



SATAF

Strengthening Agroecological Transition & Agroforestry in Africa



OBJECTIVES

General objective: Support the transition to sustainable and resilient food systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

Specific objectives: Contribute to the agroecological and agroforestry transition in the cashew, cocoa and coffee sectors in West and East Africa by promoting the adoption of shared principles and sustainable practices.



LOGIC OF INTERVENTION

The cashew, cocoa, and coffee sectors are experiencing rapid expansion and increasing strategic importance in sub-Saharan Africa, driving rural incomes and export revenues while reshaping land use and value chain dynamics. However, this growth is taking place in a context of mounting environmental and social challenges. Expansion of plantations has contributed to deforestation, biodiversity loss, soil depletion, and rising pest incidence, while monoculture systems have left farmers vulnerable to climate shocks and market volatility. Women and youth, although central to production, remain marginalised in access to land, decision-making, and income control.

At the same time, access to international markets is increasingly conditioned by sustainability requirements and new regulations, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which demand greater transparency, traceability, and proof of deforestation-free supply chains. This creates both a challenge and an opportunity for African producers and institutions: to align with evolving standards, secure market access, and strengthen competitiveness.

Agroecology and agroforestry (AFS) offer promising pathways to reconcile productivity, resilience, and sustainability. Evidence from previous projects (e.g. Cocoa4Future in Côte d'Ivoire, ROBUST in Uganda) has shown their capacity to restore soil fertility, conserve biodiversity, regulate microclimates, and diversify farmer incomes. Yet adoption remains uneven due to technical, institutional, and policy constraints.

The SATAF project aims to respond to these dynamics by supporting a transition toward sustainable and resilient food systems. It will combine field implementation in four countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique) with a regional Agroecoforest Facility, which will provide expertise, policy advice, and technical as-

sistance to EU Delegations and partner governments upon demand. The project seeks to anchor agroecology and agroforestry into value chains, landscapes and policies.



MAIN INTERVENTIONS/COMPONENTS

The project is structured around three interconnected outcomes:

Outcome 1 – Knowledge consolidation

Cashew, cocoa, and coffee agroforestry systems will be identified, characterised, and evaluated for their ecological services and socio-economic impacts. Research, co-developed with national institutions, will feed into guidelines and tools to support sustainable tree management, diversification, and environmentally-responsive practices.

Outcome 2 – Field implementation and scaling

Agroecological production systems will be co-designed with farmers, cooperatives, and local actors in priority landscapes. Pilot actions will promote diversified agroforestry models, reduce deforestation risks, and explore circular economy opportunities (e.g. valorisation of processing residues into biochar, animal feed, or bio-inputs). Emphasis will be placed on farmer knowledge, inclusive participation, and locally adapted technical itineraries.

Outcome 3 – Governance and enabling environment

Through the Agroecoforest Facility, the project will strengthen national policies, multi-stakeholder platforms, and EU–partner country partnerships. The facility will provide technical and policy support, readiness assessments, and tools for monitoring and planning. It will also foster South–South learning, regional dialogue, and alignment with EU priorities such as the EUDR and gender equality commitments.



STATE OF PLAY OF THE PROJECT

Signature is pending.

BASIC INFORMATION

Contracting entity: EFI (European Forest Institute)

Implementing partners: EFI, Nitidæ, Cirad (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement), IRD (Institut de recherche pour le développement). Other partners are private partners in the relevant sectors, national action-research institutions, International agronomy and forestry research organisations, Local and community-based farmers' and livestock breeders' organisations.

Countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Uganda, and Mozambique. Other sub-Saharan African countries (e.g. Malawi, Senegal, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau) may be added upon request from the EU Delegations and DG INTPA.F.3.

Start: October 2025 (TBC) .

Duration: 4 years.

Funding: The 18M€ project is funded by the European Union.

