

Borrower Overview

Atlas Commodities Limited (“Atlas”) is a licensed cocoa buying company (LBC) that engages in internal marketing of cocoa in Ghana. Their operations are located in Kumasi, from where the company oversees the procurement of cocoa directly from smallholder farmers across outlying cocoa growing regions.

Impact Focus

Employment in Ghana is driven largely by agriculture. World Bank data shows that, while agriculture accounts for only 21% of GDP (cocoa accounts for 7%), the agricultural sector employs more than 50% of the workforce. Furthermore, agriculture and agribusiness comprise a large proportion of all economic activities, and contribute significantly to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers [1]. Thus, supporting this value chain ensures impactful outcomes in line with SDG goals 1 and 8 around reduction of poverty and promoting sustained economic growth.

The co-operatives Atlas work with are part of the Mondelez Cocoa Life program. Thus, all cocoa purchased is Fairtrade accredited, and premiums are paid to farmers, further uplifting their lives. Based on on-the-ground discussions, each farmer supports a network of other labourers, whether they work in the field or dry the cocoa once harvested, and on average we found an estimated 10:1 ratio of support for daily workers.

Atlas further intends to support local farmers through increased extension officer training as well as advocating for access to technical assistance facilities to restore or rehabilitate ageing trees for farmer cooperatives who work with the company. The borrower has also planned to work with select co-operatives to ensure that the inputs supplied and subsidized from the Cocobod and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture are in fact reaching the farmers. This is important, as farmers effectively pay for cocoa inputs, however, the distribution system is highly politicized and erratic, meaning that many farmers do not receive them [1].

References

1. World Bank.2017. Ghana Agriculture Sector Policy Note : Transforming Agriculture for Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Food Security. World Bank, Washington, DC.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28394> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.



Access to
Capital

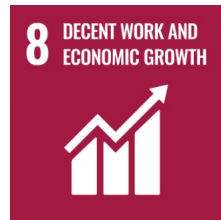


Sustainable
Production

Committed Investment: USD 3mn

1917 Female Smallholders Supported

4427 Smallholders Supported



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