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Ministry of Planning and
Economic Development



Integrated Farmer Training (IFT)

Targeted approach for effective agricultural training
in challenging socio-economic environments



→ What is IFT?

IFT means **Integrated Farmer Training**. IFT is a novel approach to deliver agricultural extension effectively, in high quality and at low cost to the masses. IFT consists of ready-made extension modules that can be easily rolled out in rural settings and on the topics of choice. IFT combines and imparts in an easily understandable way the essential technical (GAP), commercial, and mind-altering knowledge and skills to develop farms.

→ Why is IFT the solution for agricultural extension?

The IFT is ideally suited to professionalise, relieve and precisely complement public agricultural extension services. Due to the simple implementation structures and the ready-made extension modules, IFT can reach a large number of farmers quickly and cost-effectively.

The Integrated Farmer Training is therefore also suited for non-governmental clients who need to reach many farmers effectively in a short time. The contents are developed by agricultural, commercial and education experts together with the target groups in a custom-fit and didactically high-quality manner. This guarantees a high level of acceptance and adaptation of the learning content.

→ Where does IFT work particularly well?

IFT is specifically designed for challenging conditions. With its varied and focused curriculum and visual approach, Integrated Farmer Training is the exact answer to reduced attention spans and illiteracy. The independent, decentralised and modular structure is also ideal for easy implementation in less accessible, less developed regions.



Facilitator conducting the IFT in Soa Chiefdom, Kono District

→ What IFT offers already exist?

There is already a wide range of IFT training courses to choose from. The Integrated Farmer Training consists of:

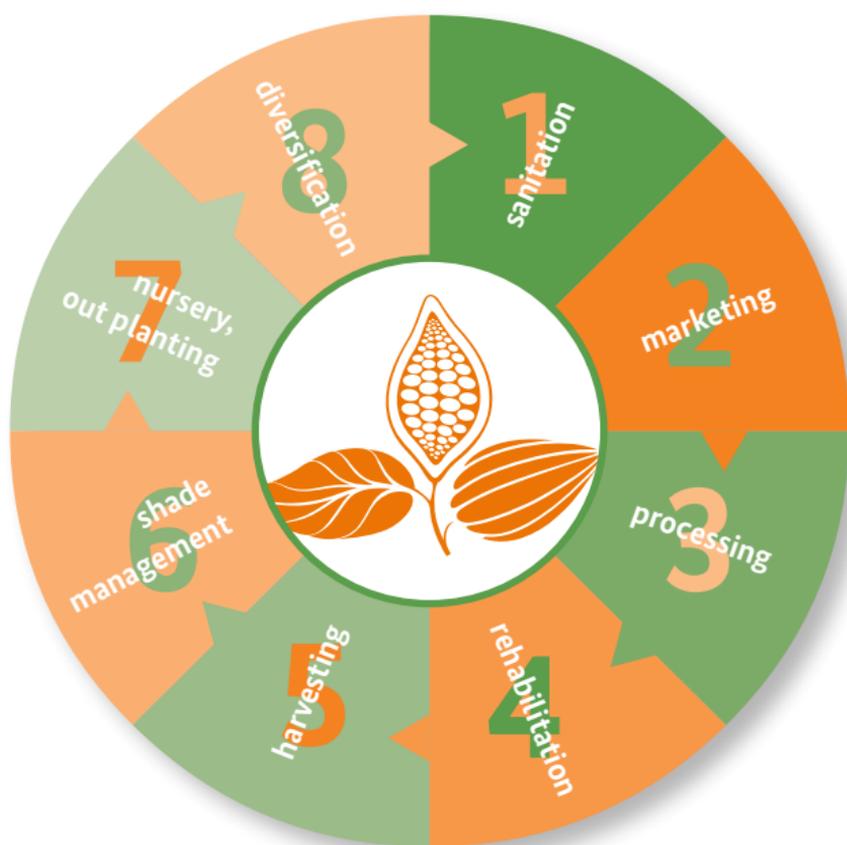
1. Courses
 - a. Modules
 - Elements

Courses refer to the overarching learning topic (e.g. cocoa farming) and consist of several one-day modules on specific chapters of the learning topic (e.g. harvesting, processing, marketing, etc). The modules, in turn, are made up of three technical, commercial and behavioural-changing elements with different contents, depending on the module. After approximately 2 weeks, each one-day module is followed by a follow-up day to reflect on the learning content in a practical way.

The following courses are available so far:

1. Cocoa and coffee basic (8 modules)
2. Cocoa and coffee advanced (4 modules)
3. Rice (6 modules)
4. Cashew basic (7 modules)
5. Vegetables – onions and chillies – (6 modules)

All courses consist of curricula that have been formulated down to the individual lesson level and clearly list the learning content and the didactic framework. In addition, appropriate teaching materials such as posters and overview maps are provided. Integrated Farmer Training courses are turnkey products.



The modular structure of the IFT for the 'Cocoa Elementary' curriculum is illustrated here as an example

→ How is IFT adapted and further developed?

One of the strengths of IFT is its great flexibility. The individual modules and elements are rapidly and easily adapted to new demands and needs of the clients or the target group. New courses can be set up quickly, with the help of experts and farmers, and are thus available in a short period of time with high quality. Due to the continuous and modular system of the Integrated Farmer Training, new developments are also cost-effective.

→ What are the experiences so far, who carries out IFT and what costs can be expected?

Well over 25,000 farmers have already participated in the IFT. Studies on the adaptation rate of the content have shown average values of over 70%. The IFT can be carried out by any institution with experience in vocational training, a sufficient pool of trainers and a logistical background. Costs vary widely depending on operational requirements, the economic environment and whether new developments need to be made. In least developed countries, the range can be from 2–4 USD/day/participant.

Farmers transplanting rice seeds during a field demonstration – IFT Inland Valley Swamps (IVS)



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