities, validate research results, and coordinate the dissemination of research recommendations to cocoa farmers. The Steering committee of the Cocoa platform in Côte d'Ivoire comprise representatives of Le Conseil Café Cacao (CCC), le Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA), Nestlé, Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricole (FIRCA), Olam Food Ingredients (OFI), Mondelez, Cargill and Barry Callebaut.

Meeting notes

The first meeting of the cocoa platform in Côte d'Ivoire was held on 15th March 2023. The objectives were to (1) discuss amendments to consortium agreement, (2) discuss Core and Satellite Trials implementation (3) agree on the functions of the cocoa platform

Overview of CocoaSoils Use Case

Dr Richard Asare, project lead of the Cocoa Platforms, opened the meeting with a [presentation](#) that explained the dynamics of CocoaSoils' transition into the Excellence in Agronomy initiative, including key deliverables and partnerships. He explained that CocoaSoils' main output is the STEPWISE App, which is the knowledge product that will be used to scale Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) recommendations and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to cocoa farmers.

Overview of CNRA Activities in Côte d'Ivoire

Dr Kotaix Acka Jacques Alain gave a [presentation](#) on the status of Core and Satellite Trials in Côte d'Ivoire. On the Core Trials, managers have completed first and second fertilizer applications and collected data for two years. At the Satellites Trials sites, soil samples have been analysed and two years' worth of data has been collected.

He highlighted critical challenges faced by Satellite Trials managers in Cote d'Ivoire. Firstly, technicians lack motivation to manage trials and collect data. Also, roads leading to some of the Satellite Trials sites become impassable during the rainy season, making it difficult for technicians to access the plots. In addition, infrequent communication between technicians and supervisors delays the completion of activities.

Key Highlights of Discussions

The Committee discussed the consortium agreement, composition of the cocoa platform, and the implementation of Core and Satellite Trials.

Consortium Agreement

Dr Richard Asare informed the committee that the first draft of the agreement was ready for review and signing. The Committee concurred that the agreement must be shared with each partner for their feedback to ensure that it meets the expectations and demands of all parties.

Cocoa Platform

The committee recommended a strong representation of regulatory authorities and extension agents on the cocoa platform.

Implementation of Core Trials and Satellite Trials

The Committee advised that:

- The project intensifies efforts to collect quality data from the core and satellite trials.
- The project improves communication between program coordinators and partners through regular meetings to update them on activities and achievements.
- The project gives partners access to data on soil analysis
- The project reduces the number of Satellite Trials by eliminating poorly performing trials.
- The project revives the reward system to motivate technicians

Annual CocoaSoils Forum

The committee elected CCC and FIRCA to organize the next CocoaSoils annual meeting in Côte d'Ivoire. It proposed that the event should be held in November 2023 because other important cocoa events have been scheduled for October in Côte d'Ivoire.

