Exploring opportunities for development of cacao agroforestry in Uganda

Cocoa Sector in Uganda
- From 2,130 MT in 2001, up to 44,500 MT in 2021 (worth USD 105.8m)
- 80,000 - 100,000 farmers
- Historical cocoa production is in the district of Bundibugyo (> 70% Prod)
- Emerging cocoa production and expansion in various regions

Objectives of the study
- Supporting development of sustainable cacao farming
- Exploring levers for improvement of agroforestry management of cacao

Methodology of the Survey
- 216 farmers in 7 traditional cocoa growing districts
- Interviews with cocoa farmers and fields visits
- Farm components (cultivated crops & allocated areas)
- Species associated to cacao (crops & trees)
- Experience & interest in agroforestry
- SWOT analysis of developing cocoa production

Results: Cacao farms features in Uganda

Farm characteristics and cacao component
- Diversified farms associating cacao, cash-crops & food-crops
- Area dedicated to cacao vary significantly between districts
- Homogeneous farming strategies within districts (Mix of crops, land use)

Agroforestry knowledge & practices
- Farmers aware of the concepts & acknowledge the benefits of agroforestry
- Cacao always associated with forest/fruit tree species (average 18 trees/acre)
- Low diversity of associated trees in the surveyed areas
- Strong common preference for shade species most adapted to cacao

Densities of Associated trees in cacao plots (Number of trees per acre)

Conclusion
- Strong potential of development for Ugandan cacao sector
- Should rely on diffusion of Good agronomic practices
- High potential for promotion of associated tree diversity
- Promotion of tree species providing long-term benefits

EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Program
- Four-year program to support SMEs in East African Community (EAC).
- Increase exports of agricultural products, improve competitiveness and promote regional integration for coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, avocado & horticulture products.
- Implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), Funded by the European Union