

# Delivering Services for sustainable cocoa intensification

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Montpellier, December, 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

## Outlines

### ❖ Research questions and Objectives

### ❖ Key Highlights

- SFMP practices and Barriers
- Access to, demand for and satisfaction with services
- Services delivery landscapes
- Impact of services delivery of farmers performances

## Main Research Question

Which dynamic shapes services delivery in the Cameroonian cocoa sector and to what extent does it fit farmers' needs and demands?

## Thesis Aim

Understand how the support services delivery system in the Cameroonian cocoa sector is organised and the factors influencing farmers' practices and performances.

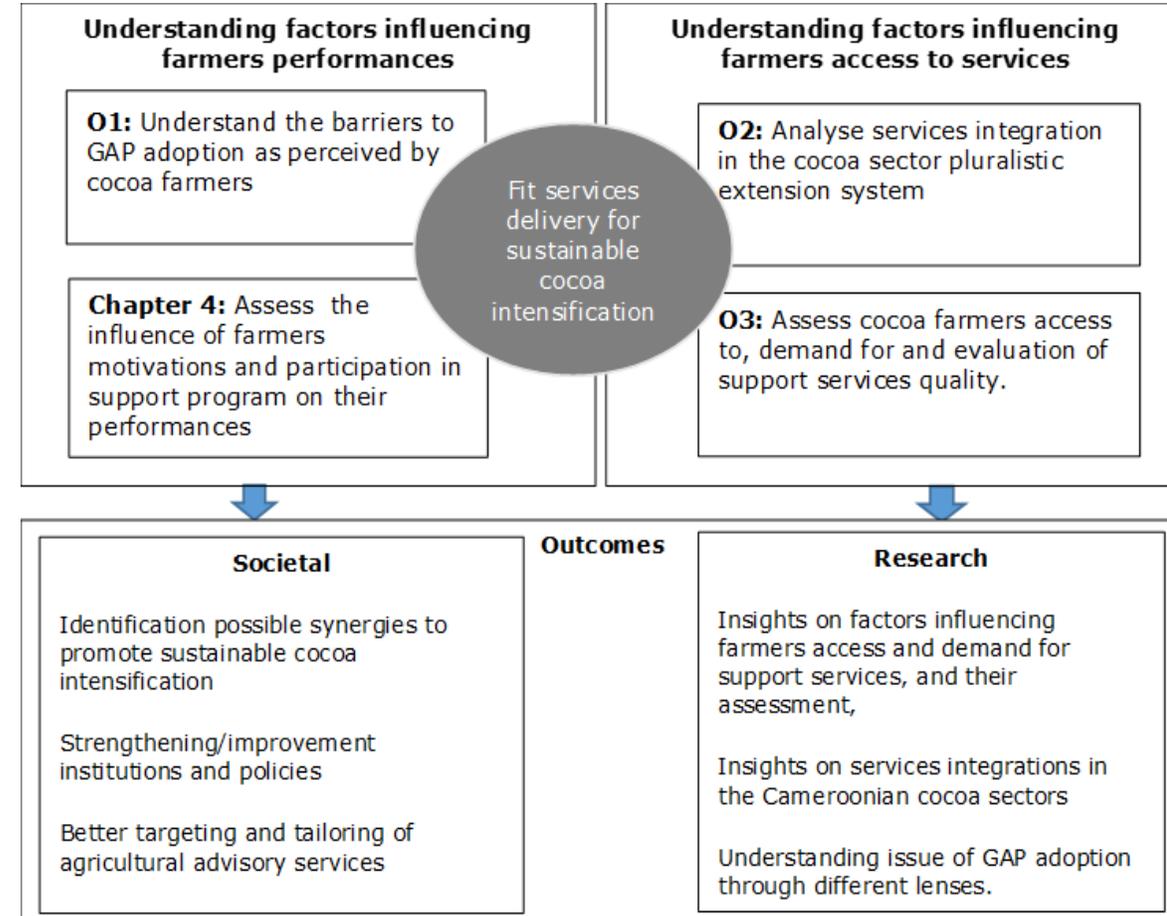


Figure 1: Summary research objectives and expected outcomes

## ***Farmers' Perceptions as a Driver of Agricultural Practices: Understanding Soil Fertility Management Practices in Cocoa Agroforestry Systems in Cameroon***

### **Research Questions:**

- a) How cocoa farmers understand, view, and manage soil fertility?
- b) What are the barriers to SFMPs adoption as perceived by cocoa farmers?
- c) How do cocoa farmers prioritize soil fertility management practices (SFMP) as compared to other GAP?

