

# DISCO action plan Agro Eco

Subsectors 'Civil society' and 'Service providers & knowledge institutes'

---

## General information

Agro Eco (is a consortium of Stichting Agro Eco and Werkmaatschappij Agro Eco in NL and Agro Eco LBG (an NGO) in GH. We are a service provider but in Ghana also act as a CSO)  
Bo van Elzakker (NL) and Willem-Albert Toose (GH)  
[b.vanelzakker@agroeco.net](mailto:b.vanelzakker@agroeco.net), [w.toose@agroeco.net](mailto:w.toose@agroeco.net)

## Plans on DISCO ambitions to enable living incomes

### Contribution to closing living income gaps

- We want to continue to explore ways how LI can be achieved in our existing and future work with/for farmer groups/communities, local and international private sector (coops, NGOs, companies, donors and financiers).
- None of these have achieving LI in the objectives of the work we do with them but often contributes to it.
- We have an internal policy to work on improving livelihoods while making cocoa climate resilient. We try to work on that, within our work, whenever we can.
- We intend to do our own LI progress surveys in the above projects, with own funding, when there is an opportunity. Within that we want to focus more on the income drivers.
- We prefer to work with viable farmers. Via farmer typology and farm development plans we work with the farmers with the best chance to reach the LI.
- We look into creating employment opportunities for youth, succession, farmer retirement.
- We want to share knowledge/experiences within ISCO, with other stakeholders in Ghana.

### Quantitative targets:

- One preliminary in 2025 and one final publication in 2026 on our own research on LI progress among the farmers we work with.
- We intend to do our LI progress surveys in 2 coops, with 2 chocolate makers and an AF carbon fund (long term contracts, till 2026).
- We are member of the Ghana CSO group (GCCP) and intend to continue to do that.
- We are also member of the Netherlands embassy cocoa platform, which we believe is assisting the embassy in developing its cocoa policy in Ghana.

## Plans on DISCO ambitions to end deforestation and forest degradation

### Contribution to end deforestation and forest degradation

- We are supporting a number of coops to become EUDR compliant.
- We work with a series of companies that are signatories to CFI
- W.A. Toose is chair of the AF working group of the Ghana CFI
- We were key partner in the 3PRCL consortium, piloting advanced AF (80 trees/ha)
- We try to come to grips how REDD+ is implemented in Ghana, how the farmers, the private sector, NGOs and carbon funds fit in, by improving our participation in REDD+, ERPA etc. consultations and monitoring processes.
- We continue to promote the establishment of shaded cocoa agroforestry systems. Within that, seek to develop interventions that significantly improve the livelihoods, promote ecosystem services like biodiversity. We continue to work on tree registration, secure farmer tree ownership (to stop FC sanctioned logging), making shade trees interesting option for farmers.
- We intend to update our Shade trees in cocoa manual.
- We do research on the impact of different levels of shade on micro-climate and cocoa yields.
- We continue to support the CREMAs (Community Resource Management Associations) to empower the communities to be aware of, responsible for and benefit from their natural resource.

#### **Quantitative targets:**

- 1 updated Shade trees in cocoa manual.
- 1 ppt presentation or webinar on our work of developing shaded cocoa AF.
- 1 report on the impact of shade on micro-climate and cocoa production.
- 1 report on timber shade tree growth in cocoa farms over 15 years (C stock)
- Willem-Albert Toose can report on the progress in the Ghana AF working group of CFI.
- We will support 2 chocolate makers and 1 carbon fund to establish climate smart-shaded cocoa agroforestry systems on ≈30.000 hectares till end of 2026.
- We will track the developments around REDD+ implementation in 1 High Impact Area.
- We will co-organise, participate in any agroforestry workshop in Ghana.

### **Plans on DISCO ambitions to end child labour**

#### **Contribution to end child labour**

- In the RA certified cooperatives we assisted installing CLMRS. As we monitor compliance with RA requirements we monitor that system's activity and impact.
- During our work we keep an eye open for occurrence of child labour. Staff is encouraged to report. In our new 2024 Agro Eco staff handbook we have a chapter on Child and vulnerable adult safeguarding policy and we want to effectuate it.
- We intend to look into making transport of the wet bean easier, reducing the (child) labour requirement by motorizing transport.
- We work on establishing and maintaining Schoolgardens, child nutrition and through that have insights in pupil attendance and absence.
- We look into school attendance by distributing chocolate drink to primary school children.
- By establishing Youth Teams for the hard work in cocoa, we contribute to solving the child labour issue. We see the Youth Teams as next generation cocoa farmers.

#### **Quantitative targets:**

- We can present and report on the implementation of our Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy
- Monitoring work in 4 cooperatives on CLMRS. We could report on this work, its impact.
- We will implement 10 schoolgardens.
- We will continue with chocolate drink distribution in one primary school per cooperative (3).
- We will plant 4 fruit trees with 18 primary schools to improve child nutrition.
- We can report on the Youth Teams.