



BRIEFING ON PROGRESS

OCTOBER 1, 2002 – August 31, 2003

The Sustainable Tree Crop coalition of producer countries, international organizations, industry, trade and donors is engaged in a long-term partnership to ensure a sustainable production and stable supply of quality tree crop products. The goal of STCP is to improve the economic and social well-being of smallholders and the environmental sustainability of tree crop farms of West and Central Africa. Early in 2002, STCP embarked upon an intensive planning process for its next phase to identify options and opportunities for the implementation of integrated pilot projects in each of the member countries and of thematic, cross-cutting, regional projects. At the same time, a new component on child labour was added to the STCP fabric by developing new alliances and responding to a set of studies on the use of child labour in tree crop systems.

Following the Regional Workshop held in Accra in November 2002, the STCP Action Plan, initiated in October 2002, moved into full implementation of its 3-year program. The Action Plan includes pilot projects in each of the member countries focusing on developing the capacity of farmer organizations, and regional projects that provide technical support to the pilots in addressing issues on trade and information systems, technology dissemination, research, and child labour. The members of the Sustainable Tree Crop Development Alliance ensured their support for the Action Plan of STCP. The child labour component is being implemented through the WACAP Program of ILO/IPEC. Existing linkages with complementary programs are being formalized.

Status to date in Year One

Summary of the status of implementation of the Pilot Phase Action Plan of the STCP managed part of the program is provided below:

Regional Summary:

- As noted above, a Regional Workshop to launch the 3-year Action Plan of STCP was organized in Accra in November 2002. A follow-up meeting of the STCP Donor Alliance was held in Brussels June 30-July 1 to assess progress and identify constraints.
- A Farmer Field School (FFS) Curriculum Development Workshop was held in Cameroon the last two weeks of March 2003, which was attended by master trainers, farmer representatives, and resource persons from all 5 STCP countries, including international resource persons. The workshop focused on integrated pest management strategies in cocoa and associated child labour issues. A first version of the curriculum document was compiled, including instructions for the training of trainers.
- The immediate follow-up was the training of FFS trainers (ToT), which was carried out in each of the four cocoa systems-focused pilots between April and June. To date, in total, about 90 facilitators selected from farmer organizations and 40 from public extension services have been trained in running FFSs and implementing the curriculum. Since June, 161 FFSs have been established through which about 4,000 farmers are being trained. The level of enthusiasm is very high. Follow-up ToTs are being initiated in August and September to review experiences to date and to integrate a curriculum on quality management.
- An Impact Assessment Workshop was held (July 28-31) for STCP project managers in which an impact monitoring strategy and plan were developed in detail. It is crucial for STCP that the impact of its activities is captured both in terms of outcomes as well as the steps that lead to them.
- STCP is finalizing a strategic partnership with CABI Biosciences to provide technical input into participatory technology development approaches and integrated pest management in cocoa. Funds from DfID for this partnership have now been secured until March 2005.

- Research support has continued for the biological control of black pod disease (focusing on field testing of identified promising antagonists), local knowledge on cocoa agroforests, and agroecology of cocoa agroforests (impact of fungicides, role of shading, and establishment on degraded lands). Close links are maintained with the cocoa germplasm characterization effort being conducted by IITA/USDA/Masterfoods and associated national partners. In addition, STCP is engaged in maintaining links to the IPGRI-led regional germplasm testing effort and the regional CIRAD-led research project on sustainable cocoa systems.
- A competitive small grants facility for regional research has been designed and participant nominations for a regional research committee solicited among the research partners of the various national networks. The first meeting of the research committee is scheduled in September/October once the availability of Year Two funds becomes clearer.
- STCP and SODEVI have agreed to jointly support the implementation of a needs assessment study for the strengthening of farmer organizations in Cameroon, Ghana, and Nigeria in collaboration with local partners. This has already been done in Cote d'Ivoire and is being negotiated for Guinea. Initial results will be available in October and final ones in December. The findings will help guide the pilot project efforts as well as form the basis of a proposal to CIDA.
- STCP, the GIG and SODEVI have jointly supported the placement of a farmer organization specialist within the regional STCP team in Yaounde. The role of this person is to backstop this component within the different pilots and develop a regional framework to identify synergies.
- USGS is beginning its effort to acquire recent Landsat imagery for the different pilot projects as the first phase in its regional environmental monitoring component.
- USGS, in concert with Knight International and USAID, continues to build on the country activity and Internet Map Server components of the STCP external Web site (<http://treecrops.org>). Pages have been staged for Cameroon and work is progressing also on the Guinea page. The structure has been put in place for all STCP West African countries and USGS is acquiring input from the pilot projects.
- University of Purdue has continued their work on the impact of cocoa marketing and trade innovations. They have been focusing their activities on market incentives and cocoa quality improvement by farmers; cocoa supply chains in West African countries – linkages, margins and flows; export grade cocoa from West African cooperatives and parastatals; and stabilization and market power in Cote d'Ivoire.
- The child labour reports for Cameroon, Nigeria and Ghana are being printed. The community survey on child labour in Cote d'Ivoire is in final editing and awaits green light from ILO for publishing. The producer survey on child labour in Cote d'Ivoire is presently in the editing process.
- Significant progress has been made on the Country Reports of the baseline production system surveys. The final reports and databases will be available by the end of the year.
- Contributions have been gathered from across STCP for the finalization of the STCP Program Document, which has now basically been completed. At the same time, the Pilot Project Country documents are being standardized. Substantial revision of the project document on Trade and Information Systems occurred and has been reviewed. The recruitment of a specialist to coordinate this effort is on-going.
- An updated public relations package on STCP is now available. The management of the STCP website and intra-net are being moved to the Regional Office in September.

