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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

INVEST IN FARMER-LED AGROFORESTRY PROJECTS.
Learn more at GrowAhead.org.

BUY CHOCOLATE FROM COMPANIES COMMITTED TO FAIR TRADE.
Find a list at FairWorldProject.org.

IS YOUR CHOCOLATE SUPPORTING FORCED AND CHILD LABOR?
Ask your favorite chocolate company what steps they are taking in their supply chains.

SUPPORT SMALL-SCALE FARMERS AND COMBAT CORPORATE CONSOLIDATION.
Find current campaigns at FairWorldProject.org.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE