

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Building the Capacity of Farmers in the SW Ghana conservation corridor to Practice Cocoa Agroforestry

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): April 1, 2003 – March 31, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): July 2005.

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

OPENING REMARKS

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Cocoa production is the backbone of Ghana's economy and has been the main major cash crop for small-scale farmers since its introduction in the Late 1800s.

It employs about 70% of rural life whose occupation is mainly cocoa production on small holdings.

Traditionally, cocoa production in the area in question is established by clearing the forest vegetation. In this situation, the understorey is cleared while maintaining the overstorey forest shade to protect the trees from wind, water and sunlight.

At a climax stage the cocoa trees and the shade trees form a multi-layered system with closed canopy parallel to the structure of the tropical rainforest.

Trees in the cocoa growing systems contribute to

1. Sustaining production of cocoa

2. Reducing risks of fire hazards
3. Diversification of the total farm output
4. Buffer and take pressure away from remaining natural forest.
5. Conservation of biological diversity

Meanwhile, cocoa cultivation has been identified among many factors that contribute to loss of forest cover in the country (Ghana).

Despite the fact that some trees are left for shade, as cocoa growing expands into virgin forests, these areas eventually get depleted of trees (Ministry of Environment and science, 2002). Current deforestation rate stands at 22,000 ha per year or about 1.3%. It is estimated that current forest cover is between 15,500 and 17,200 km. this represents between 10.9% and 11.8% of the original cover that was 145,000 km² (Ministry of Environment and Science, 2002).

The main cocoa producing region is presently the western region, which stands for more than 50% of total annual production of cocoa in Ghana (COCOBOD, 2000).

Production is on the increase in the west due to farmers migrating from the traditional cocoa growing areas in Eastern, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Volta and central regions. These areas are in many places denuded and have been abandoned. Re-establishing cocoa in these areas have proven difficult due to:

1. Low soil fertility
2. Bush fires
3. Disease and pests
4. In-appropriate vegetation cover to provide shade for the young cocoa.

There is therefore an urgent need for research to actively develop models for incorporating desirable and fast growing trees firmly in the cocoa growing system. This will help promote biodiversity conservation and also contribute to the rehabilitation of cocoa farms in the S.W corridor of cocoa growing areas.

The consequence of this will be a well-developed sustainable Farming system, which may prolong Farm yields and reduce the migration of Farmers to new forest corridors.

FARMERS SENSITISATION

In the light of the above, Kuapa Kokoo Limited provided personnel to address the problems associated with farming practices around the Kakum Conservation area.

Hence activities which were put in place for the smooth and successful running of the program include the following:

- Farmers Leaders selection
- Farmers Leaders training
- Curriculum development
- Registration of farmers in FFS
- Training of farmers on good farming techniques – which is environmentally friendly and promote biological diversity.

Before the training a curriculum was developed which was followed by training of the farmers Leaders and training of other farmers in the communities.

In all, CEPF trained eighty-six (86) Farmers leader from eighty-six communities. Each farmer leader trained a group of farmers in a community but because of inadequacy of training materials some of the groups (FFS) were merged.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: To field test and learn about effective agro-forestry techniques and to strengthen our organization so that these are efficiently disseminated to our members.

ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE III

Project Purpose: To field test and learn about effective Agro forestry techniques and to strengthen our organization so that these are efficiently disseminated to our members

Objectives:

In order to achieve the goal/ purpose of the project, objectives were set to:

- Develop, test and disseminate Agro forestry techniques for cocoa cultivation in order to sustain farmers' livelihood without cutting down forest.
- Provide information on improved agricultural practices such as conservation of shade trees, use of improved seeds and other agronomic practices
- Adopt biological control of pests and diseases through AESA/ IPM
- Strengthen the dissemination information through FFS (farmer field schools) so as to:
 - Increase or sustain yields
 - Retain productive capacities of Farms for longer periods.

