



# Agro Ecology Europe

Agroecology and  
Agroforestry

P.Costet – 26/10/17





Loma Saotavento farm

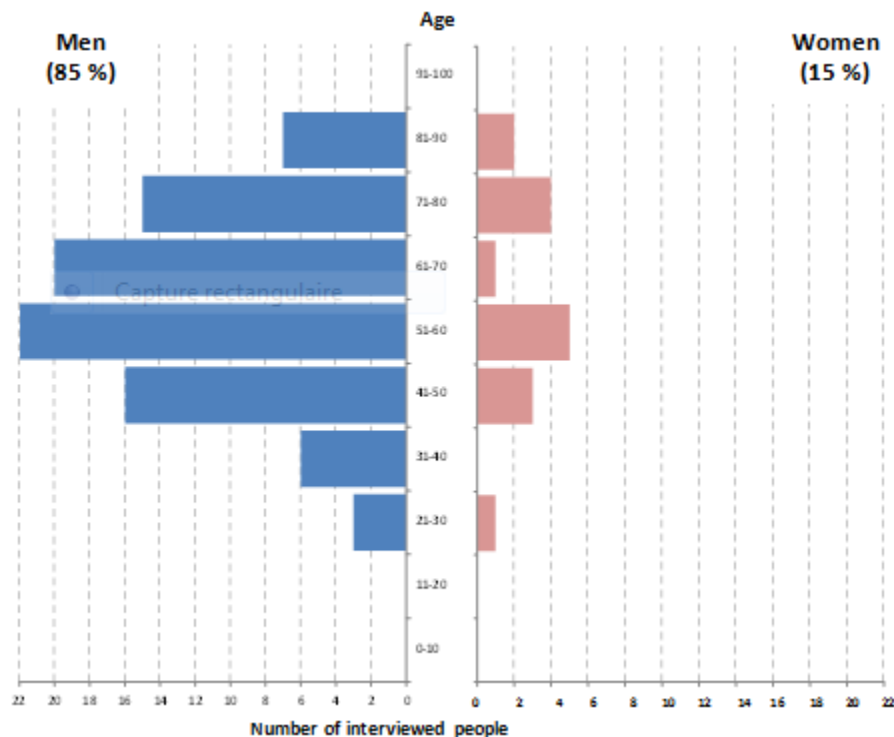
El Factor – Dominican  
Republic







## The current situation of the smallholders' cocoa culture



- **Old farmers** (85% > 50 ans),
- Small plots (80% < 1,5 ha), 56% of them planted more than 25 years ago.
- **Production** : 600 to 800 kg/ha ( World yield 2014 : 460 kg/h FAOSTAT 2014)

The Dominican Republic Example (**O.Deheuvels** – 2015) : enquiries on 102 farms in Duarte and El Ceibo area

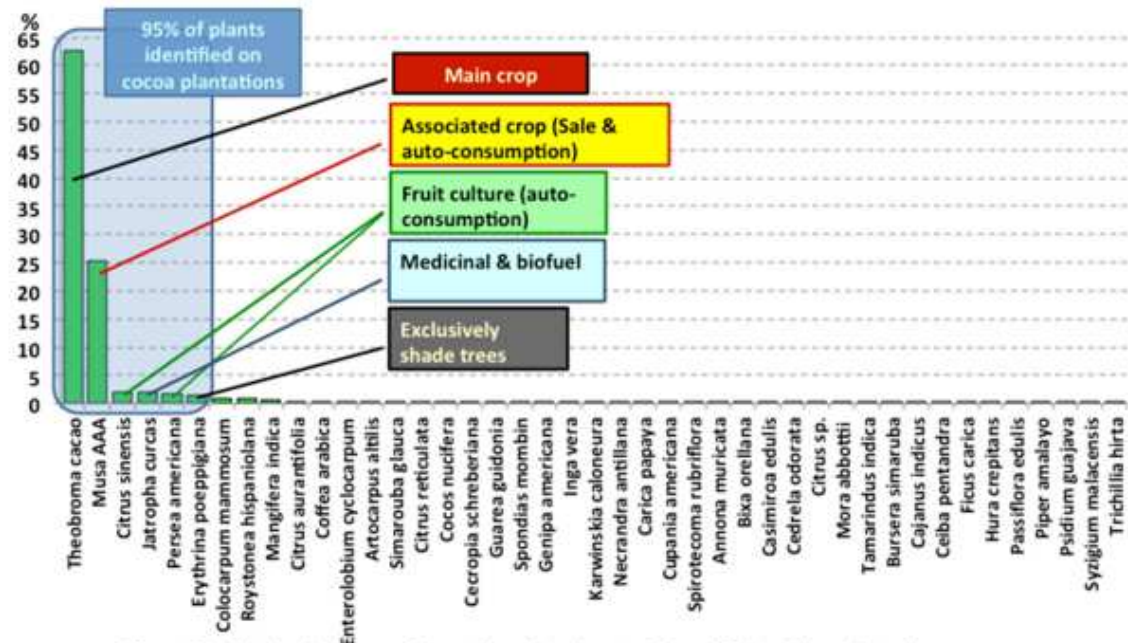


Figure 15. Relative abundance of vegetal species inventoried on 100 Dominican plantations.

