

Nestl  collaborates with suppliers to address climate change impact on cocoa

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As part of its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050, Nestl  has launched two new projects, developed with suppliers Cargill and ETG | Beyond Beans, both aiming to reduce and remove carbon emissions from its supply chains. The five-year projects will promote agroforestry, accelerate the transition to regenerative agriculture and support the reforestation of degraded lands around cocoa farming communities.

Different, multi-purpose species of shade trees will be distributed to farmers, who will learn tree planting and pruning. Shade trees are used to help reduce the harsh effects of the sun and provide moisture-rich spaces for cocoa crops to survive during the dry season. They can also improve water management and enhance on-farm biodiversity, as well as absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

Collectively, the projects aim to plant over two million shade trees on land managed by close to 20,000 farmers in Ghana and C te d'Ivoire. Together, the projects are estimated to deliver a reduction and removal of over 500,000 metric tonnes of carbon over 20 years.

"These projects are important milestones on our journey to net zero. We're working to address our emissions to the farms we source from," said Darrell High, Global Cocoa Manager at Nestl . "Long-lasting forest protection can only happen when collaborating with fully committed suppliers, just like Cargill and ETG | Beyond Beans. We also depend on the participation of local communities, who have an impact on the forests and can help find land-use solutions that are best suited for the local reality."

Close collaboration with local communities is a key aspect of the projects. Their involvement includes selecting community-owned fallow land for reforestation work and starting with the establishment of tree nurseries. These nurseries produce and grow seedlings for later transplantation on-farm. Participating farmers will sign up voluntarily and should already be part of the Nestl  Cocoa Plan.