



# GREEN TREE COMMODITIES INITIATIVE

## Catalyzing Transformative Green Growth in Africa

### SUMMARY

Green Tree Commodities Initiative (GTCI) is a transformative partnership platform aimed at catalyzing green growth in Africa through the tree commodities. Tree commodities represent some of Africa’s fastest-growing land uses, covering about 100 million hectares of arable land. 150 million farmers are directly engaged in the production of tree commodities, such as cocoa, coffee, cashew, oil palm, timber, and a wide array of fruit trees. Tree commodities also indirectly impact approximately 600 million livelihoods, thus, contributes up to 15% of GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa. There is a tremendous opportunity for Africa to grow its market share for the four commodities where it is a leading producer, namely, cocoa, cashew, shea and gum arabic because current market shares are very low. Farmers remain poor and unable to make a living from tree commodities due to low prices and reliance on exports in raw form. In addition, tree commodity expansion has also come at the expense of forests, biodiversity and carbon emissions. GTCI will seek to transform tree commodity (TC) systems from production through value webs/networks, business ecosystems and policies to enable increased revenues and green jobs. At the same time, it will make TC systems climate-smart, food secure, nutrition compatible, and biodiversity and conservation friendly through green growth pathways. Green Tree Commodities could also act as economic incentives for scaling up landscape restoration.

To catalyze green growth in African economies through green tree commodity pathways, GTCI will use a three-year phased approach in achieving the objectives, as outlined below.



## What does the initiative do?

- Convene partners across private, public and civil society, with emphasis on bringing- SMEs, cooperatives and farmer organizations, youth and women to the table
- Support evidence-based tree commodity decision-making and policies at multiple levels,
- Facilitate joint learning based on syntheses, knowledge and information access for innovation in tree commodity systems
- Catalyze interdisciplinary science for tree commodities, including foresight, impact assessments, and scenario development
- Facilitate cross-sectoral action in tree commodity systems through a portfolio of projects
- Leverage impact investments and other forms of responsible finance
- Grow the capacity for a transformative critical mass at individual and institutional levels
- Provide new platforms for exchange and cooperation

## Envisaged impact by 2033?

- 30% overall growth in earnings from tree commodities in Africa
- Increased productivity of tree commodities for at least 20 million farmers
- 25% increase in private and domestic investments in tree commodity systems
- 1000 Green Tree Commodity enterprises supported
- Increased carbon emission reduction and biodiversity potential in 10 million ha of tree commodities
- At least 10 countries and/or sub-national level governments adopt green tree commodity policy instruments or policies

## What Commodities?

- Established Commodities (Tier I): Cocoa, Coffee, Cashew, Rubber, Oil Palm and Wood
- Emerging Commodities (Tier II): Shea, Gum Arabic, Baobab and Macadamia
- Domestic-Based and Nutrition relevant (Tier III): Avocado, Mango, Citrus, Neem, Moringa and local fruit tree species

## What is the value added by GTCI?

- It provides a holistic approach to tree commodities going beyond deforestation-free / zero-deforestation commodities and seeking to enhance tree commodity contributions to SDGs
- Adopts an evidence-based approach to tree commodities.
- Takes an interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary and multi-sectoral approach

## BECOME A GCTI PARTNER

GTGI is committed to bringing actors and stakeholders to contribute to sustainable transformation in Africa through green tree commodities. Hence, we invite all potential and interested partners to please contact us on this address [gtci@CIFOR-ICRAF.org](mailto:gtci@CIFOR-ICRAF.org)

For more information on tree commodities in Africa, find below the book - Tree Commodities and Resilient Green Economies in Africa.



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