

ACCEL Africa – Côte d'Ivoire

**Field study – findings
Labour demand and supply
of cocoa farming
households in Côte d'Ivoire**

September 2019



AGENDA

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2. Cocoa households
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5. Methodology
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8. Vulnerability of cocoa households
9. Conclusions and proposed solutions

Ivorian cocoa economy

Ivorian cocoa plantations characterization



Cocoa expansion relies on deforestation

1990-2015 : 60% loss of Ivorian forests (Bnedt).

Total forest loss expected by 2034 (REDD+, 2017).

200 000 ha of forest lost every year in Côte d'Ivoire.

By today, 40% of cocoa beans come from protected forests (Mighty Earth).

“Invisible” cocoa communities living in protected forests are estimated in 1 million people.



Low productivity of cocoa plantations

20% of cocoa plantation > 30 years old (Jeune Afrique).

Decrease on soil fertility.

Higher exposure to pests & diseases.

Climate change.

Ivorian cocoa economy

Cocoa production



Côte d'Ivoire produces 43% of world cocoa



Production increase is due to supporting programmes of intensification **AND** cocoa plantations expansion.

Cocoa overproduction impacted on the reduction of farmers incomes



Since 2012, Conseil Café Cacao sets a fixed minimum price « Bord Champ » ≈60% of international price, sold in advance one year before the harvest

Ivorian cocoa economy

Intensification and sustainability



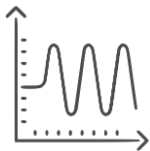
Certification of Ivorian cocoa

Not reduction of number of insecticides application ($\approx 2/\text{ha}/\text{an}$).

Access to inputs aiming to increase productivity.

Extension services focused only on cocoa productivity.

6% increase of farmers incomes thanks to certification premiums (befair.be, 2019).



Cocoa households suffer from price volatility risk of the international market

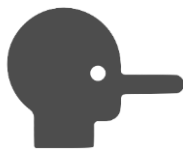
In 2019, the Government banned supporting programmes on intensification/productivity in order to control production volumes (training, extension work, pipelines, inputs).



Sustainability programmes don't consider the socio-economic constraints of cocoa farmers

The transition cost towards agroforestry practices will be high for farmers with low savings capacity.

These programmes don't take into account the strong need for diversification.

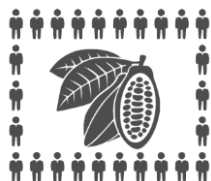


The illusion of a cooperative movement

Certification premiums motivate private buyers to create cooperative structures without members-based principles.

Collective action is very weak.

Cocoa households



8 millions people depend on cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire.

Cocoa farming comprises between **800 000 et 1 200 000** cocoa households.

3 000 000 children live in cocoa communities (*UNICEF 2018*).

20% farmers are international migrants (1st or 2nd generation from where \approx 90% Burkinabe).

Local migrants \approx 45% are baoulés (*WUR 2018*).



86% to 97 % head of households are **men**.

1 wife on average.

44 – 50 years old on average.

Household is composed of 6 to 8 people on average including **3 to 4 children**.



Land size \approx 2 ha – 5 ha.

1 to 2 land fields on average (*ICI 2016*).

Cocoa plantation age >20 years old.

Yields \approx **350- 650kg/ha** (*WUR, 2018/ KIT 2019*).



The estimated living minimum income is \approx **4 350 000 FCFA/an** for an average cocoa household

Cocoa revenues represent \approx 70% of total household revenues.

Farmers will need \approx **15 ha cacao** to make the estimated income considering actual price, yields, and production costs (*Anker & Anker, 2017*).

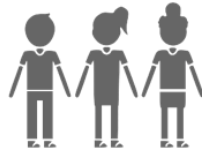
Child labour

Current situation in Côte d'Ivoire



Different child labour forms in the world and in Côte d'Ivoire

Dangerous work → Activity that endangers the physical, mental, and moral bien-être of a child. Not allowed before 18 years old.



Child labour figures increase with the extension of cocoa plantations

≈ 900 000 children of 10-17 years old work in cocoa plantation (Walkfree foundation, 2018).

86% conduct dangerous work (cutting tools, heavy loads, chemical products).

85% work within their own cocoa household.

Most children workers go to the school (Jacobs foundation & ICI, 2016).



Dangerous activities within the farming agricultural calendar

Manual weeding (with Machete) and application of chemical inputs are carried out between May and September, during school vacations

Harvest season is characterized by the frequent charge of heavy loads.

Child labour

The root causes of child labour



Vulnerability

Exposure to agro-climate and sanitary risks.
Seasonal cash flow and difficult period before harvest.
Financial exclusion from formal sector.



Poverty

71 % households live under the minimum vital revenue (living income) \approx 1500 FCFA/day.
Only 42 % are below the extreme poverty level \approx 500 FCFA/day (*True price, 2018*).



Demand

Child labour is cheaper and more submissive.



Social norms

Work consider as a social activity & learning process.



Education

High school fees, related expenses and payment dates are difficult to manage.
Poor quality of education and professional training (transition school to work)

Child labour

Context factors



Inputs intensification

By today, production costs are over 20% -30% of cocoa revenues



Increase on labour force required for production systems

Chemical inputs intensification and adoption of agro-forestry practices require an increase on labour force, usually underestimated



Labour force

Poor labour conditions (75 000 – 300 000 FCFA/an).

Limited access to lands.

Sectorial competition (gold mining).

→ Scarcity of labour force supply and increase of labour costs.

Aim of the study

The labour **demand/supply** dynamics will reinforce the understanding of child labour :



Assess the **working time** required to carry out all agriculture activities, not only cocoa.



Pics of work, priorities, and the competition between cocoa and other crops.



Diagnostic of **available labour force**.

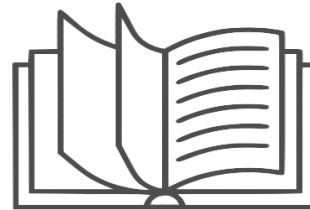


Financial strategies to hire non-family labour force.



Risks affecting the working calendar and increasing household vulnerability

Methodology



Literature review



Deep-interviews and immersion 24/7



Household level focus



Systemic approach

- **3 regions, 6 villages** : Agboville (East) – Bouaflé (Center) – Duekoue (West)
- **50 households** interviewed
- **6 focus-groups**
- **Identify** household members, history, assets, vulnerability
- **Understand** agriculture calendar and labour force management

Demand of labour force

Competition among crops and activities concentration

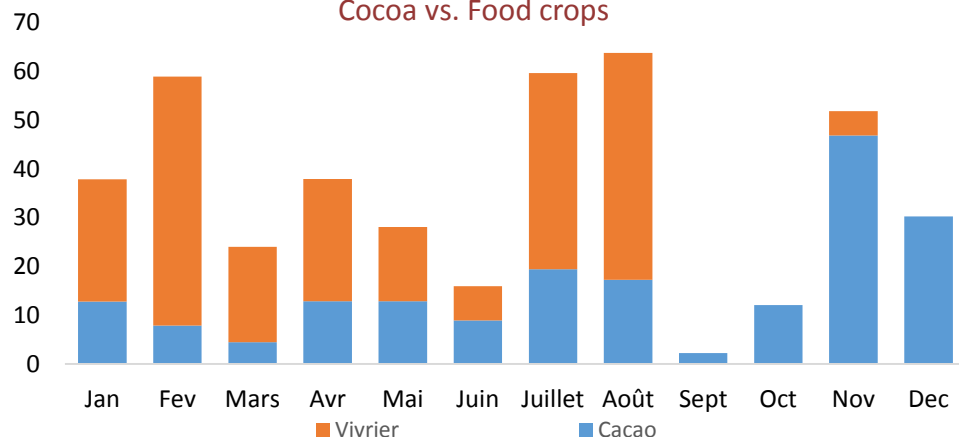


Within production systems, food crops come along with cocoa farming.



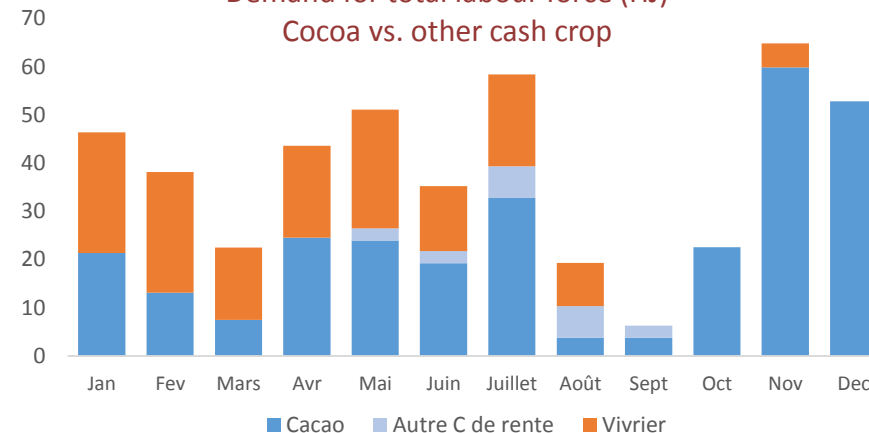
Beyond work load, competition among activities for available labour force.