- **Very heterogeneous density of cocoatrees** ( from 100 to 1600 cocoa trees/ha) --> associated to 43 vegetal species, whose 12 represent 95% of the number of plants.
- **Cultivation system can be improved** : density and organization/design of the planting ; choice of the species in relation to their use/the service they could offer.





Full sun cocoa in Ecuador

We ~~want~~ need to find an alternative to the « classical » intensification methods





Innovating together for the  
sustainable cocoa of the future

# Project started in 2015

*1st phase in Dominican  
Republic before replication  
in South America and West  
AFrica*

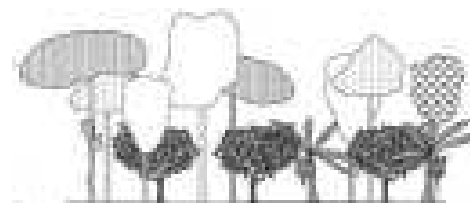


# Cacao Forest, a multi-stakeholder initiative

- 📌 The issue: Current cocoa cultivation models are not adapted to growing cocoa in a way that is sustainable and suitable for family-based agriculture



Intensive models little suited for family agriculture



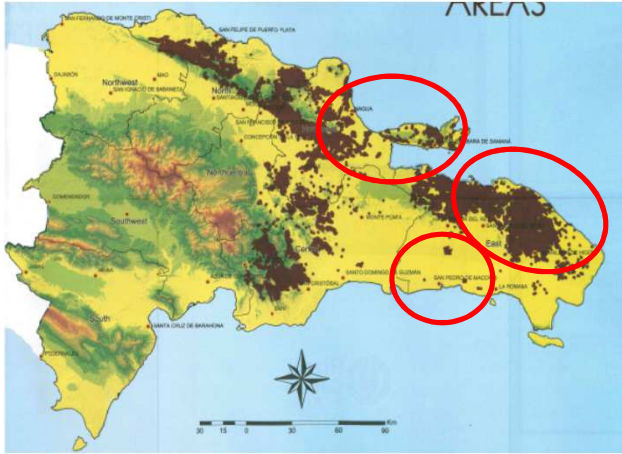
Economic and social stagnation of family-based cocoa cultivation

The Objective: to create and to test with local producers new cultivation models that are :

- Based on agroforestry principles
- Adapted to local contexts
- In a Bottom-up process



## 3 steps



Analyzing cocoa culture in 3 regions in Dominican Republic



- Workshops with cocoa producers → CIRAD
- Finding market opportunities → TFT

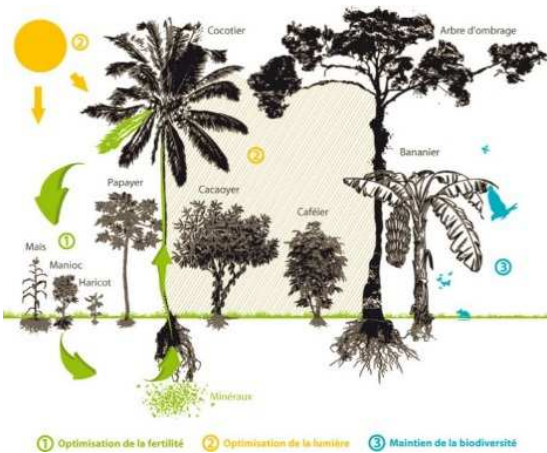


Planting pilot parcels





# The results (2015\_2023 !)



**Validated and tested cocoa ecosystems**



**Leaders identified among producers' groups**



***Scale up within the country ( new project )***



**Tested new market opportunities**



# Cacao Forest aims to re-invent cocoaculture **with** the farmers

- ☑ COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES : after a long phase of diagnostic, a PhD student (M.Notaro) focuses on conception of « ideal models » with the farmers ;

Conception participative de systèmes agroforestiers à base de cacaoyers (SAF cacao) et modélisation de trajectoires d'évolution à moyen et long terme – M.Notaro – UMR SYSTEM (CIRAD)

- ☑ TEST OF SOLUTIONS :

pilot parcels + test of value chains ( fruits, timber...)

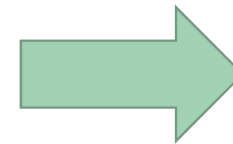
- ☑ TRAINING OF FARMERS : workshop, GAP...

- ☑ MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS governancy :

- ☑ From the farms to the cakes

- ☑ Research AND Development – long term thinking, short term tests

- ☑ From one value-chain oriented organization to a network of networks ! Impact each aspect of the project !



To prepare a successful Scale up (AFTER CACAO FOREST), starting accumulating quick wins

- Better GAP
- Income : 14 k€ in 8 months

