



Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao
German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

OVERVIEW OF GISCO PROJECT / PROGRAMME LEVEL DATA POINTS 2024

In case of questions, please contact:

- Ulrike Joras via ulrike.joras@giz.de
- Julia Ditz via julia.ditz@giz.de

1. Context

The National Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa in Europe (ISCOs) request their members to report annually to track progress towards the initiatives' objectives and to increase accountability in the sector. In a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) signed between the ISCOs in 2020, they committed to harmonizing their monitoring frameworks as much as possible to increase efficiencies. Over the past years, considerable work has gone into the improvement of the joint ISCO monitoring framework and into further harmonization between the ISCOs. As a result, the Belgian (Beyond Chocolate), Dutch (DISCO), French (FRISCO), German (GISCO) and Swiss (SWISSCO)¹ initiatives now have a harmonized set of supply chain level data points in place².

In addition to these supply chain level data points, GISCO also asks members to report on a set of [project / programme](#) level indicators.

The project / programme questionnaire enquires after the progress members are making within a certain sustainability project/program. Partners are asked to report individually for Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and can choose between aggregated or individual reporting for other countries. Each partner can fill out as many project questionnaires as they like.

All members of GISCO that have projects and programmes in the cocoa sector are asked to report on them.

2. How to use this overview of data points

The table below presents an overview of the [project / programme](#) level data points that GISCO asks members to report on. The table will allow you to prepare your data internally before the start of the 2024 monitoring round on March 1st. The table is divided in the following way:

- In the first two columns you will find the different data points and questions.
- In the third column you can find more information on why this data is requested from you and what GISCO aims to do with this data. This information can help you request for certain data points internally.
- The underlined words in the data point list all refer to a definition or methodology that is specified in chapter 3 of this document. If you want to read the definition or methodology, please click on the word and you will be redirected to the right place in the definition list.



Please note that GISCO partners also need to report on a set of membership data points which are specified in a separate document.

² The overview of supply chain data points can be found in the other document attached to this mail.

3. Overview of data points

It is now **possible to prefill data** reported in last year's programme questionnaire. Members may update data from the previous year and submit the updated data as the 2023 project / programme questionnaire.

Please note that it is mandatory **to report on Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana separately**, while for other countries, you can choose to:

- provide country-specific data per country;
- provide only aggregated data for those other countries.

Data point	Question	Why this data is requested
1. Introduction		
<p>The first part of the project questionnaire covers information on geographical area of intervention, the topics / focus areas, and the project partners. You will be asked to specify the countries of intervention whereby it is mandatory to report on Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana separately. For other countries you can choose to provide country-specific data or to provide aggregated data for those other countries. Additionally, you will be asked to give a short description of the project, report on the topics of the projects (drop-down menu), and indicate the project partners you are working with.</p>		
2. Farming Households and Cocoa Growers Reached		
Number of farming households & male / female growers reached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please specify the number of farming households reached - Please specify the number of male / female / total cocoa growers reached 	Assess the reach of the projects / programmes and the extent to which projects / programmes include women and men (i.e. linked to GISCO Goal 7).
3. Farming Land (Plots)		

Data point	Question	Why this data is requested
Size of farming land & land under cocoa cultivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please specify the average size of farming land and the farming land under cocoa cultivation per farming household reached 	Farming land / size can impact household income and the data is required to assess the total area under cocoa cultivation that is managed as an agroforestry system.
4. Cocoa Productivity		
Average cocoa yield per hectare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please specify the average cocoa yield per hectare, for the farms reached by the project / programme 	Assess progress in productivity as a factor impacting cocoa-related income per farming household.
Cost of production per MT cocoa beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please specify the cost per MT of cocoa as an average, for the total cocoa production of the farming households reached by the project / programme (<i>incl. drop-down menu to indicate the factors included in the calculation of the cost of production</i>) Please specify the number of households, reached by the project / programme, that have been included in the survey and when the data analysis was conducted 	Assess cost of production as a factor that impacts household income. Information required to evaluate comparability of data between different projects and programs.
5. Household Income		
Strategies to reach a Living Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please select through a drop-down menu, which strategy / strategies did your project / programme implement to contribute to achieving Living Incomes for the farming households reached in the reporting year (<i>i.e., diversification, premium payments, productivity etc.</i>) 	Understand the strategies used to improve the Living Income of cocoa farming households (<i>i.e. linked to GISCO Goal 1</i>).

