

Sweet Sustainability: Cocoa Agroforestry Advantages Agenda

May 18-20

All times shown are in US Eastern Time (GMT-4)

Day 1: Cocoa Agroforestry for a Sustainable Environment

9 – 9:15 am | **Opening Session: Cocoa agroforestry & the e-library – why they matter for sustainability**

Speakers: Dennis Garrity & Etelle Higonnet

9:15 – 9:25 am | **Cocoa agroforestry & the environment: introduction to the science**

Speakers: Carolina Mejía & Eric Penot

9:25 – 10:10 am | **Cocoa Agroforestry & Biodiversity**

Moderator: Howard Shapiro | Speakers: Ruth Bennett, Christian Cilas, Hervé Bisseleua & Petra Heid

Explore how the management and structure of cocoa agroforests affect plants and animals in biodiversity hotspots that overlap with cocoa-producing regions globally. The discussion will include how shade tree management, connectivity with forest patches, and general landscape configuration impact the value of agroforests for different groups of species, including threatened and endangered species.

- [Howard-Yana Shapiro – The speed of change is faster than our response: Cacao Agroforestry & Biodiversity](#)
- [Ruth Bennett – Smithsonian Bird Friendly Agroforestry](#)
- [Herve Bisseleua – How important is the visible and invisible Biodiversity](#)

10:10 – 10:20 am | **Break**

10:20 – 11:05 am | **Cocoa Agroforestry & Carbon Sequestration**

Moderator: Andrew Nobrega | Speakers: Eduardo Somarriba, Mireille Feudjio, Jeff King & Jean Paul Aka

Cocoa agroforests may contribute to climate change mitigation and carbon-neutral supply chains by sequestering above and below ground carbon. This panel will explore how cocoa agroforests sequester carbon and how this important ecosystem service can be leveraged with company shareholders and both national and international carbon commitments.

- [Pur Projet – Cocoa Agroforestry & Carbon Sequestration](#)
- [Mireille Feudjio – Cocoa Agroforestry & Carbon Sequestration](#)
- [Eduardo Somarriba – Cocoa agroforestry systems & climate change mitigation](#)

11:05 – 11:10 am | **Break**

11:10 – 11:55 am | **Cocoa Agroforestry & Pollination**

Moderator: Abdulahi Aliyu | Speakers: Clare Stirling, Manuel Toledo-Hernández, Teja Tscharnkte, & Fakhrusy Zakariyya

Cocoa pollination may occur by hundreds of different insects. Agroforestry conditions impact the presence of both insect pollinators and insects that inhibit pollination. As cocoa yields are directly related to pollination rates, this panel explores how agroforestry management can facilitate successful pollination.

- [Clare Stirling – Cocoa Agroforestry & Pollination](#)
- [Fakhrusy Zakariyya – A Potential Strategy to Improve Productivity of Cocoa Plantation through Pollination](#)

11:55 am – 12:00 pm | **Break**

12:00 – 12:45 pm | **Cocoa Agroforestry & Climate Resiliency**

Moderator: Erik Hoffner | Speakers: Richard Asare, Thomas Wanger, Johanna Jacobi & Ywe Franken

Climate change models predict that much of the current cocoa belt will become unsuitable for cocoa production over the coming decades. Agroforestry systems will likely be more resilient to drought stress and temperature stress than cocoa monocultures. This panel explores the current evidence and the unknowns that agroforestry plays in climate-resilient cocoa production.

- [Thomas Wanger – Climate Resiliency](#)
- [Johanna Jacobi – Cocoa agroforestry and social-ecological resilience](#)

Day 2: Cocoa Agroforestry for Sustainable Production & Industry

9:00 – 9:15 am | Implementing & Financing Productive Cocoa Agroforestry

Speaker: Jack Steijn

9:15 – 10:15 am | Yields in Cocoa Agroforestry

Moderator: Viwanou Gnassaounou | Speakers: Angela Tejada Chavez, Deborah Faria, Elsa Sanial & Martijn ten Hoopen
Potential tradeoffs between cocoa production and agroforestry cover have limited industry adoption of agroforestry practices. Decoupling the shade cover-yield relationship from the many other factors that impact yields across the cocoa belt is an ongoing challenge. This panel discusses how agroforestry systems can be designed to maximize yields while retaining important services to farmers and the environment.