Activities

The activities of the project consisted of:

- Presentations and discussions on Agro forestry
- Planning and execution of cocoa validation trials (Action Research)
- Discussions of improved practices of cocoa production
- Cocoa Cropping Calendar on production activities and time.
- Techniques of good cocoa farm practices
- Conduct of FFS emphasizing good quality planting material / seed, nursery stock management, shade for management and others
- Contributions of agro forestry to soil improvement, biodiversity, environmental sustainability and others.
- Role of shade in cocoa agro forestry

Summary of Benefits, Problems and Challenges

<i>Benefits (ShortTerm Impact)</i>	<i>Problems and Challenges</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and skills of over 80 cocoa communities (1,700 farmers) around the Kakum conservation catchment’s area strengthened in cocoa agro forestry 	<p>The high illiteracy level of farmers contributed to the low pace of the training program</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of FFS as a learning tool allowed for the participation of illiterate and poorly resourced farmers in the learning process. They felt comfortable and were active throughout the learning period 	<p>Farmers expected a regularized remuneration, which was not budgeted for. As a result, motivation was low on the part of the farmer leaders to do the FFS.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The non Kuapa farmers learnt about the benefits of the Kuapa cooperative concept and as a result they showed interest in the democratic principles practiced by Kuapa. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kuapa personnel in the project upgraded their capabilities in the FFS concept and benefited from farmers rich indigenous knowledge 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award of certificates after the FFS was a motivation for the farmer leaders 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers attending the FFS adapted the AESA to gather information 	

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<p>Purpose-level:</p> <p>Trained farmers are providing shade on their farms by planting economically useful tree crops</p>	<p>I. About 700 Farmers have provided shade in their farms. Since farmers know that some trees are not compatible with cocoa, they mostly plant plantain and allow saplings of desirable timber species to establish on their farms. Glyricidia tree cutting have been supplied to the various FFS through their Farmer leaders (TOT) and they have planted them in the open canopies so as to serve as a source of shade on their farms.</p>
<p>Trained farmers are not spraying their farms with chemicals as a routine practice</p>	<p>II. Control of pests and diseases by cocobod cannot be ruled out completely because it is a nation wide exercise.</p> <p>However, on the whole, with regards to this particular programme, Farmers have reduced routine spraying and indiscriminate use of pesticides to the minimum.</p> <p>This is so because; farmers now recognize the importance of some of these insects on the fields. They have come to realize roles the various insects are playing in the ecosystem. They now know the beneficial</p>

	<p>as well as the harmful insect.</p> <p>Interestingly, they can now identify capsids and moreover, they now know that the spray of insecticides do not necessarily lead to increase in yield.</p>
<p>50% of societies have introduced standardized democratic election and operational procedures</p>	<p>III. At least 65% of societies have introduced democratic election and operational procedures. All societies are educated on these principles before they are allowed to operate in Kuapa.</p>
<p>Target improvements in society classification achieved</p>	<p>IV. Target improvements in society classification stands at 10% among the already existing ones. With the introduction of the FFS in the (86) eighty-six communities various categories of societies exist, However, since the FFS remain the focus of the communities, there is increased Kuapa membership in the project area. By our criteria 10% of new and weak societies have now achieved intermediate and healthy status.</p>

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

Among the trained Kuapa Farmers in the CEPF program, production levels have gone up. There is every indication that in 10 years time, production levels will still go higher.

New forest is not being cleared. Meanwhile since farmers can join and leave a License cocoa buying organization at any time, new members who did not have the CEPF training can go contrary to this if there is no continuity of the project.

The Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is also providing extension services in all Cocoa growing areas in line with the field tested agro forestry principle but the problem of under-staffing and logistics hinders the flow of Extension support to certain areas of the country.

The success can also be observed through the number of trained Farmers who are manipulating shade levels on their farms and also have cultivated a habit of maintenance culture in managing their farms.

On the whole, records of FFS participants' registration indicated that among the 86 schools, at least about 1700 farmers were enrolled and received training.

Trained Kuapa farmers do not use agro-chemicals, but only under extreme and exceptional cases. Even then spot spraying (with recommend chemicals) is practiced.

Farmers can now locate and identify cocoa capsids and they know what to do if the incidence is high or low.

Farmers have learnt lessons about the dangers of using Agro-chemicals indiscriminately and the repercussions that are likely to follow. Farmers have also learnt about biological control of pests and this is what they use mostly. With this farmers have come to realize that, there are natural enemies (beneficial insects) which must not be destroyed and again,

they know that, they have to maintain overhead tree canopy on cocoa farms to an appreciable level.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Women recognition in societies: Males and females farmers were all enrolled into the FFS.

From the women perspective, it has been observed that, they were practicing all the management practices on their farms and they testified that their farms were improving in terms of yield.