### **Key insights:**

- ❖ Knowledge and beliefs; (b) aspirations and priorities; and (c) abilities and capacities plays a role in the framing of farmers practices.
- ❖ Soil fertility perceptions, access to productive resources, local practices, and experience influence farmers' use of SFMPs,
- ❖ Farmers point out the absence of an enabling environment as one of the main barriers to GAP adoption.
- ❖ To foster sustainable cocoa intensification, it is necessary to enhance farmers' knowledge on GAP, increase access to inputs, and ensure returns on investment while considering farmers' priorities and practices

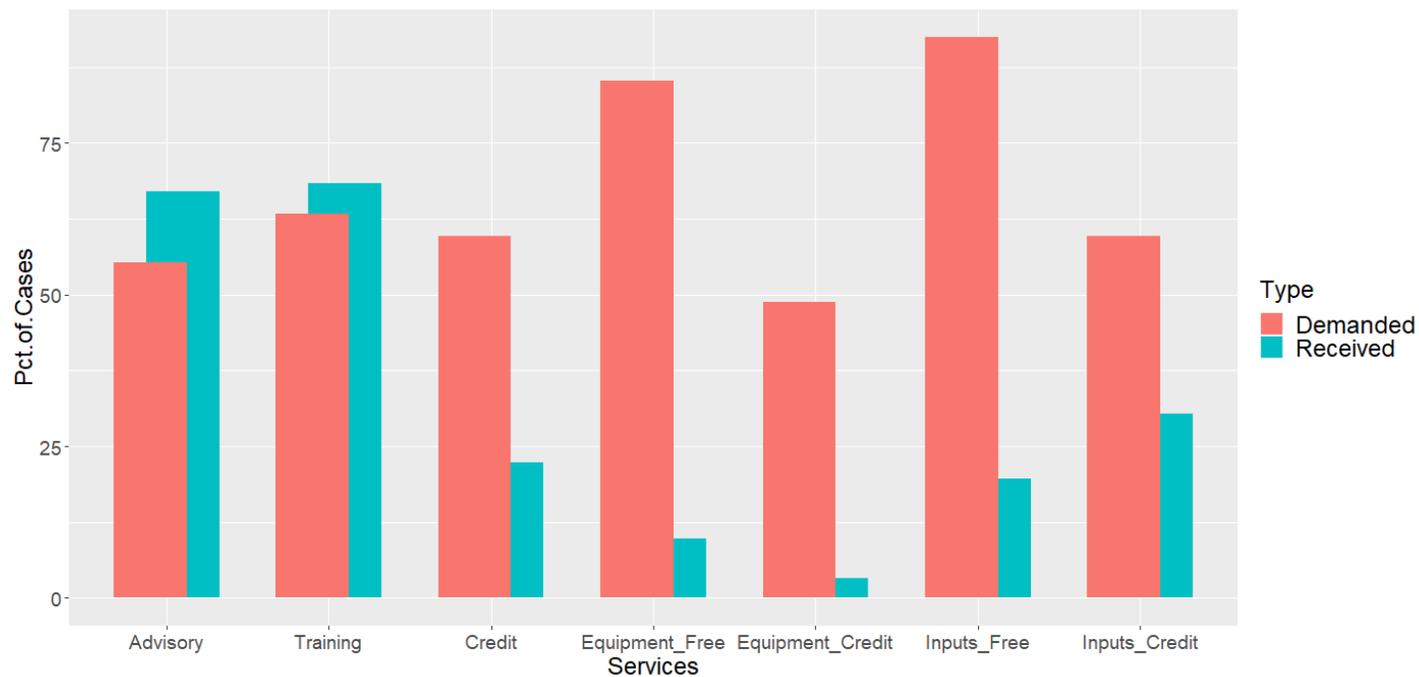
## *An analysis of services integration in the cocoa sector pluralistic extension system*

