# AGRO ECO Newsletter

**OCTOBER, 2026 : PROJECT UPDATES**

Every child deserves to start the school day well nourished. Over the past 2 years, Agro Eco worked with our donor, Tony's Chocolonely, to improve the nutrition of school children in the communities where we work. Now that the program has concluded, we are pleased to share what we achieved and the difference it made.





*An Agro Eco team member hands out chocolate milk to pupils during a school visit.*





## Nourishing Children, One Pack at a Time

This was a collaboration between Tony's Chocolonely and Agro Eco Foundation to improve the nutrition of children in our communities. Pupils in the selected schools received chocolate milk and an egg twice a week throughout the year, on random days, as an incentive to encourage regular school attendance.

To understand the project's impact, we collected growth data from 12 schools across three cooperatives in two districts: 9 intervention schools that received the milk and 3 control schools.

### Why it mattered

The project set out to boost the nutrition of pupils, with the further aim of improving school attendance and performance.

## Impact on Pupils' Growth

Pupils' weight, height and mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) were measured before and after the intervention.



*Health officers taking measurements during data collection in schools.*





## What the Data reveals

**Better nutritional quality.**

Pupils in the intervention schools recorded greater gains in height, weight and MUAC than pupils in the control schools. This points to improved nutritional quality rather than a mere increase in calories.

**Strongest where it was needed most.**

The effect was stronger in less advantaged communities where baseline nutrition was lower, such as Praprabadida, Kofifofiekrom and Kyenkyenhene. These findings suggest the intervention has helped address nutritional gaps.

Children in control schools also grew over the period, but their improvements were less pronounced.



*Pupils in class enjoying their eggs.*

The chocolate milk program has ended, but its lessons remain. The findings highlight the potential value of targeted nutrition support, particularly in communities where children face greater nutritional challenges. These findings give us evidence to draw on as we plan future nutrition and school-based work with our communities.

Our sincere thanks to Tony's Chocolonely and the Agro Eco Foundation for making this project possible, to the school authorities and teachers who supported every distribution, to the cooperatives and communities, and to the pupils whose smiles told the story best.

# Supporting Farmers towards a Living Income

Cocoa Life+ supports and motivates cocoa-farming households in the Bia West and Juaboso Districts in the Western North Region to improve farming and their livelihoods, and to close the gap toward a living income.

Its objectives are to encourage sustainable practices through subsidized pruning, promote income-generating activities such as VSLAs through the Opportunity Fund, and to promote child education through School Improvement Plans.

**Mrs. Dede Djaba Juliana, farmer.**

"This initiative has really helped me maintain my farm," she said. The youth teams have taken away the burden of finding labour, and the education portion of the CCI has removed her worry over her daughter's school fees.

**Mr. Isaac Quaye, youth team president.**

Used the extra income to buy college forms and pursue a diploma, gained new knowledge in pruning and agroforestry, and plans to support farmers in his community who did not benefit from the project.

Together, these stories demonstrate how improved farming practices, support for education and opportunities for young people can complement one another to build stronger, more resilient cocoa communities.

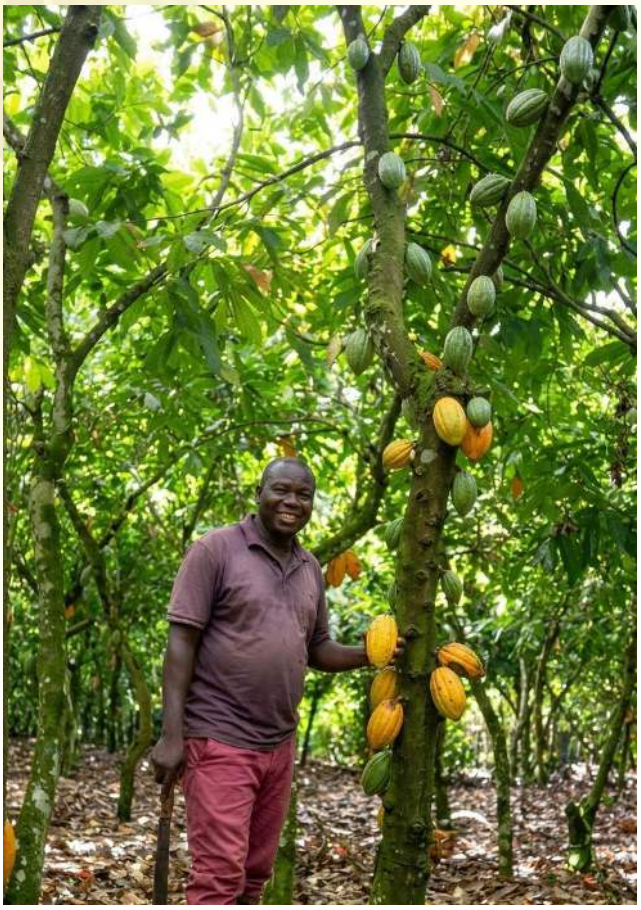
## What the project delivered

The project support spans across pruning, spraying and weeding which is carried out by our trained youth team members across eleven(11) communities. In addition, the 2,000 beneficiary households received funds to support both farm productivity and children's education.

## Voices from the Field

**Mr. Teye Noah, farmer.**

From his 1.6-hectare farm, Mr. Teye harvested 16 bags of cocoa in 2024/2025. After the intervention in 2025, the same farm produced 25 bags in 2025/2026. For the 2026 pruning season, he plans to hire the skilled youth team members to prune his other plots, and he believes pruning will earn him even more income than the cash incentive.



# Pinktober: A Symbol of Strength and Solidarity




*A session of female staff celebrating breast cancer awareness*

Agro Eco joins the global call to raise awareness, encourage early screening, and support women affected by breast cancer.

This initiative reflects our continued commitment to promoting health, well-being, and empowerment among women within and beyond our organization. Together, we stand in solidarity with all those impacted.

## HEALTH TIPS

**1. Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle**

Reduce your risk through smart habits. This means maintaining a healthy weight, getting regular physical activity, limiting alcohol and eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

**2. Prioritize Regular Mammogram Screening**

Early detection saves lives: talk to your doctor to determine when you should start and stick to your personalized screening schedule. Regular mammograms detect cancer when it's small and most treatable.

**3. Know Your Breasts: Be Aware of Changes**

Get familiar with the normal look and feel of your breasts. Report any changes to your doctor immediately.

This includes new lumps, swelling, skin dimpling, nipple changes (pain, discharge, turning inward), or redness/thickening.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CELEBRATING YEARS OF DEDICATION




We proudly recognize Nelson Duah for his 10 years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership.

As Project Lead for the Cocoa Horizon Project, his commitment, strategic direction, and passion for impact have played a key role in driving the project's success and strengthening our work with farming communities. His dedication and expertise continue to shape Agro Eco's vision.

Thank you, Nelson, for your invaluable contribution and long-standing dedication.



We proudly celebrate Benjamin Tetteh for his remarkable 10 years of dedicated service as our Accounts Officer. His consistency, integrity, and attention to detail have been instrumental in keeping our financial operations strong and reliable.

Benjamin's commitment and professionalism continue to set a standard for excellence within the team.

Thank you, Ben, for your unwavering contribution and loyalty. We truly appreciate you.