



# Cocoa Nutrition Innovation Program

## Company Learning Brief: Cargill

### 1. Why is nutrition important for Cargill?

Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate is creating stronger, more resilient cocoa-farming communities by investing in the wellbeing and progress of farming families. Together with partners, Cargill is implementing community-driven projects with a focus on child protection, education, health and nutrition, women's empowerment, and opportunities for youth.

Nutrition is a key component of Community Wellbeing, one of Cargill's Sustainability Goals. By helping cocoa farmers and their families to diversify food crop production, increase awareness on nutrition, and access water, sanitation and hygiene, we can ensure that cocoa communities are healthy and food secured. That is why, alongside farmer livelihoods, improving community wellbeing through interventions such as nutrition is a cornerstone of the Cargill Cocoa Promise.

### 2. Description of project

In Côte d'Ivoire, Cargill, CARE and IDH are working together to deepen the nutrition interventions in five communities that are part of the Promoting a Sustainable and Food Secure World (PROSPER) program benefiting a total of 1825 men, women and children.

The nutrition component focuses on maximizing impact to increase the food and nutrition security of cocoa-growing households, and economic empowerment of women by investing heavily in proven approaches such as Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). In particular, the business model focuses on cross-integrating nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene knowledge, while supporting women's income generation at a collective group level, promoting diversified food production and facilitating adoption of nutritious practices. The expected results are improved nutrition practices and increased household income expenditure on nutritious food to improve household dietary diversity.

So far, 217 VSLA's members have been trained and supported to engage in collective income generation activities that will contribute to improve nutrition.



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### 3. What is Cargill learning from implementing nutrition programs under CNIP?

*The main lesson learned from previous interventions has been that training on good nutrition has to be coupled with interventions that ensure the availability, access, and utilization of nutritious food at the community and household levels.*

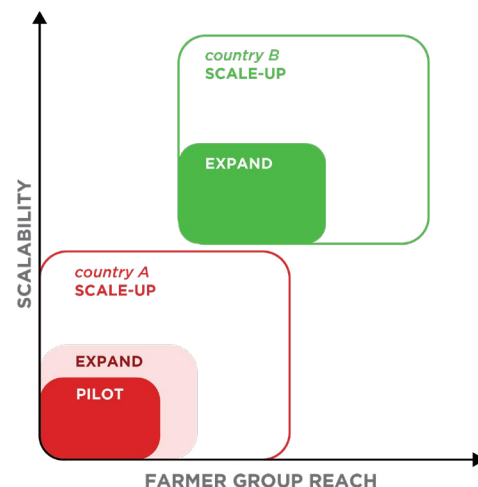
#### Other specific lessons learned include:

- Nutrition trainings need to **outline and address the possible barriers** for the adoption of recommended practices **and find a solution**.
- Women's engagement in agricultural production and income generating activities can help improve household nutrition.
- VSLAs enable members to engage in home-stead food production, resulting in surplus production for sale in local markets and consumption of nutritious food.
- Promoting access to clean water, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices has an important positive impact on nutrition.

### 4. What does Cargill recommend for sustainable scaling?

To accelerate community wellbeing, integrated solutions are needed that address the broad range of issues that cocoa-growing communities face in a sustainable way. This entails a combination of interventions that improve livelihoods and promote sustainable food through approaches that strengthen smallholder agriculture, market access, women's economic empowerment, nutrition, child protection, education, water sanitation and hygiene.

In recent years there has been a shift into more integrated community development programs that put more emphasis on nutritional outcomes, as healthy nourished families are able to produce more, further improving their livelihoods and producing more cocoa.



*'Addressing food security in cocoa communities can only be achieved with integrated community development models that combine nutrition-sensitive value chains of local products, increased household production of nutritious foods, women empowerment and nutrition education.'*

- Taco Terheijden, Group Director Sustainability,  
Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate

