

CHOCOLATE UNWRAPPED

LAND RIGHTS

Many cocoa farmers in West Africa do not have clear legal rights to their own land, and women often have an even harder time proving ownership.



LOW PRICES

The average household income of cocoa farmers in West Africa is \$2,707 per year, well below the poverty line.



CHILD LABOR

An estimated 2 million West African children are engaged in hazardous labor in the cocoa sector, with a significant percentage in forced or slave labor.



DEFORESTATION

Nearly all of Côte d'Ivoire's native forests have been cut down, driven in part by bad prices and low productivity, forcing poor farmers to expand their cultivation.



FOREST EXTRACTION

Ghanaian law grants the government rights to all timber, including on private land. This law discourages farmers from growing shade trees on cocoa farms.



CLIMATE CRISIS

Increasing temperatures and a changing climate in West Africa could reduce cocoa production by up to 30-40%.



LIVING INCOMES

Too often, cocoa prices are based on the distant commodity market. To better support farmers, Fairtrade International is piloting a program that focuses on living incomes, starting with what a farm family needs to live and building from there.



MORE FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE

67% of fair trade cocoa is sold into the conventional marketplace, robbing farmers of the benefits of the fair trade system. If more companies sourced more fair trade cocoa, more small-scale farmers could escape poverty.



LAND REFORM

Clear land titles can safeguard farmers and provide them with the security needed to invest in their crops. Supporting women's access to land could double farm profitability.



INCOME DIVERSIFICATION

Biodiversity isn't just good for the planet. It also gives farmers additional crops to eat and sell. A diverse food forest can almost double a farm family's income.



AGROFORESTRY

Growing fruit, shade trees, and timber alongside cocoa can help sequester carbon and combat climate change. These diverse agroforestry systems also protect cocoa trees from heat spikes and pests.



STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

1

BUY CHOCOLATE FROM COMPANIES COMMITTED TO FAIR TRADE.

Find a list at FairWorldProject.org.

2

INVEST IN FARMER-LED AGROFORESTRY PROJECTS.

Learn more at GrowAhead.org.

3

IS YOUR CHOCOLATE SUPPORTING FORCED AND CHILD LABOR?

Ask your favorite chocolate company what steps they are taking in their supply chains.

4

SUPPORT SMALL-SCALE FARMERS AND COMBAT CORPORATE CONSOLIDATION.

Find current campaigns at FairWorldProject.org.