This has made the men to realize that the females can also contribute meaningfully when decisions are made.

- Some societies have joined Kuapa and are enjoying some of the benefit the farmers enjoy e.g. Credit, bonus, sanitization on alternative livelihood project and
- The vehicles that was acquired for the project has been an asset to Kuapa Kokoo. Apart from the project it has assisted in training and monitoring within the cooperative. This has increase efficiency at the grass root levels.
- Curriculum developed will be incorporated into the general.
- Internationally, Kuapa's involvement in the programme has enhanced its image in environmental sustainability, which is a prerequisite for all Fair trade organizations and also a social responsibility.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: A farmer training curriculum integrating agronomic and conservation practices produced and field- tested by Kuapa Kokoo members.	A farmer training curriculum has been produced for integrated Conservation and agronomic practices which was field tested during the course of the project with the farmers.
1.1. Curriculum completed	Not all the Farmer field schools (FFS) completed the curriculum. About 70% of the schools completed.
1.2. Field trials have taken place	Field trails have taken place but the farmer leaders did not dwell much on the AESA (Agro ecosystem analysis), which provides data on information gathered on the field. Instead farmers preferred visual observations in the farm to see the improvements after a Field exercise had been done.
Output 2: 20 Research & Development Officers (RDOs) and 80 farmer leaders trained in validated agro forestry practices.	86 Farmer leaders and 33 Research and development officers have been trained in validated Agro forestry practices
2.1. Farmer field school training of trainers has been completed	Farmer Field School Training of Trainers has been completed.
Output 3: 750 farmers receiving training in validated agro forestry practices through farmer field school methodology.	About 1700 farmers received training in validated agro forestry practices through Farmer Field school methodology. At the end of the second year a test was conducted and out of the selected 352 participants, 342 passed and 10 failed.

	<p>The Criteria for selection include literacy level, ability to communicate and willingness to facilitate further FFS programme. Those who took part in the test and passed can become farmer leaders; they will be awarded certificates to show that they have received training in cocoa agro forestry practices at a durbar in June.</p>
<p>3.1. Groups from society members receiving instruction from the farmer leaders</p>	<p>Though the program has come to an end, the farmer leaders have been urged to continue training the farmers, so as to diffuse information among those who did not have the opportunity to enroll as FFS participants.</p>
<p>Output 4: All Kuapa Kokoo's RDOs and Area Representatives have been trained in society strengthening techniques and procedures.</p>	<p>All Kuapa kokoo RDOs, and Area representatives have received training in society strengthening techniques and procedures. At least 196 from 28 Areas and 30 RDO have been trained</p>
<p>4.1. Operations manual completed and field tested</p>	<p>Operations manual has been completed but has not been fully field-tested. An attempt has been made to have a pictorial version of the manual.</p>
<p>4.2. Training course has been given by consultant</p>	<p>The consultant has given training course to 33 RDOs.</p>

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

As a result of the project there has been a reduction in the spraying of chemicals by farmer participants.

Agroforestry is enhanced.

Yields of farmers are improving.

The combine effect of reduction in expenditure on chemicals and increase in yield is making farmers improve in their standards of living.

Kuapa RDOs have been resourceful in training society members in society strengthening techniques and procedures. This has helped improve the status of the societies.

There is Gender awareness, democratic and cooperative principles, and fair trade advocacy.

There is collaboration among Farmers where they learn from each other making them adopting farm maintenance culture.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Initially, the assumption was that, all the 1700 farmers who registered as CEPF farmers will be capable of training another groups of farmers but the outcome was that, only 328 selected to participate in the final Test.

This could be attributed to a number of factors some of which are mentioned below.

- High illiteracy rate among farmers
- Inadequate supply of certified cocoa pods.
- Cost not included in the budget. Though Kuapa helped not all farmers were satisfied.
- Some (TOTs) farmer leaders not being cocoa farmers themselves
- Late start of the project
- Inadequate remuneration (motivation) for (TOT) and farmers . Cost of remunerations was not included in the project. Transportation

- Inadequate training for the (TOT) as a result of lack of funds for refresher training (course)
- Commitment on the part of the TOTs
- Operational manual completed but a revised copy could not produced because of the cost involved. Officers decided to used the corrected version till the final one is printed.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Social and environmental safeguard measures were incorporated into the project which helped in achievement of the intended results.

