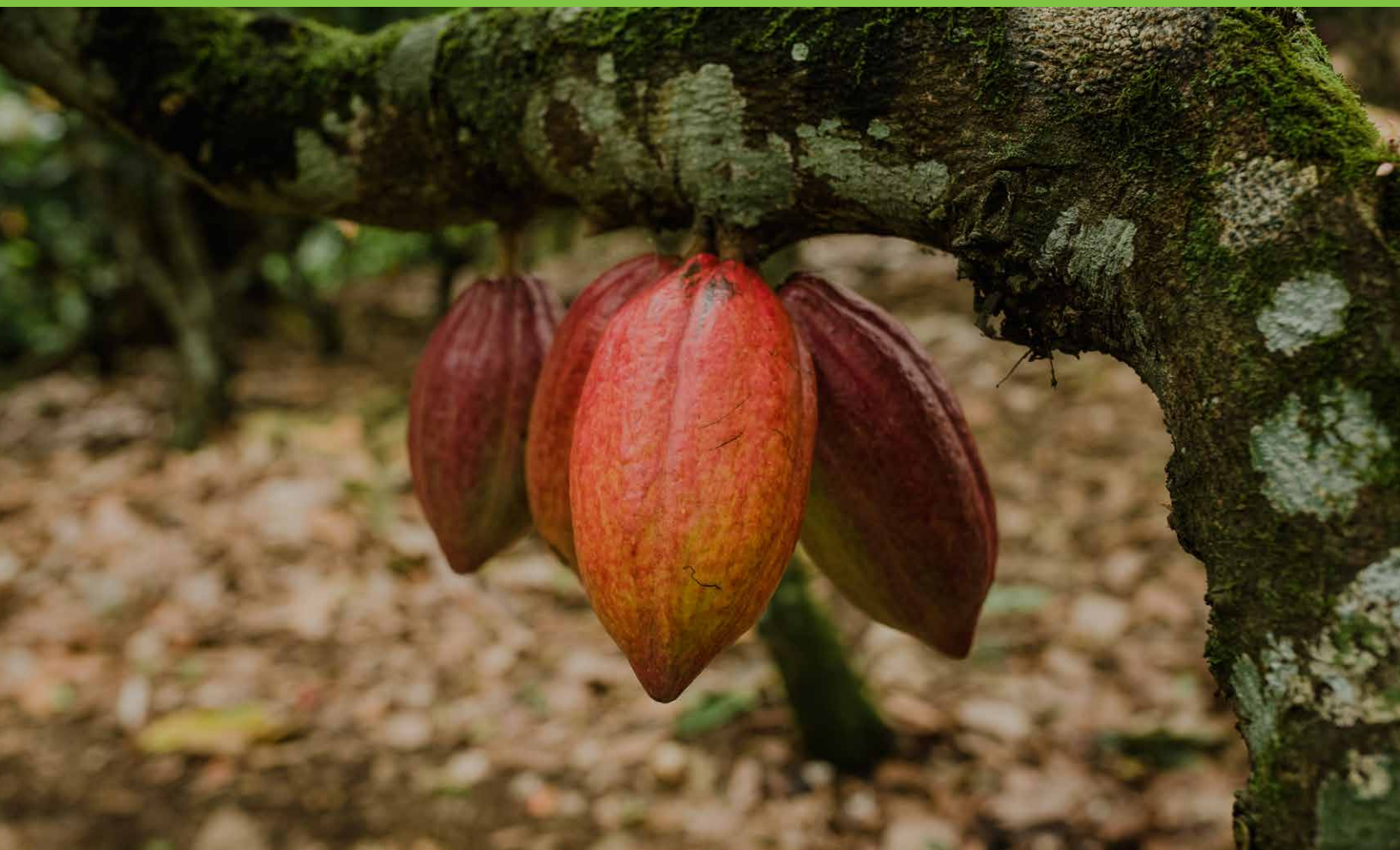
RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

JUNE 2025

Rainforest Alliance and Nestlé Cocoa Plan

Monitoring and Evaluation Highlights 2017-2024

The Rainforest Alliance is creating a more sustainable world by using social and market forces to protect nature and improve the lives of farmers and forest communities.



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This report is an update of the "Rainforest Alliance and Nestlé Cocoa Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Highlights 2017-2023" using data collected during 2024 campaigns for updated analysis.

INTRODUCTION

THE NESTLÉ COCOA PLAN

Nestlé is committed to building a more responsible cocoa supply chain, working with farmers, communities, and local and international organizations to develop and implement solutions for the many challenges that cocoa-farming communities face. Since 2009, the Nestlé Cocoa Plan has positively impacted more than 185,000 cocoa-farming families across its three pillars—Better Farming, Better Lives, Better Cocoa—as the company aims to source 100 percent of its cocoa through the Nestlé Cocoa Plan by 2025.*

In January 2022, the innovative Nestlé income accelerator program was launched, engaging more than 30,000 cocoa-farming families to date.

THE RAINFOREST ALLIANCE AND NESTLÉ PARTNERSHIP

The Rainforest Alliance and Nestlé have partnered to promote sustainability in Nestlé's cocoa supply chain and in the cocoa sector more broadly. This partnership focuses on two key interventions:

1. **Certification**: There is significant overlap between the farmers that are part of the Nestlé Cocoa Plan and those certified by the Rainforest Alliance.
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** To track the progress of the Nestlé Cocoa Plan and to improve its interventions, Nestlé has partnered with the Rainforest Alliance since 2016 to monitor and evaluate the Nestlé's Cocoa Plan outcomes.