- [Elsa Sanial – Farmers’ perceptions of trees’ effects on yields: a lesson for agroforestry systems design](#)
- [Martijn ten Hoopen – Cocoa Cultivation: Understanding productivity in Agroforestry Systems](#)

10:15 – 10:30 am | Break

10:30 – 11:30 am | Cocoa Agroforestry Promotion by/for/with Countries

Moderator: Wendy Arenas | Speakers: Jérémie Kouassi, Musa Abu Juam, Raúl Meléndez Valle & Beate Weiskopf
Cocoa priorities at the national level affect the recommendations given to farmers. In the past, extension services have driven shade levels below optimal levels for cocoa production with negative sustainability implications. However, many countries have now adopted zero-deforestation commitments and enforcement mechanisms for cocoa production. Building off the success of zero-deforestation commitments, this panel explores how countries can also incorporate agroforestry commitments into their cocoa production strategies.

- [Beate Weiskopf – Promotion and Commitments for Agroforestry in Cocoa: European platforms for sustainable cocoa in Europe](#)

11:30 – 11:40 am | Break

11:40 am – 12:40 pm | Financing Cocoa Agroforestry

Moderator: Jean Paul Aka | Speakers: Romuald Vaudry, Peter Umunay, Oliver Hanke, Regis Meritan & Marjolaine Chaintreau

Transitioning from cocoa monoculture to agroforestry requires investment, especially to defray implementation costs to the farmers. This panel explores diverse funding opportunities and investment strategies for agroforestry implementation at the country or company level.

- [Romuald Vaudry – Financing cocoa agroforestry: mitigating risks in Côte d’Ivoire](#)
- [Peter Umunay – Financing cocoa agroforestry: Insight from Economic modeling](#)

12:40 – 1:00 pm | Q&A and Closing Remarks

Speaker: Jack Steijn

Day 3: Cocoa Agroforestry for Farmers & Sustainable Communities

9:00 – 9:15 am | Making Cocoa Agroforestry Work for Farmers & Communities

Speakers: Warren Sako & Eduardo Somarriba

- [Eduardo Somarriba – Cocoa Agroforestry For Farmers](#)

9:15 – 10 am | Cocoa Agroforestry & Food Security/Income Diversification

Moderator: Antoine Fountain | Speakers: Bashiratu Kamal, Antoine Ambert, Denis Sonwa & Emma Harbour

Well-planned agroforestry systems can diversify the income and food security of farmers, providing an important buffer against fluctuations in production and markets. This panel highlights how agroforestry systems can be designed jointly with farmers to meet their needs. The panel further discusses how local adoption and retention of agroforestry depends in large part on the value farmers perceive and receive from these systems.

- [Antoine Ambert – Alter Eco Foundation](#)
- [Denis Sonwa – Cocoa, Food Security & Livelihood Diversification](#)

10:00 – 10:10 am | Break

10:10 – 11:00 am | Cocoa Agroforestry & Disease/Pest Control

Moderator: Ruth Maclean | Speakers: Christian Andres, Pomasi Ismaeli, Gricha Safarian & Luke Powell

Many of the diseases and pests that plague cocoa production respond to temperature and humidity around the cocoa trees, which can be managed with agroforestry practices. Furthermore, agroforestry systems can support bird, bat, and insect predators of cocoa pests. This panel explores how cocoa agroforestry management mitigates cocoa diseases and pests.

- [Christian Andres – Why we need to at least partly transition from pesticides to natural regulation of pests and diseases and what role agroforestry can play](#)
- [Gricha Safarian – Value for the Fruit, Farmer and Farm](#)
- [Luke Powell – Ecosystem Services in Cacao: how the birds and bats give it away for FREE](#)

11:00 – 11:15 am | Participant Polling

Moderator: Suzanne Ngo-Eyok

11:20 am – 12:20 pm | Closing Session: The Future of Cocoa Agroforestry

Moderator: Gerome Tokpa | Keynote Speakers: Pablo Perversi, Richard Asare & Michel Arrion

This final session explores the next steps for cocoa agroforestry on both the scientific research and implementation fronts.

- [Gerome Tokpa – Earthworm Foundation](#)

12:20 – 12:30 pm | Final Thoughts & Thank You from the Organizers

Scientific literature on cocoa agroforestry provides effective tools can support sustainable cocoa implementation and research. Learn more about how the [Cocoa Agroforestry Library](#) can help make these connections.



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