Teaching Resiliency: Training West Africa’s Cocoa Farmers

Learning how to better manage her crops has changed Cecilia Pokuua’s life. For small-scale cocoa farmers in West Africa, weather, pests, and other unforeseen circumstances can have a profound effect on the viability of their crops – and on their livelihood.

According to the World Cocoa Foundation, 80% to 90% of cocoa comes from small, family-run farms, with 70% of the world’s supply grown in West Africa. Unfortunately, pests and diseases prey on cocoa plants, and every year an estimated 30-40% of the crop in West Africa is lost due to preventable causes.

With training in the best farming practices – such as how to trim weeds and thin excessive growth; where and how to dig trenches for water runoff; how to spot the signs of disease and pests; and how to use and store crop protection products safely – Cecilia and other farmers in her community have increased yields significantly. “It’s so beneficial that we can afford to send our children to school,” Cecilia says. Hear more from Cecilia in this video.

CropLife Africa Middle East is proud to be part of the WCF’s African Cocoa Initiative (WCF/ACI), a public-private partnership that will double productivity for 100,000 cocoa farm households through the strengthening of local and national institutions, and in doing so, raise farmer incomes by 150-200%.

To learn more about how CropLife has partnered with the World Cocoa Foundation to give cocoa farmers in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon the tools to succeed, visit the Training Through Local Partnerships site.