This report provides an executive summary of the data that has been collected as part of the Rainforest Alliance and Nestlé Cocoa Plan monitoring and evaluation partnership between 2017 and 2024.

DATA AND DATA COLLECTION

As part of this project, the Rainforest Alliance has visited nearly 12,000 cocoa-farming families in five of the 11 countries where the Nestlé Cocoa Plan is active. The Rainforest Alliance collects data through on-farm observations and interviews with the farmers from a representative sample of Nestlé cocoa farmers for each country.[1] The data that the Rainforest Alliance collects as part of this project does not inform any decisions regarding the certification of a Rainforest Alliance certificate holder. However, data collected supports Nestlé's monitoring and evaluation efforts by providing insights into the sustainable practices established on farms and helps guide future project actions.

The project started in 2017 in Côte d'Ivoire and expanded to Ghana in 2021. Here the Rainforest Alliance collects data on general farm characteristics (household size, farm size, yield); good agriculture practices (GAPs) which include pruning, weeding, pest and disease management, shade management; regenerative agriculture practices that improve soil health, reduce fertilizer use, increase biodiversity, water) and data related to farmer income (costs and revenue streams).

In the past three years, Nestlé and the Rainforest Alliance have expanded our monitoring and evaluation partnership to three countries in Latin America—Brazil, Ecuador and Mexico—collecting data on pruning, weeding, pest and disease management, harvesting, and shade management practices. In 2024, data was not collected in Ecuador due to security concerns in cocoa growing regions.

FIGURE 1

Overview of countries and farmers interviewed. *** Data for Ecuador was not collected in 2024*

Country	Data collection timeline	Total years of data collection	Farmers interviewed
Cote d'Ivoire	2017–2024	8	9412
Ghana	2021–2024	4	1358
Brazil	2022–2024	3	563
Mexico	2022–2024	3	348
Ecuador	2022–2023	2	239

** This percentage includes volumes of Rainforest Alliance certified and Nestlé Cocoa Plan verified mass balance cocoa.*

SUMMARY OF KEY INSIGHTS

In this report we discuss our observations on three key topics:

1. **Good agricultural practices (GAPs):** In West Africa we observe that farmers in Côte d'Ivoire have been able to increase their adoption of GAPs. Between 2017 and 2024, adoption increased from 18 to 56 percent. In Ghana, where cocoa-farming families face many challenges related to weather events and labor costs, fewer farmers have been able to adopt GAPs. However, in 2024 adoption rates here started to show improvement.

2. **Regenerative agriculture:** The Nestlé Cocoa Plan provides a foundation from which farmers can transition to regenerative agriculture practices. Many farmers already practice elements of regenerative agriculture with support from the Nestlé Cocoa Plan. Some of these practices include the use of soil cover, organic fertilizers, and for more advanced farmers, agroforestry systems.

3. **Farmer income:** Earning a living income remains a challenge for cocoa farmers. Key drivers of cocoa-farming costs are labor and fertilizer. Cocoa farmers depend on cocoa farming for their income to varying extents, with families in Côte d'Ivoire relying most heavily on cocoa as their primary source of income, followed by those in Ghana and Brazil.

Photo by Misper Apawu

CHAPTER 1: COCOA FARMERS GLOBALLY

The Nestlé Cocoa Plan is active in 11 countries globally. In 2024, as part of the monitoring and evaluation campaigns, the Rainforest Alliance visited cocoa-farming families in four of these countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Brazil, and Mexico. The type of cocoa farms and family composition differ depending on the country.

FARM CHARACTERISTICS

TABLE 1.1

Overview of key farm characteristics in the countries we work in (based on 2024 data).

Country	Avg. farm size (ha)	Avg. yield (kg/ha)	Median yield (kg/ha)	Female farmers	Avg. children/ household	Household income from cocoa
Côte d'Ivoire	3.7	502	450	8%	4.5	81%
Ghana	3.1	361	274	34%	3.2	66%
Brazil	24.2	647	567	14%	0.9	64%
Mexico	1.9	261	213	32%	0.5	29%

Similarly, the size of the cocoa farms differs from country to country. Globally, more than 90 percent of cocoa farmers are smallholder farmers.[2] This is reflected in the average size of farms we visited, ranging from 1.9 to 3.7 hectares (ha) per farm (see Table 1.1 for key farm characteristics in 2024). These farms are often located in rural areas facing challenges such as limited resources, poor infrastructure, and lack of job opportunities. Brazil, however, is an outlier when it comes to farm size where we observed significantly larger farms, averaging 24.2 hectares.

Average productivity levels also differ across origins (see Table 1.1). Brazil reports the highest yield with an average of 647 kg/ha and a median of 567 kg/ha. There are farm characteristics that can impact yield, such as cocoa tree density and age. Studies have shown that the optimum density for maximum yield is between 1,000 to 1,100 trees per hectare.[3]

Finally, cocoa trees are most productive between five and 25 years of age. The average distribution of tree age among the farms we visited differs (see Table 1.2). Brazil, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire display a more balanced distribution, with a significant proportion of farmers (44–47 percent) having a large area of their plots covered by young cocoa trees. Mexico deviates from this trend, with a substantial percentage of Mexican farmers (34 percent) reporting no young cocoa trees, suggesting a prevalence of mature cocoa tree stocks on their plots. This age distribution is reflected in the yield data with Brazil which has higher amounts of young cocoa trees, achieving greater than average yields (647 kg/ha) compared to Côte d'Ivoire (502 kg/ha), Ghana (361 kg/ha), and Mexico (261 kg/ha).

