



IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY AND ALLEVIATING POVERTY BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Gender equality and equity could lead to higher productivity levels and improved rural livelihoods.

Why?

► Both yields and productivity levels are generally lower among female cocoa farmers than among male cocoa farmers. STCP data show that yields (per hectare) of women are on average 61 kg less than that of male farmers. Closing that gender-based yield gap would generate an additional 30,000 mt of cocoa beans (World Bank, 2012).

See Table.

► This is related to a range of barriers women face: lower education levels, smaller and less fertile plots, time constraints due to competing (household) responsibilities and limited access to credit, inputs, equipment and training. For example: in Ghana, the share of female farmers without any education is twice as high as among male cocoa farmers. Also, female cocoa farmers in Ghana use only half as much insecticides as their male counterparts (Hill and Vigneri 2009).

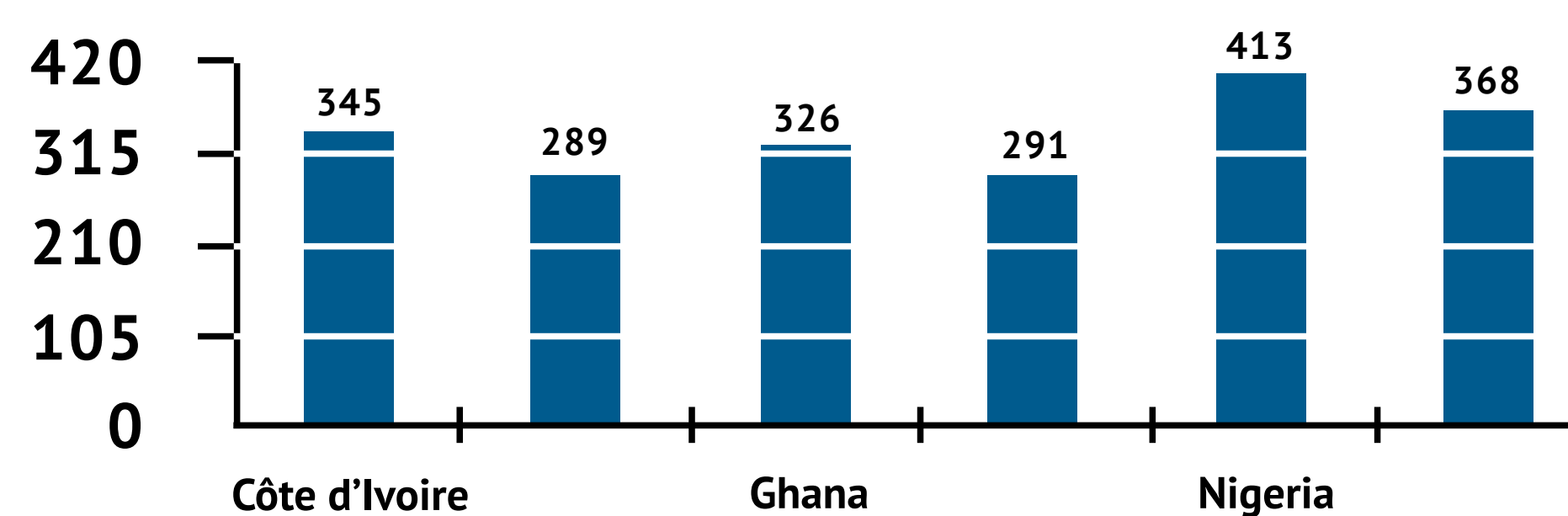
► Women have less access to land and cooperative membership. Although women are part of cocoa farming, as long as they do not own the land they work on, they are often not able to become a member of a cooperative. A consequence is that women have less access to training, credits and inputs.

► Women are less likely to benefit from cocoa revenues: men are in control of marketing the cocoa (UTZ/Solidaridad, 2009). A study among 1000 farmers in Cameroon showed that among married cocoa farmers, 97% of the men were in control of marketing of cocoa (GTZ, 2009).

► Moreover, male farmers often spend large parts of their income on personal rather than on family needs. Whereas virtually all income received by women is spent on household needs. Studies show that improvements in child health and nutrition brought about by a \$10 increase in women's income would require a \$110 increase in men's income to bring about the same improvements (World Bank/FAO/IFAD, 2008).

► Investing in women means investing in the improved livelihood of the whole family. To improve the livelihood of rural families and to alleviate poverty, investing in women has far greater effects than investing in men (DFID, 2011; UNDP, 2010; IMF, 2006 etc). Women, more than men, spend their income on the health, education and nutrition of their family members.

Productivity among West-African cocoa farmers (kg/ha) (Fortson et al. 2011)



Best practices

Cocoa Life: *"We believe gender equality benefits everyone and is essential if cocoa communities are to thrive. That's why promoting women's empowerment has been a cross-cutting theme in Cocoa Life since 2008".*

In both Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, Cocoa Life takes steps to address gender inequality. Building on Prof. Hiscox and Care International's assessments, a range of actions is identified to further develop our gender work in the five key program areas:

- Farming:** improving training for female farmers and women working on cocoa farms and increasing women's access to farm inputs, land ownership and membership of farmer organizations.
- Livelihoods:** increasing access to finance for women, improving literacy and household food security.
- Community:** empowering women to play an active role in decision making in their households, communities and with district and national farmer forums; engaging women in drawing up Community Action Plans; training community leaders, Cocoa Life implementing partners and Cocoa Life staff in gender awareness, engaging government institutions at district and national level on issues that affect women.



Sources

World Bank (2012) Cocoa Sector Policy Brief. PREM 4: Africa Region. Washington DC: World Bank

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GTZ (2009) Opportunities and Constraints in Agriculture: A Gendered Analysis of Cocoa Production in Southern Cameroon. Division 'State and Democracy': Programme Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights.

Greene, M., Robles, A. (2013) A Sustainable, Thriving Cocoa Sector for Future Generations: The Business Case for Why Women Matter and What To Do About It.

World Bank/FAO/IFAD (2008) "Executive Summary: Investing in women as drivers of economic growth." In: Gender in agriculture sourcebook. World Bank: Washington D.C.

- Youth:** promoting women and girls' involvement in the Cocoa Ambassador scheme and community reading clubs.
- Monitoring and evaluation:** global, high level KPI's and local metrics are designed in response to our commitment to gender mainstreaming for each program objective and focus area. www.cocoalife.org