### Research Questions

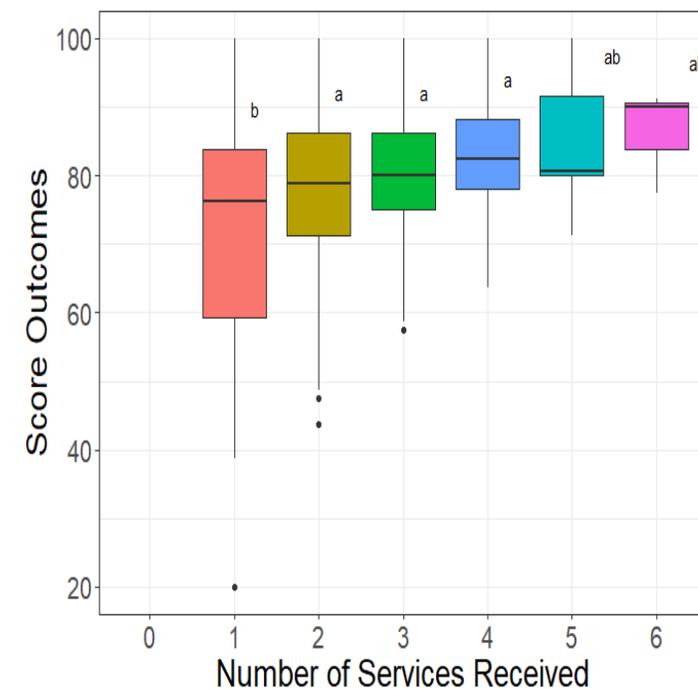
- a) Who are the key stakeholders supporting the cocoa sector development in Cameroon?
- b) How do functional relationships between stakeholders influence the service delivery system?
- c) Does the stakeholders pluralism increase cocoa farmers' access to adequate support services?

### Key insights:

- ❖ Highly fragmented sector, with 5-6 key players, limited platform of exchange, and asymmetric information sharing;
- ❖ Superposition without clear distinction of functions ;
- ❖ Poor integration of services, limited collaboration and holistic view approach of cocoa sector challenges;
- ❖ Stakeholders' priorities are determined by funders and fund availability rather than farmers' demands;
- ❖ Farmers and their organisations have a passive role in the system
- ❖ Limited staff and frequent turn over are common in different organisations, reducing impact;
- ❖ Direct services delivery to farmers focuses largely on training, coaching, and to a lesser extent credits, inputs and equipment provision.



