

# CocoaFiber

Turning cocoa waste into next-generation biomaterials.

## CONCEPT NOTE

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### CONTEXT

Cocoa production generates an estimated **20 million tons of cocoa pod husk (CPH) biomass annually**. In most producing regions, including Côte d'Ivoire, these husks are discarded or burned, a significant missed opportunity. At the same time, global industries are actively seeking bio-based, traceable material alternatives as part of their decarbonisation strategies. CocoaFiber is developing a model to bridge these two realities.

### THE MODEL

CocoaFiber converts cocoa pod husk biomass into regenerated biomaterials including sustainable fibers for textile and industrial applications through a circular supply chain that connects cocoa farming communities directly to global manufacturing markets:

**Farmer cooperatives** → **Biomass aggregation** → **Pre-processing** → **Fiber & biomaterial production**  
→ **Global markets**

Agricultural co-products from the process can be returned to farms to support soil health, reinforcing the circular nature of the model.

### ALIGNMENT WITH PRO-PLANTEURS PHASE III (2025–2030)

CocoaFiber's proposed pilot maps directly onto each of the four pillars of PRO-PLANTEURS Phase III:

Phase III Pillar	CocoaFiber Contribution
<b>Strengthening Farmer Organisations</b>	Cooperatives become active aggregation partners: a new economic function that strengthens their role and sustainability.
<b>Income Diversification &amp; Living Income</b>	CPH valorisation introduces supplementary income for farmers from residues that currently have no value.
<b>Supply Chain Cooperation</b>	Integrates cooperatives into a global bio-based material value chain; aligns with the ISCOs and GISCO member values.
<b>Shared Learning &amp; Innovation</b>	Generates transferable knowledge on circular bioeconomy models applicable across cocoa-producing regions.

### PROPOSED PILOT

CocoaFiber proposes a collaborative pilot in Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with PRO-PLANTEURS Phase III cooperatives focused on:

- Small-scale cocoa pod husk biomass aggregation and pre-processing, built on existing cooperative infrastructure
- Assessment of farmer income generation potential from cocoa pod husk valorisation
- Evaluation of logistics and supply chain models from farm to processing
- Integration of agricultural co-products back to participating farms

### PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

CocoaFiber welcomes the opportunity to **discuss cooperative partner engagement & GISCO member collaboration and support**.