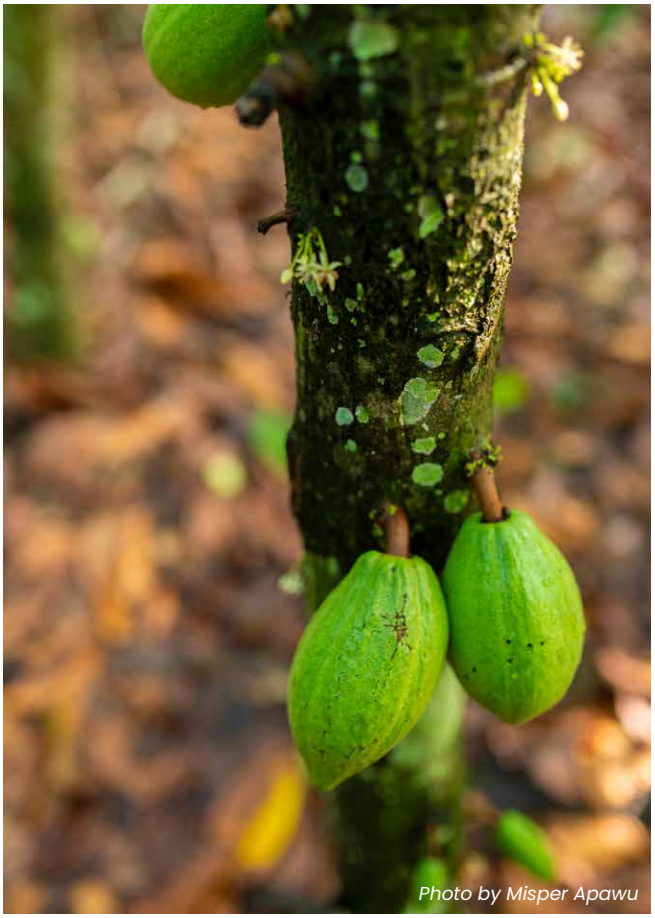


Photo by Misper Apawu

TABLE 1.2

Cocoa tree stock age.

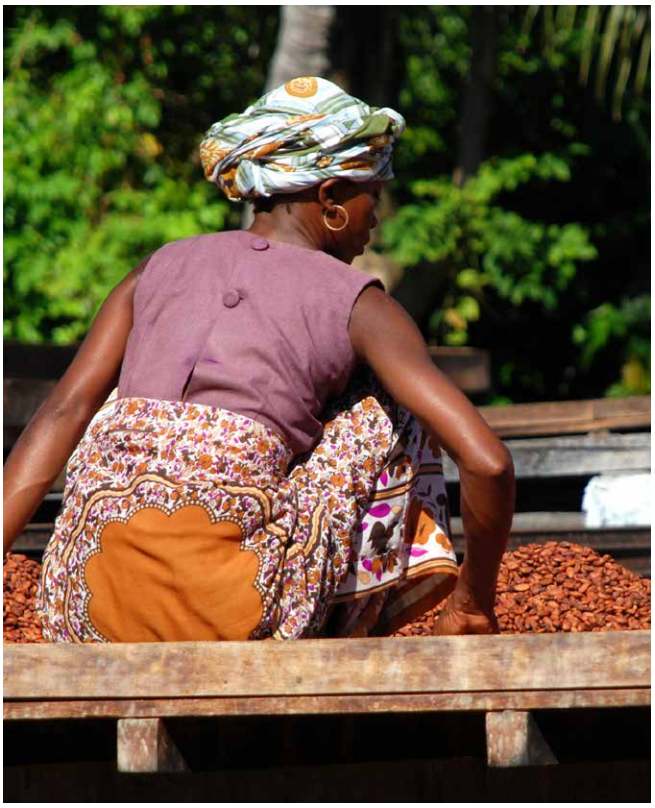
Country	Avg. Yield (kg/ha)	Plot area coverage (%).				
		0%	1 - 25%	26 - 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 100%
Côte d'Ivoire	502	6%	17%	14%	16%	47%
Ghana	361	11%	21%	14%	11%	44%
Brazil	647	15%	17%	11%	15%	44%
Mexico	261	34%	38%	8%	7%	13%

This chart represents the estimated percent of plot area which is planted with cocoa tree stock below 25 years of age.

COCOA FARMING FAMILIES

Cocoa-farming families also differ across countries in terms of family characteristics. A key family characteristic is the number of children reported to be part of a household. Notably the cocoa-farming families in Côte d'Ivoire report the highest number with on average 4.5 children per household. In comparison, in Latin America countries, the average number of children reported per household varies between 0.5 and 0.9.

In all countries we visited, female cocoa farmers still represent the minority of farmers. In Ghana, we found the highest percentage of female cocoa farmers (34 percent), followed by Mexico (32 percent) and Brazil (14 percent), with the lowest percentage of female farmers being reported in Côte d'Ivoire (eight percent). The role of women in cocoa farming is often underrepresented in data collection. In the 2024 campaigns, a high percentage of women farmers were interviewed in Ghana, about a third, in contrast to a low number in Côte d'Ivoire. In both Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, women often do not inherit land, sometimes leading to an underrepresentation of women working as cocoa farmers. Women are, however, often part of all key steps of the production.[4] Improving the role of female cocoa farmers is important for the future of this industry, since the male dominated farming population is due to age out soon, threatening a drop-off in cocoa production.