Thus, early removal of blackpod, biological control of harmful insects (IPM) and minimum Tillage.

Removal of mistletoes before flowering.

Agro-forestry practices.

Unclearing of new forests or

(ASB) Alternative to slash and burn or (No burning)

Protection of water bodies along riparian valleys from chemical pollution, weeding and burning

Indiscrimination killing of bush animals.

Market should be accessed for the conservation cocoa. In other words CEPF project should be treated as Biological Cocoa hence such cocoa should be certified and bought with a premium.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

Lessons learned during the phases of the project are vital for the success or failure of a part of this nature.

That is the selection of Farmer leaders included both literates and illiterates. During the course of the project it was realized that those who were illiterates could not perform to the satisfaction of their co-coordinating supervisors.

Training – Since most of the farmer leaders were themselves low knowledgeable there was the need for frequent regular training to refresh them and to keep them on track. This was not the case.

One thing learned in the course of the project was that, immediately after training (two Trainings), they become effective and after sometime, they turn to relax due to shortage of ideas.

Also, motivation helps keep the farmer leaders on their feet to work. Each time they were remunerated (in two different times) in the course of the projects, their performances went high. In a sister programme ran by Sustainable Tree Crop Project facilitators were given bicycle for their work. This was not the case of CEPF. In future CEPF should put much into motivation.

During the course of the project farmers were trained to use certified and improved seeds whenever they are embarking on new farms.

As a result, when hybrid Cocoa pods were delivered to the farmers, those communities which did not get some of the pods showed little warmth in FFS attendance.

Those who requested for more pods but were denied, due to insufficiency, also showed a similar trend in low FFS attendance. This came about as a result of inadequate funds to subsidies for the purchase of the pod. The inference is that inadequate funds for a project can negatively affect it.

It was learned that number of participants was far above the target. This was a result of high interest the farmers have in the project. It is therefore suggested that in the future development less number be selected or the total fund for the project be increased to fully meet the interest of the farmers.

Also farmers in other forest areas like Western Region would like the project to be extended to them because they see it as the only means they can increase their income without much cost to them.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

The Project relied heavily on participatory methods (TOT FFS). This made it possible to combine a whole lot of research information from Kuapa RDD, staff and Farmer Knowledge and to empower Farmers.

Technologies were validated under Farmers conditions and the participatory approach ensured that information was disseminated during the project process.

The project curriculum included cocoa management practices. Farmers in Ghana for sometime now, lack adequate information and training on cocoa production.

This program has served as a vital tool in addressing problems of Extension support to cocoa Farmers in and around the Kakum Conservation area and other areas where Kuapa operate:

- The design used both Kuapa and Non-Kuapa Farmers to facilitate the process. In the course of implementation it was found that the commitment on Non-Kuapa Farmers was low. Hence in future, literate Kuapa farmers should be made to lead even in non-kuapa communities.
- Baseline information on 1. Shade status
2. Pesticide usage
- Evaluation of cocoa farms, conditions ad farm practices

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

The project was executed solely by Kuapa kokoo through its research and development department.

The department detailed Two (2) of its officers who instructed and supervised the project from its inception till the end.

Along the line, resource persons were invited from CRIG (cocoa research of Ghana) to train the farmer leaders TOTs in technical issues of cocoa.

Monitoring Of project from CI office would have been a motivating factor to both the farmers and Kuapa Management.

Financial and Administrative matters relating to the projects were all managed by the managing director and his deputies from the Head Office of Kuapa Kokoo.

Conservation International provided the initial funding and CEPF brought the rest.

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
CI	A (below)	\$50493.6332	Co-financing

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF funded project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*

D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The farmer adoption rate for improved cocoa farming practices was found to be slow. It was observed that majority of cocoa farmers in the FFS did not adopt new practices until they were proven to work by few early adopters.
- Cocoa farmers who attended the FFS may therefore be classified as late majority adopters. This implies a longer term effort to persuade farmers to use improved or new practices.
- It is therefore important that existing CEPF programme be continued so that expected impacts are realized with time.
- Kuapa will replicate FFS activities in a new area. (Sites to be based on Kuapa selection criteria.
- Increase period of project execution from two years to five years for impact to be realized.
- Future budgets for CEPF endeavors will need a scaling up to meet current economic expenditure.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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