

Capacity-Building for Extension Agents in Cote d'Ivoire

A key component of the Cocoa Community Development Fund (CCDF) is WCF's Family Support Scholarships (FSS). These scholarships support youth education in cocoa-growing communities, while simultaneously enhancing mothers' income-generation potential. Through FSS, youth receive assistance with school fees, mothers receive capital to invest in a small business, and both receive mentorship and training over the term of the scholarship. In support of WCF's ethos of institutional capacity-building the program has joined with ANADER, the Ivorian national extension service, as a technical partner to implement the mentorship and training activities for mothers and students.

In July, a cohort of twenty agents (including four women) from ANADER completed a five-day comprehensive training-of-trainers session in the town of Yamoussoukro. The training was implemented by WCF partner Winrock International, an international development organization with extensive experience in local capacity-building and implementing CCDF program activities. The aim of the session was to strengthen the capacity of ANADER agents to fulfill their role as



The ANADER Deputy General Managing Director

technical partner to carry out FSS activities on the ground. Included in the curriculum of the training were topics that would prepare agents for responsibilities such as teaching FSS mothers about principles of entrepreneurship, helping them to manage economic activities (including saving their profit in a bank account), and ensuring that FSS students have what they need to be successful and improve their academic performance. This information was presented in five modules—1) basic principles on entrepreneurship, 2) planning and business development, 3)

financial management, 4) marketing and growth, 5) business organization management.



Two of the four female trainees

According to attendees, the participatory methodology used for the training was central to its effectiveness. Training modules were given in illustrated presentations and were supplemented by group discussions, case studies, applied exercises and games, and time for attendees to share their

own experiences with the group. Meanwhile, the trainers noted some lessons learned that will help them to improve future training of trainers programs. Included in these is better adaptation of training modules to the local environment of participants, as well as to illiterate individuals, either as training participants or their future beneficiaries. It was also observed that participants will have to develop their own pedagogical tools to support beneficiaries, as those used for the training were not duplicated and distributed. Overall, we'd like to congratulate WCF and Winrock International staff on this successful step toward strengthening the capacity of our partner, ANADER.

Interested in learning more about WCF's Family Support Scholarships? Follow the links below to see recent press coverage in Côte d'Ivoire:

[Côte d'Ivoire National Television Report](#)

[Fraternite Matin Newspaper Article](#)