CHAPTER 2: GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

GOOD AGRICULTURE PRACTICES (GAPS)

As part of the Nestlé Cocoa Plan's Better Farming pillar, Nestlé aims to support farmers through training and providing resources to improve yields and livelihoods. As part of this pillar, the Nestlé Cocoa Plan provides training on GAPs, integrated pest management (IPM), fertilizer, composting, integrated weed management, and agroforestry. Nestlé focuses on promoting five GAPs through the Nestlé Cocoa Plan: pruning, pest and disease control, weeding, shade management, and harvest management. These five GAPs were developed based on work conducted with the World Cocoa Foundation's Cocoa Action program. Nestlé has continued to develop this methodology. The Rainforest Alliance tracks progress on these GAPs through on-farm observations and interviews with the cocoa farmers, and reports progress of the adoption of these practices for Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Training

In West Africa, the percentage of farmers who reported receiving training was notably high (67 percent of farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and 91 percent in Ghana). Additionally, 87 percent of farmers in Mexico also reported having received training. The key topics covered in these trainings included GAPs, such as integrated pest and weed management. In contrast, only 45 percent of farmers in Brazil indicated they had attended training. This highlights an opportunity for growth in engaging more farmers through training, particularly in Brazil.

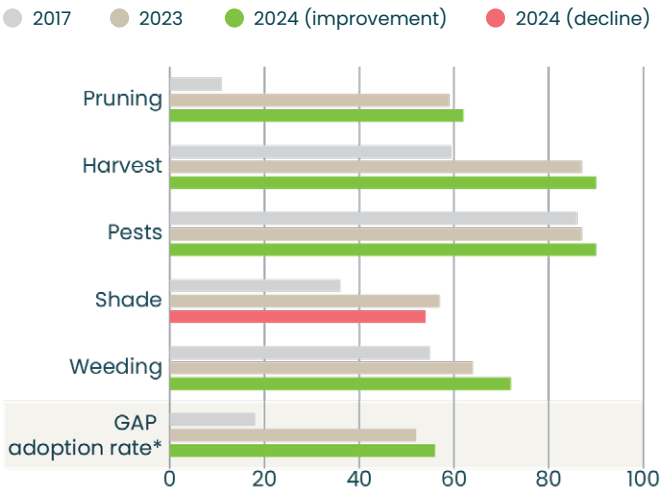
West Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

Between 2017 and 2024, the percentage of farmers adopting at least four GAPs, including pruning, has increased from 18 percent to 56 percent (see Figure 2.1 'GAP adoption rate'). Improved adoption rates of GAPs are seen in pruning, harvest management practices, and weeding practices.

FIGURE 2.1

GAPs adoption over time (% of farmers) - Côte d'Ivoire



** Adoption of 4 or more GAPs, one of which must be pruning*

Photo by Misper Apawu

Pruning is a key intervention incentivized through the Income Accelerator Program (IAP), which is applied in some Nestlé Cocoa Plan farms. The Rainforest Alliance sees a significant improvement in adoption of pruning in Côte d'Ivoire, rising from 11 percent to 62 percent between 2017 and 2024. This growth is partially due to the incentives provided by Nestlé as part of the IAP that allows farmers to hire pruning teams to support their pruning activities. Among farmers participating in the IAP who receive a monetary incentive to hire a dedicated pruning team, 94 percent reported that their farms were pruned. In contrast, only 26 percent of farms without IAP support were pruned. [5] Quality of pruning is evaluated using a good/medium/bad scale based on the quality of four different pruning elements: chupons, secondary branches, dead branches, and trunk and crown. In 2024, the quality of pruning in Côte d'Ivoire was evaluated to be 'good' on the four different elements on 43 percent to 76 percent of the farms visited.

Another GAP that farmers in Côte d'Ivoire have improved since 2017 is the adoption of shade management practices. Nestlé supports farmers in Côte d'Ivoire by distributing seedlings for shade trees. The adoption of good shade management practices—defined as farmers actively managing between 18 and 20 trees per hectare on their farms or planting additional trees to achieve this target, as established by the World Cocoa Foundation—has risen from 36 percent in 2017 to 54 percent in 2024. In 2024, farms in Côte d'Ivoire had an average of seven shade trees per hectare, on average consisting of three different strata levels. Additionally, 56 percent of farmers reported that they planted new shade trees in the past year. The IAP positively influences the adoption of good shade management practices, with 79 percent of participating farmers reporting that they planted shade trees in 2024, compared to just 45 percent of farmers who do not participate in the IAP.

Other practices that demonstrated improved adoption include good harvesting and weeding practices. The adoption of good harvesting practices rose from 87 percent to 90 percent, suggesting that in 2024, there are fewer forgotten pods and less scarring on trees from machete use during harvesting. Similarly, the adoption of good weeding practices increased, rising from 64 percent to 72 percent.

