

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10247
Project Name:	Scaling up Cocoa-based Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration / Transformative Innovations in Côte d'Ivoire (SCOLUR-CI)
Countr(ies):	Cote d'Ivoire
Implementing Agency:	FAO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	3
A. Description	3
B. Ratings and Disbursements	3
C. Key Dates	3
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES	4
A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities	4
B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities	4
C. Stakeholder Engagement	4
D. Gender Equality	6
E. Knowledge Management	6
III: MINOR AMENDMENTS	8
IV: GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES	8
V. ANNEX	9

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Scaling up Cocoa-based Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration / Transformative Innovations in Côte d'Ivoire (SCOLUR-CI)

Country

Cote d'Ivoire

GEF ID

10247

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

ICRAF, SODEFOR

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/9/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective

To promote deforestation-free cocoa value chains and restore degraded cocoa-forest landscapes in Côte d'Ivoire.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

5,836,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

864,801.37

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

6/22/2021

Agency Approval

5/12/2021

Implementation Start

10/26/2022

First Disbursement

8/31/2023

Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 3/30/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

To promote sustainable cocoa-forest landscapes, the SCOLUR project has established a total of four multi-stakeholder platforms (MAPs). Women's participation ranges from 5% to 20% depending on the MAP. Each platform features a technical secretariat and engages diverse stakeholders, including youth, women, and marginalised groups. Approximately USD 11 million worth of IT and office equipment was provided in April 2025. At least 20 partners are involved in validating Integrated Landscape Management Plans (ILMPs). Following Cavally, La Mé region adopted a “regional green plan,” and draft ILMPs have been proposed for Indénié-Djuablin and Guémon. So far, ILMPs have been adopted on 300,000 ha across two regions. Advocacy continues to integrate ILMPs into partner initiatives.

To enhance the efficiency and sustainability of cocoa value chains, ninety-three demonstration plots were established, and approximately 228 training sessions were conducted to strengthen farmers’ awareness of cocoa agroforestry. Twenty-two cooperatives received agroforestry equipment and training, enabling them to implement practical applications. Through the support of AMARANTE consultancy, the report was produced on agroforestry activities, with two products selected for pilot testing with AVEC. Additionally, the FOLUR system was launched to introduce a local certification scheme integrating environmental, social, and traceability standards. The system is being deployed via the Mergdata platform, with training planned in Indénié Djuablin/La Mé, Cavally, and Guémon.

To increase the cocoa-forest landscape area under conservation and restoration, strong collaboration was maintained between SODEFOR and ICRAF. Three joint missions facilitated knowledge exchange. Approximately 326,000 seedlings have been produced, and 380 ha of land has already been reforested. School management committees were involved in reforestation through innovative mechanisms, including the protection of sacred forests and the planting of fruit trees. This engages women and reduces pressure on sacred and classified forests. Additionally, an elephant corridor was identified between the Béki forest and the Bossématié reserve, contributing to wildlife conservation efforts.

Knowledge and innovations have been disseminated, ANADER has updated its silvicultural practices, while SODEFOR has adopted ICRAF’s multi-strata agroforestry model. ICRAF trained nursery operators and shared approaches with external partners. Multi-stakeholder platform experiences were replicated in other regions (e.g., Bouna). Two coordination unit members attended FOLUR workshops, with broader participation in six virtual sessions. In response to weather-related seedling losses, backup seedlings and small-scale irrigation systems—introduced in areas such as Sinfra and Bouna—have helped significantly reduce mortality rates. Additionally, the multi-strata model is now being replicated in regional programs (e.g., Mali, Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire).