Data point	Question	Why this data is requested
Average total net household income (USD) (from cocoa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please specify the average total yearly net household income of the cocoa farming households reached by the project / programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specify the general income, income from cocoa production and income generated through other sources • specify the number of households included in this survey 	Assess the income level of cocoa farming households and relate it to the living income (i.e., relevant for GISCO Goal 1).
6. Access to Finance		
Improved access to finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please indicate the number of male / female / total growers having improved access to financial products or other improved access to finance - Please select through a drop-down menu the type of financial products provided or other improved access to finance <i>products (multiple choice i.e. bank accounts, mobile banking, insurance, ...)</i> and specify the number of male / female growers reached 	Access to finance is considered an important element to enable better income for male and female growers.
7. Cocoa Agroforestry Systems		
# of ha of cocoa agroforestry systems newly established in the reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please specify the number of farmers that applied cocoa agroforestry - Please select the category / categories of cocoa agroforestry systems that has / have been newly established in the reporting year and specify the hectares for the selected level (i.e. entry level, basic, advanced and dynamic category) 	Assess the transition towards agroforestry systems in producing countries. Cocoa agroforestry systems may contribute to improved household income from both cocoa and other sources, while generating environmental outcomes.
8. On-farm Trees		

Data point	Question	Why this data is requested
# of multi-purpose trees in the context of agroforestry promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please specify the number of on-farm trees and the different tree species distributed in the context of agroforestry promotion - Please specify the percentage of the trees previously distributed that survived after 2 years- 	Assess the extent and quality of the efforts regarding agroforestry promotion.
9. Forest Restoration		
# of hectares of off-farm forest restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please specify how many hectares of off-farm forest were restored with the project's / programme's support 	Assess evolution of forest restoration efforts by GISCO members.
Number of (native) trees planted off-farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please specify the number of trees (approximately) planted off-farm with the support of the project / programme and how many of these trees are classified as native 	Activity indicator that contributes to assessment of forest restoration.
10. Forest Protection		
# hectares with forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please specify how many hectares of forest benefitted from forest protection with your support in the reporting year 	Assess evolution of forest protection efforts by GISCO members.
11. Pest Management		
Pest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please specify how many farming households reached by your project / programme applied integrated pest management - Please rate the application of hazardous pesticides among the cocoa farming households reached by your project / programme (<i>i.e. systematic or frequent application, few or no incidences of application</i>) 	Assess the application of hazardous and/or unauthorized pesticides.

4. Definitions & Methodologies

Agroforestry system for cocoa Production (Description)

- The term AGROFORESTRY refers to farming fields in which cocoa trees are deliberately combined with preferably native non-cocoa tree species that have proven to be useful for AGROFORESTRY in a stratified spatial arrangement and temporal sequence. This includes other agricultural crops on the same land management unit, triggering ecological, economic, social, and sociocultural benefits. AGROFORESTRY approaches should be locally adapted and should consider the ecologic, economic, social, and cultural environment.
- The functions of AGROFORESTRY systems are to enable long-term, sustainable cocoa production which preserves biodiversity, prevents erosion, protects the climate and natural genetic resources, diversifies and sustains production to the benefit of all land users. Cocoa AGROFORESTRY systems can be developed from different starting points, in different ecologic environments. AGROFORESTRY systems aim to provide diversified sources of income, can reduce costs, and can create co-benefits to increase the economic and climate change related resilience and to food supply of particularly smallholder farmers and local communities living in rural areas.
- Cocoa farmers play a crucial role for the definition, adoption, and longevity of agroforestry systems. A joint process where the needs, capabilities, preferences, and experiences of farmers are taken into account and in which the farmers are actively supported (technical assistance, development plan, capacity building) is very important to maintain and improve the existing production system towards long-term sustainability.
- Banana plants / plantains do not count as trees / tree species.*
*Only botanically classified trees count towards an agroforestry system, other plants, such as forbs (in Deutsch: Stauden) (incl. banana trees / plantains), therefore, do not count.

Agroforestry-Categories for Cocoa Agroforestry systems

Entry level for AGROFORESTRY (1):

- At least 16 (non-cocoa) trees per ha with a minimum of 3 different tree species, that are preferably native. This entry level for AGROFORESTRY systems corresponds to CFI and WCF indicators on AGROFORESTRY.

Basic Category for AGROFORESTRY (2):

- At least 40% shade canopy cover with a minimum of 5 different native tree species. This category for AGROFORESTRY is in accordance with Rainforest Alliance's shade coverage and species diversity reference parameters.

Advanced Category for AGROFORESTRY (3):

- At least 40% shade canopy cover
 - Minimum of 12 different native tree species (pioneer species excluded),
 - At least 15% native vegetation coverage,
 - 2 strata or stories and shade species should attain a minimum of 12-15 meters in height.
- In this category a special focus is given to the landscape approach on AGROFORESTRY. This category is in alignment with the recommendations of the VOICE Network.

Dynamic AGROFORESTRY Systems (4):

- These systems are characterized by a very high density of trees per hectare. There is an abundance of different tree species, high biodiversity, plant communities with different life cycles that serve different purposes (carbon sequestration, income sources, food etc.). They grow in different stories (strata) without competition. There are at least 3 different stories (strata), regenerative practices are used, and food security and income sources outside of cocoa are guaranteed. This system mimics the natural habitat of cacao in a highly developed cultivation system. Chocolats Halba's Dynamic AGROFORESTRY Projects are seen as a model for this category.