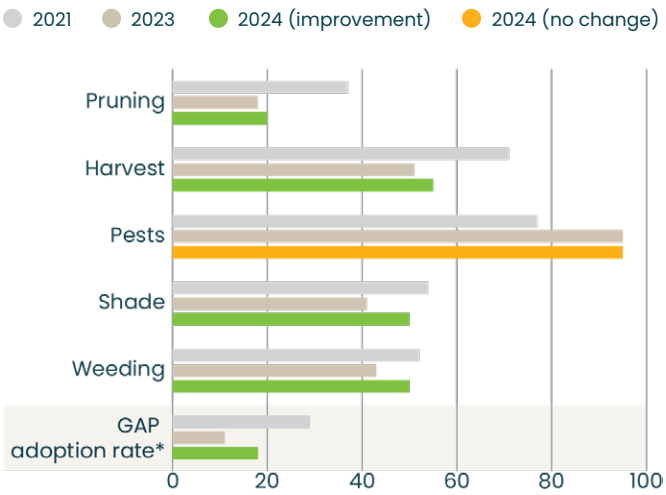
The adoption of pest and disease management practices declined between 2023 and 2024. In 2024, the pests most commonly reported by farmers were mirids, identified by 74 percent of respondents, and stem borers, reported by 65 percent of respondents. Climate change impacts, such as heavy rainfall and shifting rainy and dry seasons, have significantly affected cocoa cultivation in West Africa over the past few years. These climate-related challenges have contributed to increased pest and disease pressures on cocoa farms, resulting in lower yields and more challenging growing conditions. This trend is reflected in the overall decline in global cocoa production from West Africa.[6]

Ghana

Over the four years of data collection on GAPs by the Rainforest Alliance in Ghana, there has been a consistent increase in the adoption rate of one specific practice: pest and disease management. Additionally, for the other four agricultural practices, we observed an increase in adoption rates from 2023 to 2024. (see Figure 2.2). There are several external factors that might have hindered Ghanaian cocoa farmers' ability to adopt GAPs over the last few years. Climate change has been a significant challenge, with irregular rainfall and intense sunshine affecting cocoa production.[7] For example, unpredictable rainfall and strong winds have caused cocoa flowers to either burn or drop off before they can develop into pods, significantly reducing yields. Furthermore, economic instability—particularly the devaluation of the Ghanaian currency and fluctuations in cocoa prices[8]—have limited farmers' ability to invest in essential inputs and practices. Another significant barrier is the high cost of labor in Ghana. Implementing proper GAPs requires hired labor, which is difficult for many farmers to afford. Survey data indicates that labor costs constitute over 50 percent of the total cost for cocoa farmers in Ghana. All these factors could hinder the consistent adoption of GAPs among Ghanaian cocoa farmers, even with high training participation rates.

FIGURE 2.2

GAPs adoption over time (% of farmers) - Ghana



** Adoption of 4 or more GAPs, one of which must be pruning*

In Ghana we observed an increase from 77 to 95 percent of farmers adopting good pest management practices between 2021 and 2024. This increase is partly attributed to 96 percent of farmers using pesticides, largely in response to the heightened levels of pests and diseases observed on their farms. The two most commonly identified pests and diseases are mirids, reported by 97 percent of farmers, and black pod, reported by 80 percent.

For pruning, harvesting, shade, and weeding, a decrease or no change in adoption of practices was observed compared to 2021 data. The percentage of farmers adopting good pruning practices decreased from 37 percent to 20 percent. Overall, in 2024, between 20 percent and 40 percent of farmers were observed to have good quality pruning on various aspects of pruning. In 2024, 50 percent of the farmers indicated they did the pruning themselves, and 52 percent indicated that the

pruning gangs associated with the IAP program did the pruning. 57 percent of the farmers indicated that three-quarters or more of their farm was dedicated to agroforestry.

The adoption of good weeding practices in Ghana dropped from 52 percent of farmers in 2021 to 50 percent in 2024, though adoption in 2024 increased slightly for the first time since 2021. Overall, 99 percent of farmers indicated they used manual weeding methods.

