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Smallholder Sustainability
Upscaling Programme

STRENGTHENING SMALLHOLDER ORGANISATIONS ACTIVE IN THE COCOA VALUE CHAIN IN SIERRA LEONE



Africa



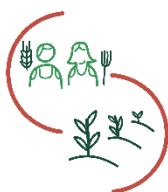
Latin America



Asia



Financial services delivery



Capacity building for end
beneficiaries



Market access and
product development



Management systems
improvement

CONTEXT

Sierra Leone boasts a rich agricultural sector that employs over 60% of the workforce. The country's tropical climate and fertile soil support diverse crops, including rice, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, and cassava. Despite its potential, the sector faces challenges such as limited access to modern farming techniques, inadequate infrastructure, and climate change impacts like erratic rainfall and flooding. Smallholder farmers, who produce 80% of the food, often lack financing and storage facilities, leading to post-harvest losses. Recent efforts focus on mechanisation, irrigation, and value addition to boost productivity. The government and NGOs are also investing in agro processing to reduce imports and create jobs. With strategic support, Sierra Leone's agriculture could drive economic growth and food security.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Akuna Cocoa Ltd is a Sierra Leonean agribusiness company founded in May 2022 in Freetown. The company's mission is to develop economic activities in rural areas and structure the cocoa and cashew value chains. Akuna sources its products from a dozen local cooperatives with a total of 31,400 members. Six of these cooperatives are certified organic and/or fair trade. Its work includes offering fair and transparent pricing mechanisms and providing both financial and human support to strengthen the capacity of cooperatives. Akuna has initiated and supported the creation of several cooperatives thanks to diverse programmes including member training, leadership, good governance, registration, etc.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The objective is to enhance the long-term resilience and economic sustainability of the organisation and its partner cooperatives by strengthening their organisational governance, securing market and diversifying livelihoods.

The expected results of the project are:

- Train 120 smallholder farmers in poultry care, housing and feeding, and biosecurity.
- Ensure Rainforest Alliance certification of 2 cooperatives.
- Train 56 board members from 3 cooperatives on the principles of cooperative governance.

PRIORITY TOPICS

- Environment and climate change
- Food security and improved nutrition
- Gender equality
- Fair agrifood systems

IMPACT INVESTOR

Sidi Solidarité Internationale
pour le Développement
et l'Investissement

BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Akuna Cocoa (agri-SME) – Sierra Leone

TARGET

120 smallholder farmers

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Cocoa, cashew, poultry

STARTING DATE

June 2026

DURATION

12 months

TOTAL TA BUDGET

€56,916
Including €48,379 (85%)
contribution from SSNUP



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