

Abstract

Cocoa, the driving force of the Ivorian economy, is a fundamental pillar of life for many farming communities. In Côte d'Ivoire, where it plays a central role in the livelihood of millions of people, it becomes imperative to understand how investments, whether private or public, transform the reality of these producers. This study focuses on the Nawa region, an epicenter of cocoa production, and examines a cohort of 100 cocoa producers to analyze the socio-economic impacts of these investments on their lives and practices.

By adopting a mixed methodology approach, this research delves into the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of the investments. The results reveal significant but uneven progress. While 70% of the farmers surveyed have benefited from agricultural training, only 30% have received direct financial aid, often intended for family assistance or the purchase of essential agricultural products. Regarding social infrastructure, progress has been observed with the construction of small water towers, schools, and infirmaries. However, challenges remain, particularly in terms of village electrification and access to adequate health infrastructure.

On the environmental front, despite efforts to promote sustainable agricultural practices and the planting of forest trees, cocoa-related diseases continue to severely affect yields, with only 30% of producers observing a slight improvement in the health of their plantations.

This study highlights the need for targeted and adapted interventions to sustainably improve their incomes, strengthen community infrastructure, and address persistent environmental challenges. By providing a clear and in-depth analysis of the socio-economic dynamics within the cocoa sector, this research offers concrete avenues for policymakers and advocates for inclusive and sustainable development of the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire.

Keywords: Cocoa, socio-economic investments, sustainability, Côte d'Ivoire, farming communities