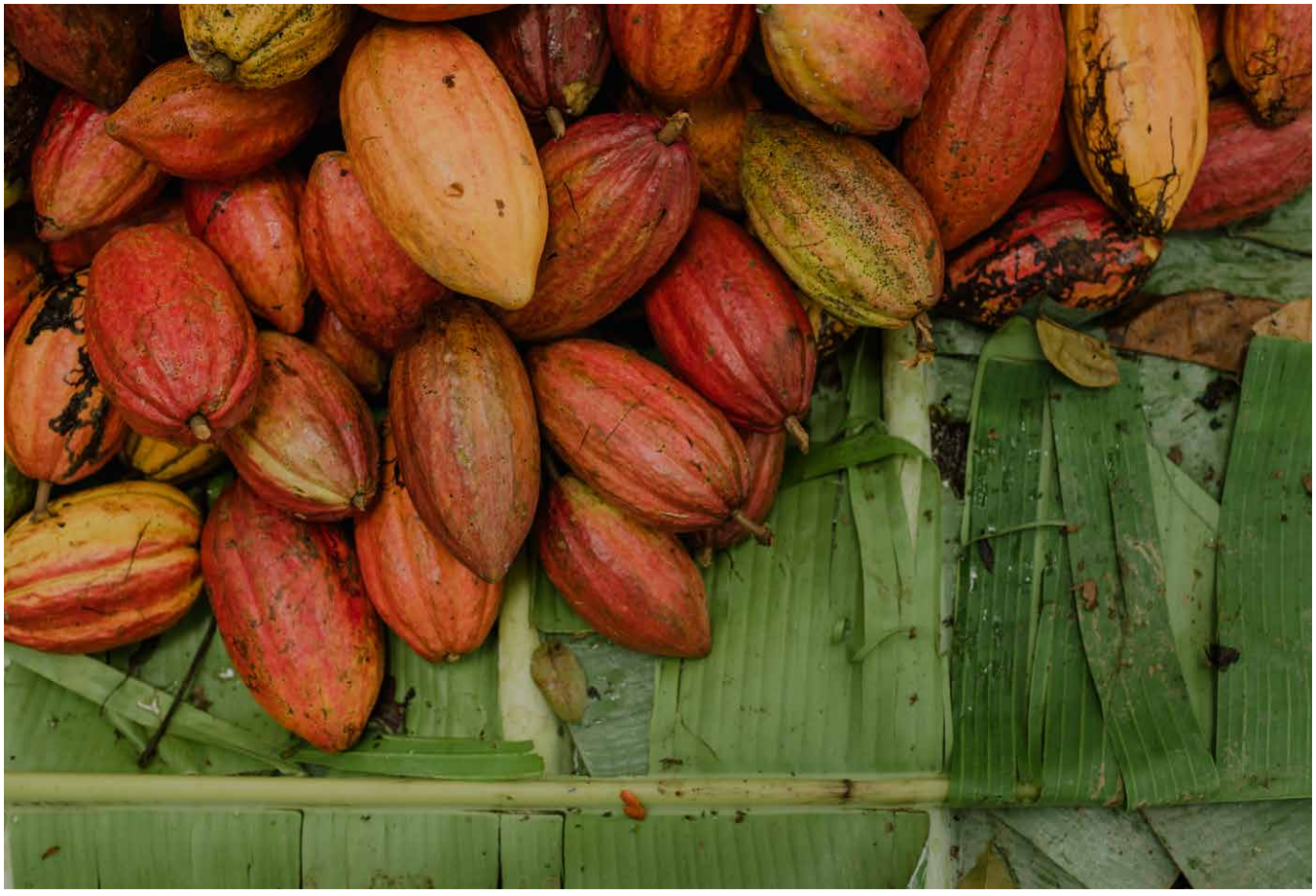
Latin America

For the past three years, Nestlé and the Rainforest Alliance have expanded their monitoring and evaluation partnership to three countries in Latin America, including collecting data on pruning, weeding, pest and disease management, harvesting management, and shade management. In 2024, data was only collected in Mexico and Brazil, excluding a campaign in Ecuador because of security concerns in cocoa-growing regions in that country.

Pruning practices in Latin America vary from one country to another, with Brazil and Mexico showing mixed results in terms of quality. Pruning quality is inconsistent, achieving good ratings in some aspects, but falling to medium or bad in others. In Brazil, nearly two-thirds of farms report that they rely on hired help for pruning, whereas in Mexico, most farmers indicate that they perform the pruning themselves.

In general, good and medium severity of pests and diseases were observed across the countries in Latin America. The most common reported pests and diseases are Monilia (98 percent of the farmers in Mexico), Witches Broom (78 percent of farms in Brazil), and black pod (72 percent of the farmers in Brazil).

Overall, high-quality weeding practices were noted in these regions. Approximately 68 percent of farmers in Brazil demonstrated effective weed management, while 84 to 90 percent of farmers in Mexico exhibited good weed management, reflecting an improvement since 2023. The level of adoption of shade management practices in Latin America differs significantly. The amount of shade that is optimal for the cocoa-farming system differs in each origin.[9,10] Traditionally, in Brazil, part of the farm typically uses the Cabruca farming system, in which cocoa trees are planted under tropical native canopy shade cover. Our data indicates that 47 percent of the farmers dedicate 76–100 percent of their cocoa farms to agroforestry with an average of 42 shade trees per hectare. In comparison, Mexico is traditionally and culturally an agroforestry system. In Mexico we observe a large majority of farmers (91 percent) dedicate 76–100 percent of the land area to agroforestry with an average of 105 shade trees per hectare. Efforts to plant shade trees across Mexico and Brazil also differ, with respectively 35 percent and four percent of farmers indicating they planted shade trees in 2024.



CHAPTER 3: A FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

INTRODUCTION: REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Looking ahead, regenerative agriculture practices will play a crucial role in Nestlé's sustainability strategy. The company has committed to sourcing 20 percent of its key ingredients from farmers implementing regenerative agricultural practices by 2025, with a goal of increasing that figure to 50 percent by 2030.[11]

The transition to regenerative agriculture practices is a journey requiring time and investment from all players within the supply chain. As part of Nestlé's strategy, the company has identified practices with outcomes related to three key agricultural resources: biodiversity, water, and soil. The Nestlé Cocoa Plan verification and Rainforest Alliance Certification provide a foundation upon which these regenerative practices can be built. The coming years will demand increased investment, support, and monitoring to facilitate the scaling of these practices.

A key regenerative agriculture practice is agroforestry, which provides increased micro-climate control, helps improve soil water retention, and supports soil structures, which results in decreased vulnerability to erosion and climate change.[12,13] Other key practices include soil health, integrated pest management, and integrated weed management; all of which are highlighted below as focal points for a robust foundation in which Nestlé can continue to support farmers in their journey towards regeneration.

