Report text: Solutions to the cocoa crisis

Decades of unfair trade and under-investment mean that West Africa's cocoa supply chains depend on ageing monoculture plantations that are highly vulnerable to climate impacts.

To preserve cocoa production and the world's favorite sweet, governments and industry will need to work with West African family farmer organizations and invest in a range of nature-friendly approaches that are essential for climate adaptation.

* Smallholder family farmers in West Africa produce 70% of the world's cocoa. To build resilience, it is essential to work and invest with family farmers' organizations, which already provide financial, technical and political support to millions of producers, understand the challenges their members face and know how best to support their adaptation efforts. It is also essential to increase funding for adaptation and to ensure that more funds go directly to farmers' organizations. By 2021, just 2% ($2 billion) of international public climate finance had been used to help small-scale farmers, a fraction of the estimated $170-189 billion needed. Ensuring that farmers in West Africa get a fair price for their produce will also allow them to invest in their farms - on average, only 6% of the price paid for a bar of chocolate goes to farmers.
* There is growing scientific evidence that investment in diversified, nature-friendly approaches, such as agroecology, is essential to adapting the food system. For example, planting crops and trees such as mango, cashew and banana between cocoa plants creates fertile, healthy soils capable of retaining moisture, reduces the risk of pests and diseases, and provides shade that protects cocoa plants from extreme temperatures and water loss. This results in more consistent cocoa yields and higher incomes for farmers, as they have several sources of income and are less dependent on costly inputs such as fertilizer.