**Figure 1: Respondents distribution according to the services received and demanded (n=421)**



**Figure 2: Aggregate score outcomes per the number of services received (Right)**

## *An analysis of cocoa farmers' access to, demand for, and evaluation of the quality of extension services*

### **Research Questions:**

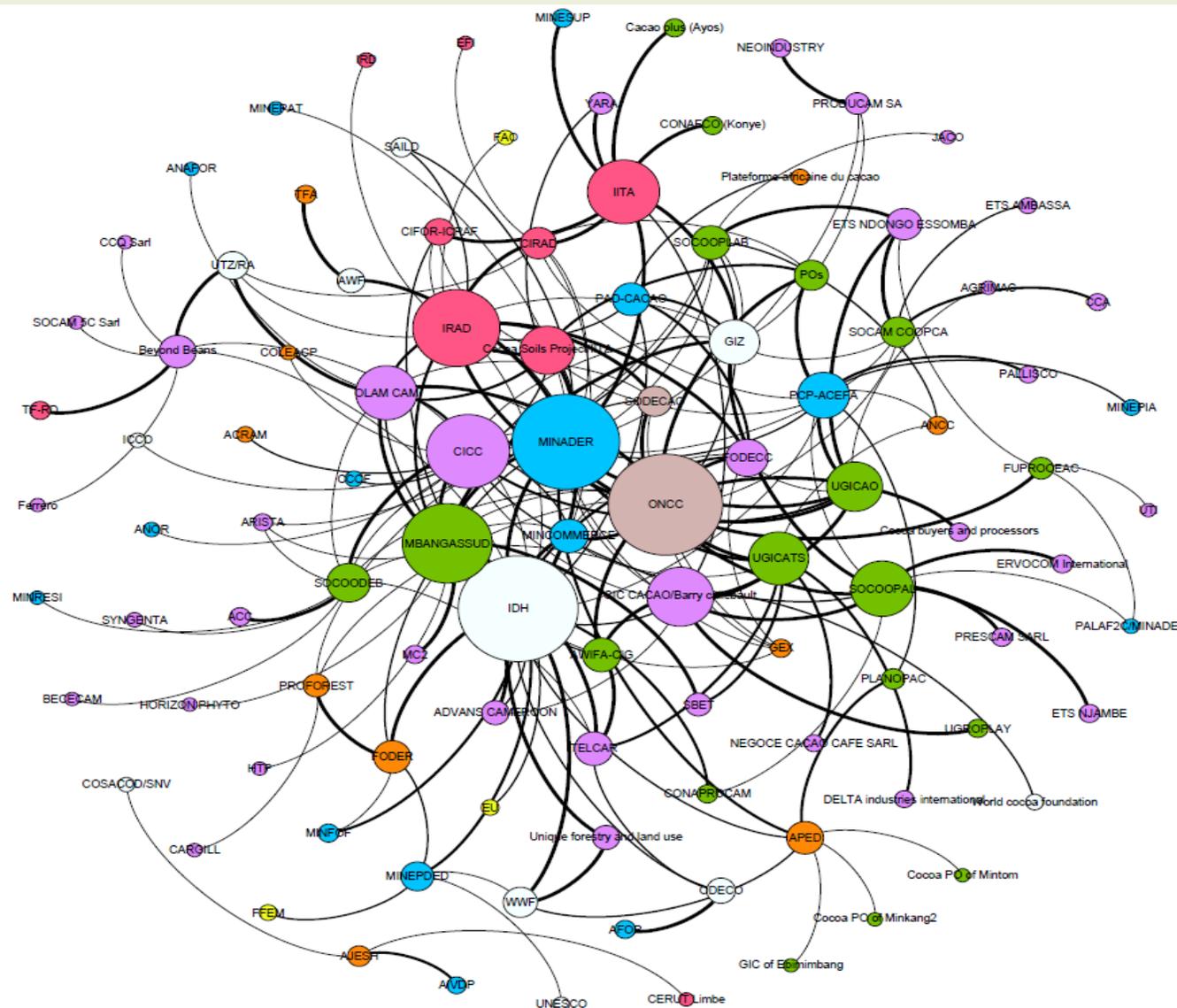
- a) What are the services demanded and received by cocoa farmers?
- b) How do cocoa farmers evaluate the quality of the services received?
- c) What is farmers perceptions of the outcomes of the services currently offered to them?
- d) What factors influence farmers access to, demand for and evaluation of the quality and outcomes of agricultural support services?

### **Key insights:**

- There is lesser demand for training and coaching than credit, inputs and equipment,
- Training and Coaching scored higher in terms of quality than credit, input and equipment,
- Involvement in certification, leadership position and location are key determinants of access to services,
- The provision of inputs, equipment and credit support to farmer can threaten farmers groups dynamics if not well managed.
- The perceived outcomes from services received increases with the number of support received.

# Stakeholders Analysis and Mapping

- Private sector (34.29%)
- PO (17.14%)
- Public sector (15.24%)
- Research (8.57%)
- NGO (10.48%)
- CSO (9.52%)
- Funding agency (2.8€)
- Parastatal (1.9%)



## *The impact of farmers' participation in support programs on GAP adoption, Yields and Net returns*

### Research Questions:

- a) What are the determinants of cocoa GAP adoption/awareness, yield and net returns among young farmers?
- b) What is the impact of youth participation in support program on cocoa GAP adoption/awareness, yield and net returns?

### Key insights:

- ❖ Perceived **challenges faced by farmers evolves with experiences**. But, labour availability, pest and diseases, capital availability, and climate variation are consistent in all stages of engagement.
- ❖ Participation to support programs **increases the extent of GAP adoption and Yield but does not increase net returns** from cocoa,
- ❖ Further analysis will indicate which other farmers, farm and program characteristics that influence farmers' performances will be identified,

# THANK YOU

**Topic: Analysis of a decision support tools use in the management of cocoa farms in the Center region of Cameroon**

**Research Questions:**

- a) How does the DSTs design process influence its utilization?
- b) What are the constraints faced by farmers and extension agents when using selected DSTs?
- c) What conditions are necessary for an effective use of FDP as perceived by its end's users?

**Key insights**

- ❖ The non-inclusion of prospective users in the DSTs design process limits their knowledge of the purpose of the tools, its mastering and thus its utilization,
- ❖ Continual interaction between farmers/extensionists and DSTs providers after hand over is important,
- ❖ DSTs recommendations should be supplemented by an enabling environment that favors farmers' access to material and immaterial resources necessary for their implementation,
- ❖ Information seeking behaviors (frequency and the types of information) vary across cocoa farming practices.