



**Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao**  
German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa



# **Perspektiven lokaler Akteure zu Maßnahmen zur Bekämpfung von Entwaldung und Klimawandel**

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*EcoCare / Vertreter der Ghana Civil Society Cocoa Platform*



# APPROACHES TO DEFORESTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN COCOA

*(Perspectives from local actors on measures to combat deforestation and climate change)*

*German Sustainable Cocoa Initiative members meeting (public part), Bonn 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023*

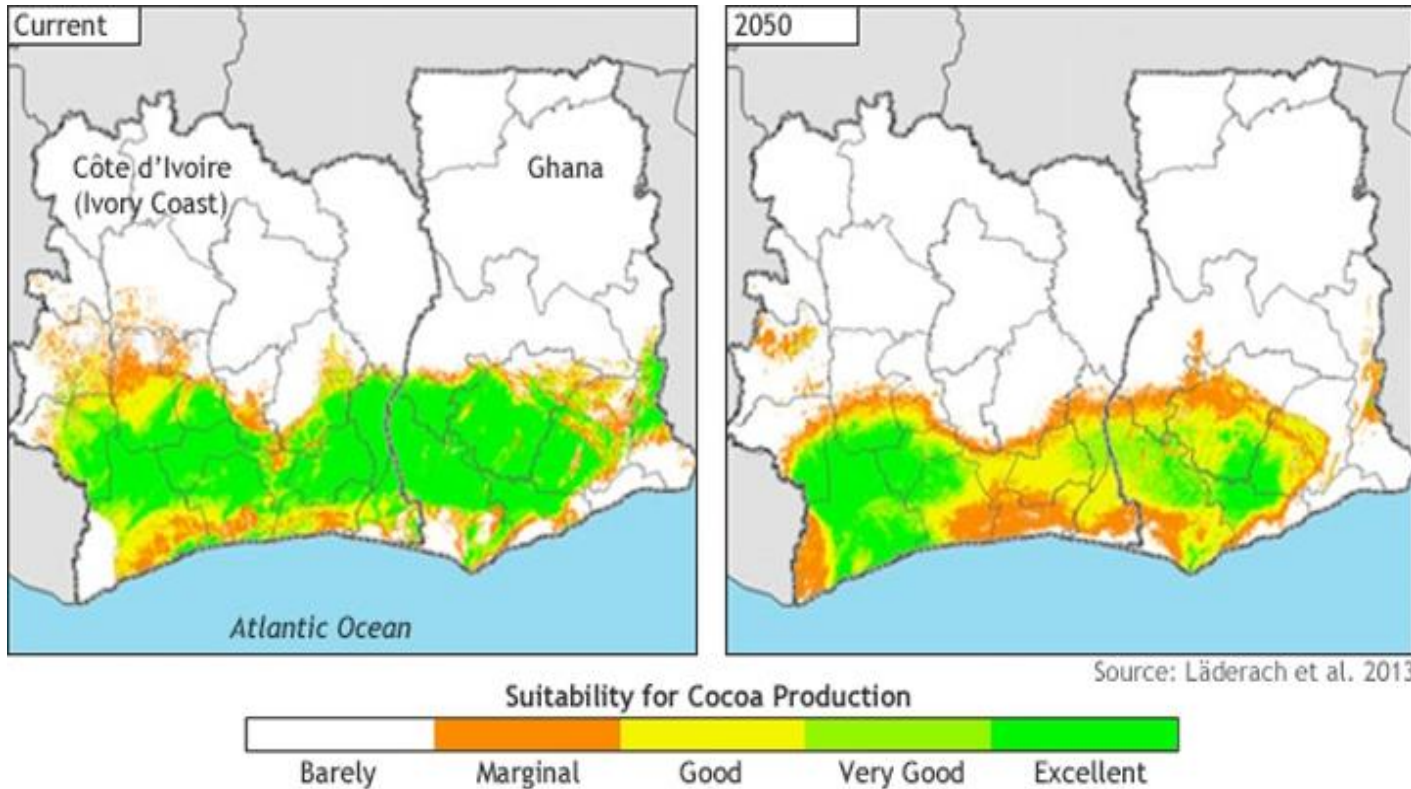
**Obed Owusu-Addai, Co-convener, GCCP**



# Outline of Presentation:

- Reality of climate crisis for the cocoa producer
- Interrogating existing interventions to address the crisis
  - Approaches
  - Challenges
- Way forward/Expectations of the local producer

