Appendix 2: DATA COLLECTION

The survey was conducted from October through November 2007 in the selected communities. In each community, 100 farmers (men and women), all members of the cocoa farmer organizations (Common Initiative Group), were randomly selected with the initial objective to select 50 women and 50 men per community. However, this objective was not met due to the poor involvement of women in cocoa farming in most communities. The questionnaire was pre-tested in two communities (Obala and Ngomedzap) and revised prior to use in the study areas. The pre-survey was performed with key informants and focus groups. The resulting observations were used to inform the French version of the original English questionnaire. From the total of 1150 questionnaires administered, 1030 cocoa farmers (807 males, 223 females) were finally selected as our sample and the rest discarded for incoherence in response. Farmers answered to the questions during one-on-one meetings with interviewer which took between 30 and 60 min per interviewee. For some villages, the interviewer was accompanied by village officials. All answers by farmers were regarded as correct and efforts were made to prevent farmers from perceiving the survey as an “examination”. Twelve interviewers were selected among university students of diverse background and were trained in general issues in cocoa production, livelihood asset analysis and survey research techniques. The interviewers also received information of a socio-cultural nature on the farming communities with whom they were to be working in order to become more familiar with the individuals they will encounter. That is, their farming systems and farming behaviour from a gender perspective.

The survey tool, designed for multiple purposes, consisted of several sections. The first section was to provide a demographic and socio-economic profile of farmers in each community. In the second section, farmers were assessed on their mode of land acquisition, land title and property rights. The third section of the survey focused on cocoa management and production constraints. Here the varieties grown, the type of farm sanitation activities, pest and disease management practices, pesticides and the labour used were documented. The fourth and fifth sections assessed other farming activities and extension support. The last section of the survey covered farmers’ yield variation from 2005 to 2007 as well as cocoa marketing and other agricultural and non-agricultural products.

The survey also captures enough data which could be used for biological studies: Variety of cocoa planted, pest and diseases encountered, pesticides and insecticides used as well as cultivation methods.