Bean Equivalent (MT-BE)

- **Bean Equivalent:** Amount of cocoa beans necessary to produce a certain amount of semi-finished cocoa products such as cocoa liquor, nibs, butter, powder, or to cover the cocoa content within cocoa-containing products.
- **MT-BE:** MT-BE stands for "metric tons bean equivalents" of a certain quantity of semi-finished cocoa products or cocoa-containing products. In other words, the MT-BE represents the corresponding volume of cocoa beans sourced, expressed in metric tons. Conversion to MT-BE, of cocoa sourced in different forms, is to be done using the ICCO conversion factors; being: 1,33 for cocoa butter (1804), 1,25 for cocoa paste/liquor (18031), and 1,18 for cocoa powder and cake (1805, 18032). With respect to the MT-BE of cocoa contained in consumer end products supplied to the national market in Europe, reporting is to be done by the consumer brands. For their own labels (brands), retailers are expected to report in the same way as the consumer brands. Of course, where required, these brands / retailers will rely on the corresponding information obtained from their suppliers.

Cocoa grower

- A cocoa grower is an individual (member of a cocoa farming household or other individual) structurally involved in farming work related to the production of cocoa beans.

Farming household

- The farming household corresponds to a smallholder cocoa producing family.
- A farming household may correspond to a single farm or to more than one farm, each with their farm management characteristics and led by other members of the farming household (farmers).

Farming land

- Farming land comprises all land available for exploitation by the cocoa farming household(s); whatever the ownership, share cropping, rental or user right arrangements are. Size of the farming land is to be expressed in hectares (ha).

Farming land under cocoa cultivation

- "Farming land under cocoa cultivation" corresponds to (parts of the household's) farming land (plots) where cocoa is produced as the main crop*, whatever the type of cocoa cultivation applied.

*if in special cases a significant amount of cocoa is produced on agricultural land (plots) where cocoa is only the secondary crop, then this land can also be accounted for as farming land under cocoa cultivation

Hazardous Pesticides

- Hazardous pesticides include as minimum requirement all substances which:
 1. are listed as **persistent organic pollutants (POPs)** in the Stockholm Convention within the Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention and / or the Montreal Protocol,
 2. are classified by WHO as 1A or 1B,
 3. are listed in the **Dirty Dozen** of PAN, or
 4. are identified by UN-GHS as substances with **chronic toxicity**.
- In addition, specifically for cocoa cultivation, they include pesticides that are not permitted for use in goods for export to EU countries.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) means the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment. IPM emphasizes the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms. (FAO: <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/ipm/en/>).

Living Income

- Living income refers to the net annual income required for a household in a particular place to afford a decent standard of living for all members of that household. Elements of a decent standard of living include: food, water, housing, education, healthcare, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events. (*Living Income Community of Practice*).
- *Any Living Income Benchmarks should be based on publications by or for the Living Income Community of Practice.*

Multiple-purpose trees

- Tree species that are included on cocoa farms primarily to provide economical and / or ecological benefits to the farm. This may include tree crops such as fruit, oil palm, medicinal, fodder and / or timber / shade trees for later harvest.

Native tree species

- A tree species occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (i.e., within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans). (FAO: <http://www.fao.org/3/I8661EN/i8661en.pdf>).

Net household income

- The amount of money that a household earns, or gains, each year after costs, taxes, and transfers. It represents the money available to a household for spending on goods or services and savings. This is currently calculated via: Production * producer price (including farmer sustainability premiums where relevant) – costs + non-cocoa income (such as non-agricultural income, income from rent, and remittances) - associated costs.
- Points of attention:
 - Costs to include:
 - amortization of infrastructure and interests paid on loans,
 - share of revenues paid to (or part of the produce shared with) landowners.

Off-farm

- Areas that are not currently under cultivation (e.g., defined buffer areas between different cocoa (or other) farms, defined sloped areas, uncultivated watershed areas, fallow land). This does not include newly established cocoa agroforestry.

Reached (farming households reached)*

- The term “reached” (as in “farming households reached”) is contextual, it could mean “engaged in”, “benefiting”, etc. Each data collection, for “# of farming households reached”, shall to the extent possible be linked to an activity, output or outcome of the cocoa sustainability project or initiative; such linking thus contextualizes the implication of and / or benefits for the concerned farming household.

Restoration of forests

- Replanting and / or regenerating trees across a defined landscape that incorporates native (preferably) and non-native tree species to restore the multiple ecological benefits of forests (with focus on achieving natural forest). (Source: Accountability Framework).
- Best practice is to develop a forest restoration plan based on an initial assessment (baseline) and action plan shared with the (local or national) government.

Project / Programme

- A cocoa sustainability project / programme is defined as a programme, project or initiative targeting (aspects of) sustainability in cocoa production, processing and / or supply chains.
- Under the label “sustainability project / programme”, the reporting system allows a member to report on any sustainability “programme, project or initiative”. Members with larger sustainability programmes can choose between: (a) reporting aggregated data on a large programme, with several intervention areas; or (b) reporting separately for underlying (for example country-specific) projects.

Yield (cocoa yield)

- Total cocoa weight (typically expressed in kilograms) produced per unit area (typically expressed in hectare), in a given year.