# Reality Check

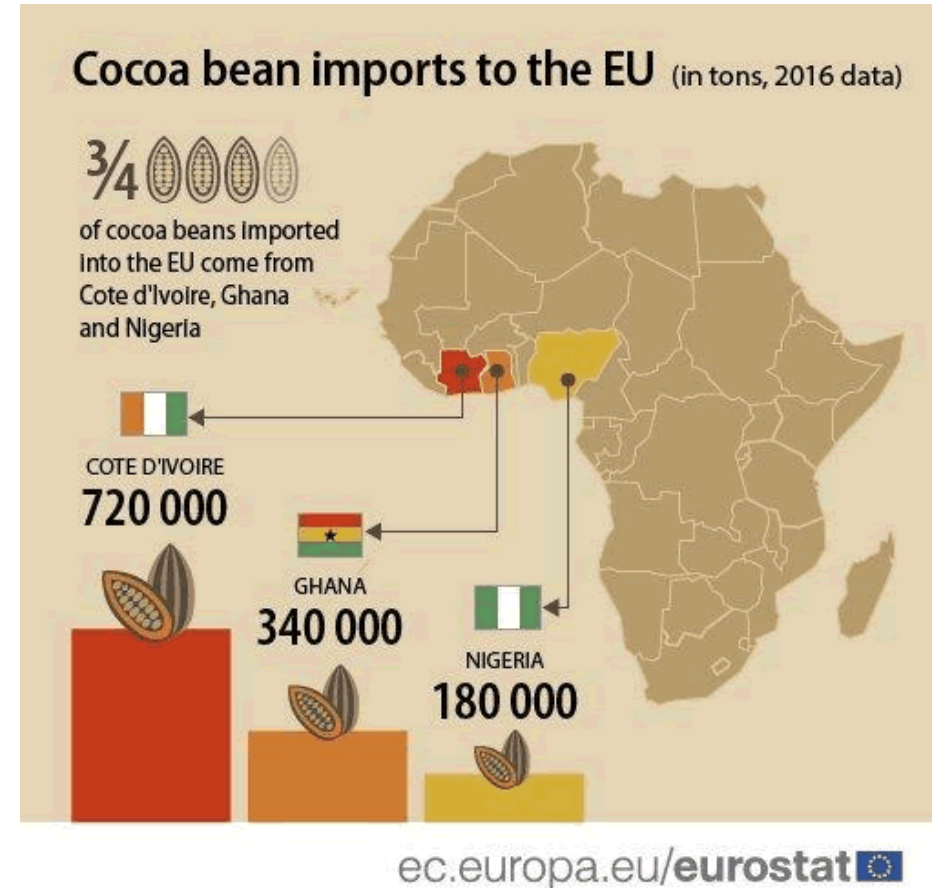


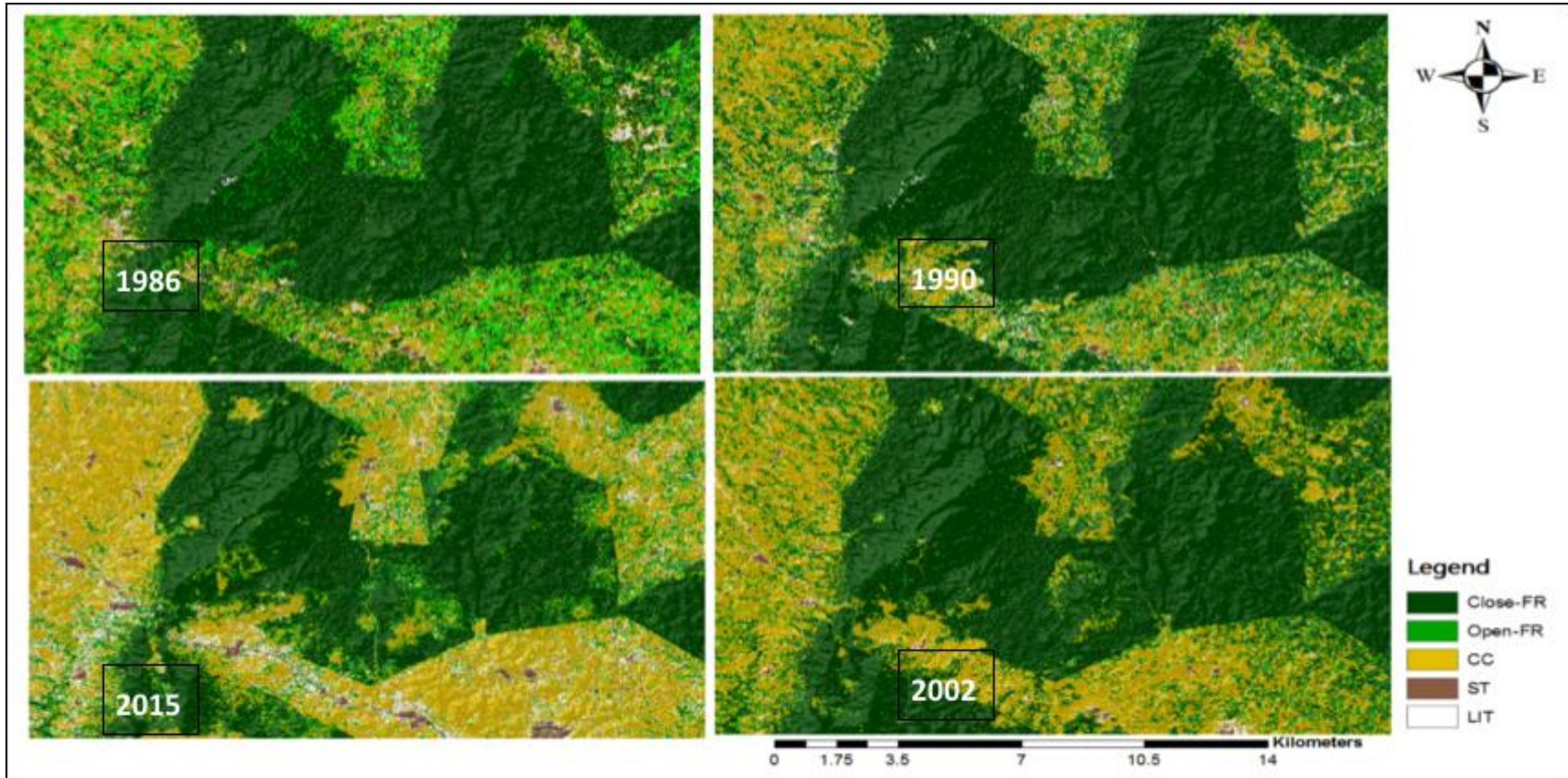
- The future of cocoa production in Ghana is bleak
- Productivity trend analysis (per hectare of farm) over the past decade paint a picture of a highly distress situation for the average cocoa farmer
- The average farm productivity has dropped by 20% over the past 20 years and it keeps dropping despite efforts to reverse the trend through current interventions.

*(source: Ofosu et al, (2021))*

# Reality Check

- In the past 2 decades alone, the demand for cocoa beans has led to over 200% increment in its production in Ghana (300,000 tons to 900,000 tons)
- If productivity per hectare is declining but production levels are increasing, where are the extra beans coming from????
- In 2017, Ghana supplied an estimated 900,000 tons of cocoa beans, which was produced on an estimated 1.9 million hectares (19,000sqkm) of rainforest land (roughly the size of Slovenia)