SOIL HEALTH

Farms, and the wider ecosystem they are part of, are only as healthy as their soils. In the cocoa sector, the importance of this is exhibited in the relationship between diminishing soil fertility and stagnating or decreasing cocoa yields.[14] There is an urgent need to collaborate with cocoa farmers to restore and maintain soil health and nutrition, and regenerative practices can facilitate this transition.

Intercropping and introducing cover crops or mulching with organic resources are some of the steps farmers can take to improve nutrient cycling and water retention, enhance soil health and reduce the risk of soil erosion.[15] The use of crop residue and mulch to cover soil on the cocoa farms we visited is widespread. In Mexico and Brazil, over 95 percent of farmers achieved near-total soil coverage, whereas in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the figures were 81 percent and 76 percent, respectively (see Figure 3.1) Nearly all the farms in all four countries indicated they use crop residues or mulch to cover the soil. In general, the use of cover crops was less common in all countries visited (see Table 3.2).

FIGURE 3.1

Percentage of farmers covering 76-100% of soil using crop residue and/or mulch

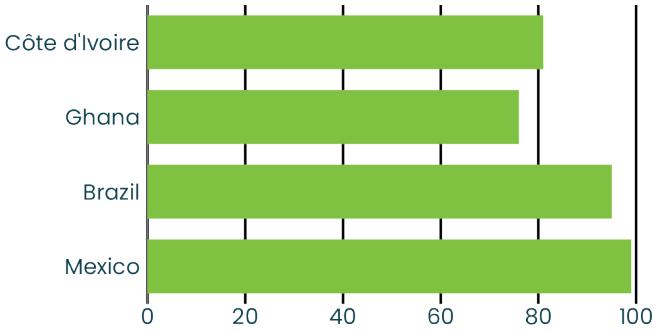


TABLE 3.2

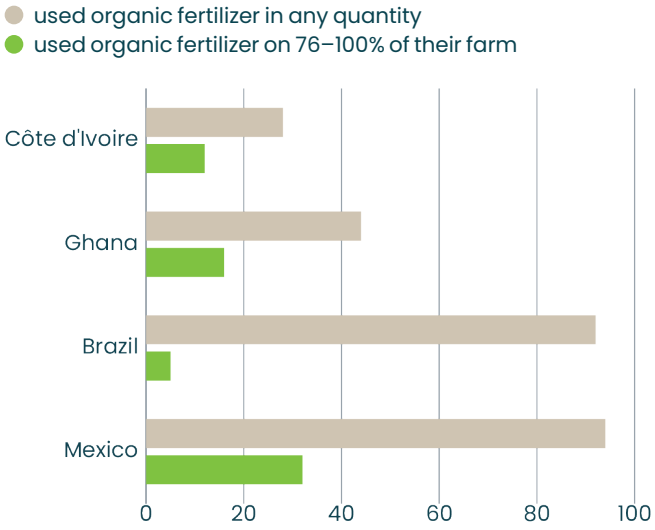
Percentage of farmers using various methods of soil coverage

Country	Mulch / Crop residues	Cover Crops
Côte d'Ivoire	99%	25%
Ghana	100%	8%
Brazil	100%	3%
Mexico	100%	0%

Besides working with cover crops and soil cover, organic fertilizer can be a means to boost soil nutrients without relying heavily on costly and often harmful synthetic inputs. We observed that farmers in all countries we visited are applying organic fertilizer to their farms (see Figure 3.3). Overall, between 28 percent and 94 percent of the farmers in the four countries indicated they use organic fertilizer. The most common type of organic fertilizer applied is the use of cocoa pods and poultry manure in West Africa. In Mexico, 94 percent of the farmers indicated they use organic fertilizer, and 32 percent of the farmers apply only organic fertilizer to more than 75 percent of their farm. Similarly, in Brazil, 92 percent of the farmers indicate they use organic fertilizers, yet only five percent of the farmers use it on more than 75 percent of their farm, likely explained by the larger average farm size. Across all countries, barriers mentioned to expanding this use of organic fertilizer were associated with the costs and know-how of using organic fertilizer.

FIGURE 3.3

Percentage of farmers using organic fertilizer practices.



In Côte d'Ivoire, fertilizer expenses account for 59 percent of the total farm costs, highlighting it as the largest expenditure. While fertilizer costs vary in different countries, they remain substantial across the board, with Ghana and Brazil at 26 percent and Mexico closely following at 22 percent. These costs represent a substantial barrier, impeding broader adoption and underscoring the need for strategies to mitigate these financial burdens to enhance sustainable farming practices across these regions.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT

Another change involves reducing, and ideally eliminating, the use of chemical pesticides, including herbicides and weedicides, due to their negative environmental impacts. We observed that farmers across countries reported using a mix of practices to manage the pests, diseases and weeds on their farms. The most common method mentioned to prevent pests and diseases is still the use of pesticides. However, between 57 and 60 percent of the farmers in Brazil and Mexico respectively indicated using pruning as a method to reduce pesticides use. In Brazil, it is the most frequently reported method. Producers across the four countries apply pesticides most commonly between one and three times a year when needed in Latin America, and on a calendar schedule in West Africa.