Cameroon Pilot Project Summary:

- Initiated the installation of a central information system in the STCP farmers' federation (FORCE) to connect the economic operators and the marketing committees to improve on their biddings.

- Reinforced through training the information management and accounting capacity of smallholders and their marketing committees, including skills in group mobilization and participatory approaches.
- Group-sales is becoming a well-established avenue of marketing cocoa and is resulting in improved prices for farmers.
- Trained farmer trainers in the safe use of pesticides through FAO.
- Master trainer identified for farmer field school (FFS) implementation and is being shared with the continued USGS effort on grass-roots database development. Thirty FFS facilitators have been trained, 25 FFSs launched, and about 500 farmers are being trained.
- National network linking up with ILO/IPEC to elaborate action plan on child labour issues.
- Linkages have been established with the ministries of agriculture, commerce, and labour, including relevant development projects in the cocoa sector (e.g. the PA3C of ICCO).
- In order to better inform the network members, a monthly newsletter is being published by the National Network Coordination.

Cote d'Ivoire Pilot Project Summary:

- Held negotiations with ANADER, CNRA, SOCODEVI, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Agriculture on the implementation of the pilot project. Briefed the Head of State.
- Retrenched activities to 8 coops in the eastern and central parts of the country. Sensitization of the 8 cooperatives, their members and the local political and administrative authorities on the objectives, activities and the expected outcomes of the STCP pilot project.
- A needs assessment study of the 8 coops to identify current strengths and weakness in the areas of internal democratic governance, financial management, cooperative organization and management, internal management and marketing done by SOCODEVI.
- The 8 coops are being trained by SOCODEVI on coop principles, organization and strategic planning etc; 7 out of the 8 coops are performing well.
- Cocoa sale through the coops increased revenue between 2-10% depending on sales strategy (i.e. timing of sale, volume of sale, and the shortening of the supply chain).
- Master trainer identified for farmer field school implementation. Thirty-eight FFS facilitators have been trained, 64 FFSs launched, and about 1600 farmers are being trained.
- Linking up with CIRAD/CNRA to cooperate on activities related to the regeneration of cocoa plantations.
- Eight technicians identified from ANADER for strengthening of cooperative capacity under the technical supervision of SOCODEVI, including child labour and HIV/AIDS sensitization.
- Pilot Project Manager is linking up with Winrock International on child labour activities related to education and with WACAP on integration of activities through the 8 coops.
- Contact taken up with potential institutional partners, e.g. ADM, RCI Exporters Association, potential local funding institutions, and concrete opportunities of collaboration identified.

Ghana Pilot Project Summary:

- Held workshop on the democratic principles to empower farmer associations.
- Initiated the development of capacity for credit and savings management.
- Kuapa Kokoo communities selected for farmer field school training.
- Master trainers identified for farmer field school implementation: one from Kuapa Kokoo and one from MOFA (ministry). Twenty-six FFS facilitators have been trained, 30 FFSs launched in 24 communities, and about 780 farmers are being trained.
- Developed linkages with CARE Ghana and WACAP on addressing the issue of child labour in a complementary manner, includes curriculum for FFS, distance learning, and radio messaging.
- Developed additional local linkages to facilitate the implementation of the Pilot Project.



Guinea Pilot Project Summary:

- Consulted with USAID and national network on the management of the Pilot Project.
- Developed a program of work on the monitoring of management practices and carbon sequestration with USGS.
- Pilot project implementation meeting held USAID/IRAG/SPCIA (Foulaya Kindia, in November, 2002 and May, 2003)
- A "Spatial Data Collection" workshop was given by USGS for project partners. Spatial data exchange was initiated between USGS and IRAG with the delivery of the first set of Landsat ETM+ images for maritime Guinea. IRAG with assistance as needed from USGS will develop an up-to-date land use / land cover classification for the area which will include one of the two Guinea pilot project zones.
- Developed additional local linkages to facilitate the implementation of the Pilot Project.
- Continued cashew seedling nursery and distribution activities and facilitated marketing of cashew.
- Master trainers identified for farmer field school implementation.
- Developed links to appropriate authorities on child labour issues, including WACAP.