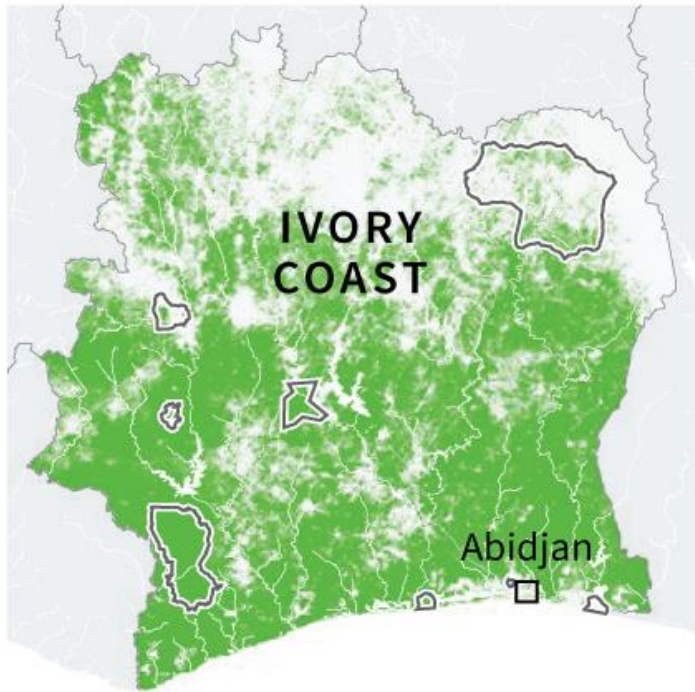




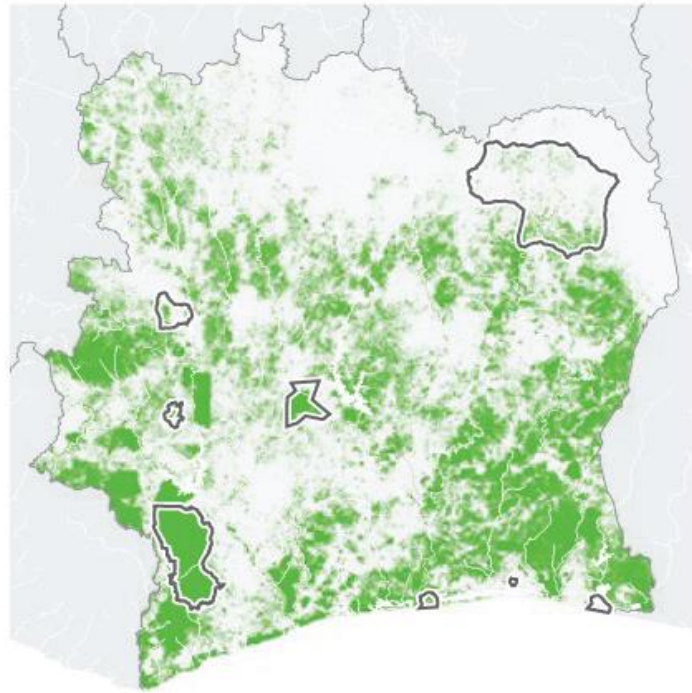
Historical maps indicating changing land-use trends

■ Forest cover\* □ Ivory Coast's National parks

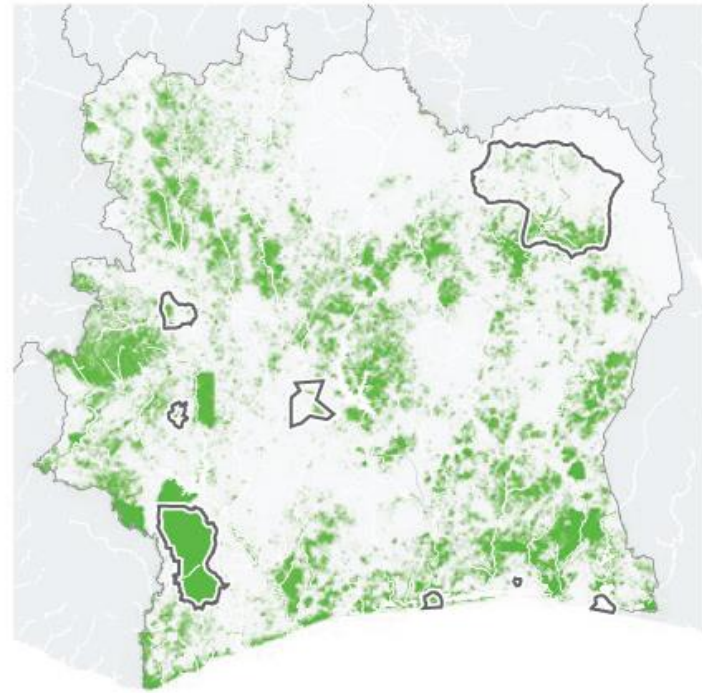
1990



2000



2015



\*Any surface sized 1 hectare or more with a tree canopy density of at least 30 percent.

Source: MapHubs Forest.

G. Cabrera, 18/04/2018

# Existing Approaches to tackle this challenge

- Sustainability Approaches
  - Certification
  - Company programmes
- Producer-side measures
  - Cocoa and Forest Initiative
  - Climate Smart Cocoa (ARS)
  - Cocoa Management System
  - Mass fertilizer distribution
- Demand-side measures
  - Trade
  - Legislative approaches







# Challenges with these approaches:

1. They fail to comprehensively tackle the root-cause of the problem (farmer poverty)
2. These approaches do not seek to bring transformational changes to the structure of the cocoa sector where the private sector dictates the pace
3. Local socio-cultural issues are not boldly tackled for fear of potential blow-back
4. Agroforestry interventions do not factor the real cost of the farmer
5. Demand side measures are usually hypocritical and assume to be targeting demand-side actors when in actual fact those most affected are producers (smallholders)



# The way forward:

- There should be an integrated agroforestry approaches where the farmer is properly incentivized and catered for
- Demand-side measures must recognize the uneven situation of producer country stakeholders especially smallholder farmers
- For some cocoa farmers, it's the only source of livelihood and support structure for their family hence if they are not properly remunerated they will find ways of meeting the needs of their family including expanding into protected areas



**Thank You**