

Cocoa farming models of the future: Status, gaps and research priorities

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Status: We now know....



- **Different models are in use: more variations in South American and Asia than in West Africa- where one predominates**
- **Demonstration, seeing is believing with training important for adoption of successful models**
- **Importance of addressing access to credit, return on investment and risk when promoting changes to models used**
- **Critical role of technical assistance and follow up in supporting farmers to change models, also selection criteria of farmers for trials (youth and entrepreneurs)**
- **Importance of appropriate policies and incentives for use of cocoa varieties, expanding into new areas, shade tree and input use.**
- **Land ownership can form barrier to adoption new models**
- **Need to make farm models climate smart, incorporating current farm profiling and conditions into new models.**

Knowledge gaps



- **Basket of models, which are site and climate specific**
- **Transfer techniques for new models: what information do farmers need to make choices to actually change and what support (TA, government polices, incentives) combine best?**
- **Shade tree combinations (agroforest and intercropping) models**
- **Climate resistant pest and disease farm management techniques**

Steps



1. Evaluate climate zones and farm models

2. Review and evaluate basket of farming models for small and larger landholders, including costs, benefits and risks

3. Let farmers evaluate models

4. Provide assistance and supporting policies, appraise transfer of technologies

5. Ensure access to incentives (credit, inputs, planting materials) to change farming models

KPIs



- **Basket of site and climate specific models available and disseminated to farmer level**
- **Requirements and conditions of suitability for cocoa cultivation including new “escape” areas**
- **Farmer to farmer exchanges take place**
- **Shade tree combinations (agroforest and intercropping) models evaluated and available for farmers**
- **Climate resistant pest and disease farm management techniques available**

Key recommendations

Develop and share costs benefits of different farm models that integrate and take account of technical support, economics, environment, climate change, available planting materials and land availability, which incorporate both intensification (better use of existing land) and diverse farming systems.

Seeing is believing to promote change:

We need to facilitate farmer to farmer exchanges on farming models so that farmers can choose optimum model suited to their needs, situation and capacities. Physical and exchanges and facilitating ICT are strongly recommended.