Across the four countries, manual labor, motor tools, and herbicides are used to manage weeds. In Brazil, the motor tool was the most frequently used tool with 90 percent of the farmers indicating they used it as a weeding method. In comparison, in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Mexico, manual weeding was the most frequently used method, with 99–100 percent of the farmers in both West African countries indicating manual weeding use. This indicated a difference in level of technification between the farming practices used in the countries. The use of herbicides was reported to be limited in West Africa. In Ghana, 39 percent and in Côte d'Ivoire, 28 percent of the farmers reported herbicide use. In Latin America, between 30 percent and 42 percent of farmers indicated they had used herbicides in 2024. Among the farmers who reported using herbicides, most reported using it one or two times a year.


Photo by Misper Apawu

CHAPTER 4: INCOME

Cocoa farmers face significant challenges in earning a living income.[16] To understand the economic situation of the cocoa farmers in the Nestlé Cocoa Plan, we collect data in all four countries regarding farmers' income.[17] The net income of cocoa farmers is built up through various components. A cocoa-farming family's income is determined by a combination of the cocoa revenue (cocoa production multiplied by cocoa price) and the total non-cocoa family income. The net household income is then calculated by subtracting the costs of production from the total family revenue. In this chapter we will look closer at these components.

COCOA PRODUCTION COSTS

Across the four countries, the largest drivers of cocoa-farming costs were reported to be costs associated with labor and fertilizer. In all countries aside from Côte d'Ivoire, labor costs were the largest reported cost cocoa farmers incurred, on average contributing between 73 percent of total costs (in Mexico) and 54 percent of total costs in Ghana. Fertilizer costs followed closely, contributing to between 59 percent of the total costs in Côte d'Ivoire and 22 percent of the total costs in Mexico. Finally, farmers reported some costs for agrochemicals, however these were significantly lower than the costs reported for labor and fertilizer.

COCOA VS NON-COCOA INCOME

The extent to which cocoa-farming families are dependent on cocoa as their main source of income also differs across countries. In West Africa, cocoa is the main source of income for families, contributing to between 66 and 81 percent of family income. This is also the case in Brazil, where larger farms contribute (on average) 64 percent of the household's income. On the other hand, in Mexico cocoa only contributes 29 percent of the household income. Other sources of income in these countries include revenue from additional crops and livestock, financial assistance, and various non-farm income streams.

COCOA REVENUE

The cocoa revenue farmers earn is determined by the price farmers were able to receive for their cocoa and the cocoa production.

When looking at the price cocoa farmers receive for their cocoa, we see large differences between how this price is set in West Africa and Latin America. In Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, the farmgate price farmers receive for their cocoa is determined by the respective governments. The benefit of this approach is that it protects the farmers from price drops on the cocoa market. However, the 2024 farmgate price reported by farmers in Ghana has remained most commonly 12.50 Cedi/kg (0.87 USD/Kg) and in Côte d'Ivoire the price has varied slightly but remained most commonly 1000 CFA/kg (1.74 USD/kg). Both governments raised the farmgate cocoa prices in 2024.[18,19] In Latin America, this is organized in a different way, where prices are determined through either fixed contracts, or based on the daily cocoa price. As a result, the prices farmers receive tend to fluctuate more.

Photo by Charlie Watson

CONCLUSION

The Nestlé Cocoa Plan continues to support more than 185,000 cocoa-farming families in its key sourcing countries across three pillars: Better Farming, Better Lives, Better Cocoa. This program has supported cocoa communities by providing trainings on agriculture practices and supplying required inputs such as shade-tree seedlings.

Nestlé's Income Accelerator Program aims to support cocoa-farming families by closing the living income gap. Already working with 30,000 farmers in Côte d'Ivoire, in 2023 this program scaled to Ghana, where it started working with 2,000 farmers.

Looking ahead, enhancing the resilience of cocoa farmers will become increasingly vital. As extreme weather events become more frequent in cocoa-producing regions, impacting yields and agricultural practices, it is essential to support cocoa farmers in adopting regenerative agriculture practices to alleviate these pressures. The Rainforest Alliance's tailored monitoring and evaluation program will continue to assist Nestlé in achieving its sustainability goals within its cocoa supply chain.

Photo by Nu Image Communications

ENDNOTES

1 A representative sample is taken by the Rainforest Alliance of the farmers who are part of the Nestlé Cocoa Plan through a stratified, random sampling, based on the geographical area, agriculture methods used, and cooperatives the farmers are part of.

2 https://worldcocoafoundation.org/focus-areas/farmer-income

3 Anim-Kwapong, G. J., & Frimpong, E. B. (2004). vulnerability and adaptation assessment under the Netherlands climate change studies assistance programme phase 2 (NCCSAP 2). Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, 2, 1-30. Saleh, A. R., Gusli, S., Ala, A., Neswati, R., & Sudewi, S. (2022). Tree density impact on growth, roots length density, and yield in agroforestry-based cocoa. Biodiversitas, 23(1), 496-506. DOI: 10.13057/biodiv/d230153.

4 https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/600528/dp-womens-rights-cocoa-sector-good-practice-100316-en.pdf;jsessionid=EABFE1B7DB9432B21EED23DE94F52A5C?sequence=4

5 More information on the impact of the Income Accelerator program can be found here: https://www.nestle.com/sites/default/files/2023-07/income-accelerator-program-progress-report-july-2023.pdf

6 https://www.confectioneryproduction.com/news/50853/international-cocoa-organisation-reports-downturn-in-global-production-volumes/

7 https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2022/01/12/weather-changes-affecting-cocoa-production-farmers-feeling-the-impact/

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