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The main challenge in the implementation of the project is the involvement of all stakeholders in forest restoration across the project regions within the multi-stakeholder platform for integrated landscape management. This sometimes leads to a lack of harmonization in practices. Additionally, in some regions,

administrative authorities are not fully involved. Awareness-raising activities are currently underway in this regard. Finally, another key challenge relates to the timely supply of seedlings in the producers' villages for replanting. This issue is due to delays by nursery operators.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	MEMINADERPV	Ministry	Organization of the project steering committee Availability of the focal point due to the numerous activities
Government Institutions	MINEF	Ministry	Making local management available for project missions
Government Institutions	MINEDDTE	Ministry	Making local management available for project missions
Government Institutions	Ministry of Planning	Ministry	Making local management available for project missions
NGOs	IDH	Civil society	Active participation in the platform and the steering committee
NGOs	WCF	Civil society	Active participation in the platform and the steering committee Difficulties in making activities related to the objectives of SCOLUR available in the same landscapes
Private Sector entities	Rainforest Alliance, FairTrade)	Private sector	Active participation in workshops on the bodies of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform
Others	CCC	State surveillance structures	Facilitation of collaboration with ANADER through their agreement Delay in meeting commitments
Others	SOEFOR	State surveillance structures	Awareness-raising, capacity building on land and forest restoration models
Others	ICRAF	Research Institutions	Awareness-raising, capacity building on land and forest restoration models
Others	Prefectural body	Administrative authorities	Authorizing and chairing the activities of the region
Others	Regional councils	Local authorities	Provides the secretariat for the dialogue framework Convening Platforms

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Advocacy efforts are being carried out within the platform to facilitate women's and youth's access to natural resources. Landscape restoration activities have distributed seedlings of timber and non-timber products requested by women. At least three products (locally known as Akpi, Petit Cola, and Kplé) have been distributed to women.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Women's groups have been trained and equipped in agroforestry techniques.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	The introduction of fruit trees among the distributed species will make it possible to generate additional income in the medium term.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	SODEFOR targeted nursery groups led by women in order to support them and entrust them with the production of seedlings for pure reforestation.

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	Generally, valuable lessons learned in the field come from experience sharing between partner stakeholders and with producers. These good practices are documented in field mission reports and shared across the various landscapes of the project, as well as with the ANADER agency, which operates across the entire national territory.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	N/A
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	Small-scale irrigation Multi-strata approach in agroforestry Involvement of School Management Committees (COGES) in reforestation management Standardization of silvicultural practices Tools and equipment for seedling maintenance
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	All implementing partners and UN agencies have involved their communication departments in disseminating information, innovations, and project results through websites and social media platforms. In addition, both local (in project regions) and national media are involved in each of the project's major activities to ensure broad dissemination of the project's outcomes.
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	In a small village nestled in the heart of cocoa plantations, 5 km from Bangolo in the Guémon region of Côte d'Ivoire, Tahou Doh Thierry has long dreamed of a better future. On his 1.5-hectare plot, he grew cocoa like his father before him, but the results didn't live up to his expectations. Harvests were modest, and every day was a struggle to provide for his family. That all changed when he joined the "Scaling up transformative innovations in cocoa-based food systems, land use and landscape restoration in Côte d'Ivoire (SCOLUR-CI)" project over a year ago. Through fruit and forest tree planting and training in good farming practices, Thierry has learned how to optimize his yield. He discovered how to improve soil quality, manage fertilization and protect his crops from disease. With determination, he put these lessons into practice. The results were immediate. Within a year, his yield had increased considerably. The previously low-yielding cocoa trees began to produce top-quality beans, attracting the attention of buyers. Thierry saw his income triple, producing 2.5 tonnes of cocoa where previously he'd only produced 300-500 kg, an opportunity he'd never imagined. With this influx of income, Thierry made a bold decision. Rather than spend it all, he invested in the future of his family and his village. He bought three motorcycles at 500,000 Fcfa each to transport people and goods. These motorcycles have become a symbol of progress in his village, transforming his life and that of his neighbors. Villagers, once limited by impassable roads and a lack of means of transport, can now get around easily. Markets are accessible, and agricultural products, including Thierry's cocoa, reach new customers. The village's economic vitality has been revived. He has become a local leader. "All the knowledge I've gained through the SCOLUR project, I don't hesitate to share with other farmers, encouraging them to embrace change. Today, thanks to my cocoa plantation, I've been able to invest in transport and also buy land in town to build a house for my family. This has considerably improved our living conditions," he confides happily. Today, Tahou Doh Thierry is a living example of what training and innovation can achieve. He continues to cultivate his cocoa with passion.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cote d'Ivoire -	7.54	-5.55	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category

M and E Document

Title

GEFID10247_2025PIR_FAO_Cote d'Ivoire