Nigeria Pilot Project Summary:

- Election of representative council and training in governance for Tonikoko Farmers Union (TFU) in Ondo State, including group cohesion, articulation of roles and responsibilities of individual farmers in the newly organized smallholder farmers' union, conflict resolution and management. Operational byelaws in place. Number of member societies doubled.
- Training manuals being developed on Business Environment, Small Business Management, Records and Book Keeping, and Meaning and Scope of Marketing; Team Building, Leadership Skills, Meeting Management, Conflict Resolution, and Time Management.
- TFU-based services, trade and information center under development.
- Reviewed avenues for improved access to inputs and credit.
- Bank credit facilities obtained by some societies, input credit obtained, and several transactions made through the banks during the last trading campaign.
- 7 % premium price gained through a niche market in the last cocoa trading campaign. Signed and honored Sales/Purchase contracts with exporters last season.
- An interactive forum of key players in Ondo State on management of cocoa quality was held to harvest ideas on development of cocoa quality management curriculum.
- Master trainer appointed for farmer field school implementation. Forty-two FFS facilitators have been trained, 42 FFSs launched, and about 1200 farmers are being trained.
- Developing farmer owned seed gardens for cocoa rehabilitation.
- Scoping on the use of rural radio for extension / sensitization / farmer education conducted.
- Contacts initiated/continued with USAID Nigeria, local authorities and WACAP.

Program Management:

- The regional STCP team has been put in place: Stephan Weise (Program Manager), Jim Gockowski (Impact Specialist and Research Coordinator), Sonii David (Knowledge and Technology Delivery Specialist), Guy-Blaise Nkamleu (assisting in baseline and impact assessment), and Mario Boivin (Farmer Organization Specialist, SOCODEVI).
- The pilot project managers have been appointed and offices are set up in 4 of the 5 STCP countries: Jonas Mva Mva (Cameroon), Robert Yapou Assamoi (Cote d'Ivoire), Isaac Gyamfi (Ghana), and Chris Okafor (Nigeria). The management of the pilot in Guinea is being handled through the USAID mission in Conakry. At the end of March 2003, a 3-day workshop was held for the pilot project managers to discuss STCP management procedures.

- The Year One budget of STCP managed through the STCP Regional Office amounts to US\$ 3.68 mio. Sixty-three percent of the funds are provided by USAID, while the remainder is covered by the cocoa/chocolate industry. In addition to this core effort, activities directly associated with STCP are carried out by partner institutions in the area of strengthening farmer organizations, research, trade and information systems, and child labour.
- The Regional Office has ensured direct contacts within each of the STCP countries through several visits to all STCP countries since January.
- Since the start of the year, STCP's program and accomplishments have been presented to the AGOA meeting in Mauritius (January), the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative at Nestlé's in Vevey (January and June), SOCODEVI management in Quebec City (January), CIDA in Ottawa (January), the Board of the International Cocoa Initiative (February), GtZ in Frankfurt (February), the DoL workshop on child labour in Washington (February), and the Donor Alliance meeting (June/July), and the regional WACAP meeting in Accra (July).
- Strategic alliances have been established to different levels with key partners (e.g. with SOCODEVI, CABI, USAID Guinea, WACAP) and additional ones are being pursued (e.g. Creative Associates, Winrock International, GtZ).
- Besides through the STCP Donor Alliance, contacts have been taken up or continued with donors who are potentially interested in STCP, e.g. USAID Nigeria and Ghana, BMZ through GtZ, and CIDA.
- Three proposals that incorporate significant elements of STCP have been submitted: supply chain enhancement is part of a larger MIS and Trader Association proposal submitted by IITA to USAID-WARP (concerted effort by IITA, ECOMINDS, and FCC); an STCP pilot on coffee systems in the DRC is part of a multi-institutional project (including IITA) submitted to USAID-REDSO; an STCP pilot on cashew systems is part of a proposal being submitted by IITA to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security of Sierra Leone following a request by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Additional Commentary:

- The start to the Pilot Phase Action Plan initially focused on setting up the appropriate structures and procedures to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of the program. A set of priority activities was initiated in October/November 2002, and these have been complemented by new activities. The program in most of the countries has now reached the full implementation mode. In Cote d'Ivoire, the implementation was reduced to the eastern part of the country due to the political difficulties in the country.
- Major inroads have been made in the area of Technology Transfer through the Farmer Field School approach, which is attracting a lot of interest and active participation by tree crops farmers.
- Year two will need to focus more attention on market, trade and information systems at the pilot project as well as the regional levels, and address priority constraints to ensure the evolution of farmer organizations to viable business enterprises.
- One major concern is that adequate funds have not yet been secured for Year Two, i.e. even to continue the efforts at the level of Year One. This could rapidly impact the integrity of the overall program.



Sustainable Tree Crops Program
*To Develop a Holistic Approach to Sustainable Tree Crops Systems
That are Socially, Economically, and Environmentally Sound*

