



**ssnup**

Smallholder Sustainability  
Upscaling Programme

## SECURING LAND TENURE FOR COCOA SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN IVORY COAST



Africa



Latin America



Asia



Financial services delivery



Capacity building for end  
beneficiaries



Market access and  
product development



Management systems  
improvement

### CONTEXT

As Ivory Coast is the first global producer of cocoa, the sustainability of its cocoa production is an increasingly urgent concern. The yields are declining due to the decrease in rainfall in southern Ivory Coast and the challenges caused by the full-sun monoculture cocoa production. The transition to agroforestry systems is, hence, a priority but issues related to land tenure security continue to pose a barrier to this transition. Land tenure is critical to allow smallholder farmers planning medium-long term rather than short-term and is a condition for the land to serve as a collateral to access financing. Ultimately, it is also key to support the transition from monoculture cocoa farming to agroforestry practices, and to promote crop diversification.

### CURRENT STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Established in 2004, Entreprise Coopérative des Agriculteurs de Méagui (ECAM) is a cooperative based in the South-West of Ivory Coast which aims to strengthen the financial autonomy of its members (around 3,000 smallholder farmers). ECAM's activities consist in supporting its clients in the cocoa's commercialisation, improving production, enhancing the inclusion of women in local activities, and funding community projects using certification premiums and sustainability program resources.

### OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The objective of this project is to set up a mediation process led by the Association de Soutien à l'Autopromotion Sanitaire Urbaine (ASAPSU), a local NGO, to formalise informal land tenure agreements for smallholder farmers between non-native and native populations. The goal is, hence, to reduce communal risks linked to land tenure and to strengthen land tenure security for smallholder farmers.

The expected results of the project are:

- Mediate the land tenure challenges for a total of 240 smallholder farmers.
- Increase advocacy of land tenure solutions within the cocoa value chain to scale up innovative approaches to land tenure arrangements.
- Improve ECAM's knowledge and awareness on the challenges linked to land tenure.

### IMPACT INVESTOR

**Sidi** Solidarité Internationale  
pour le Développement  
et l'Investissement

### BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

ECAM (cooperative) – Ivory Coast

### TARGET

240 smallholder farmers

### AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Cocoa

### STARTING DATE

January 2025

### DURATION

12 months

### TOTAL TA BUDGET

€ 44,306  
Including € 39,875 (90%)  
contribution from SSNUP



SSNUP c/o ADA asbl | 39, rue Glesener | L-1631 Luxembourg  
T. +352 45 68 68 | [www.ssnup.org](http://www.ssnup.org) | [ssnup@ada-microfinance.lu](mailto:ssnup@ada-microfinance.lu)