Demand for total labour force (HJ)
Cocoa vs. Food crops



Total HJ = 422 HJ
+100% work load

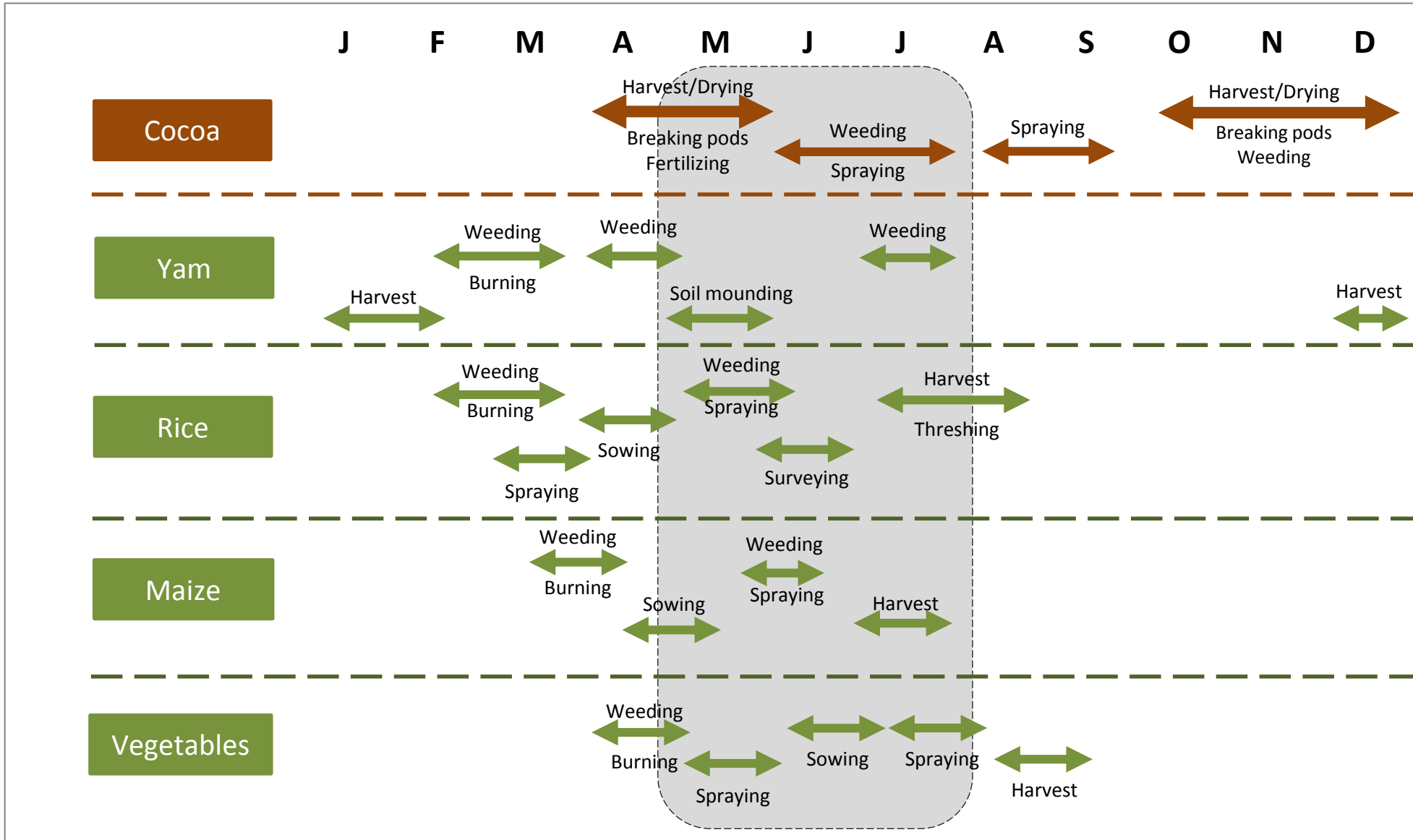
Demand for total labour force (HJ)
Cocoa vs. other cash crop



Total HJ = 461 HJ
+50% work load

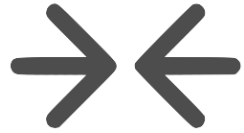
Food crops farming added to cocoa farming represents 50-100% more work load required and indispensable

La demande en travail



Demand of labour force

Competition among crops and activities concentration



Many pics of work for different crops come together at the same time.

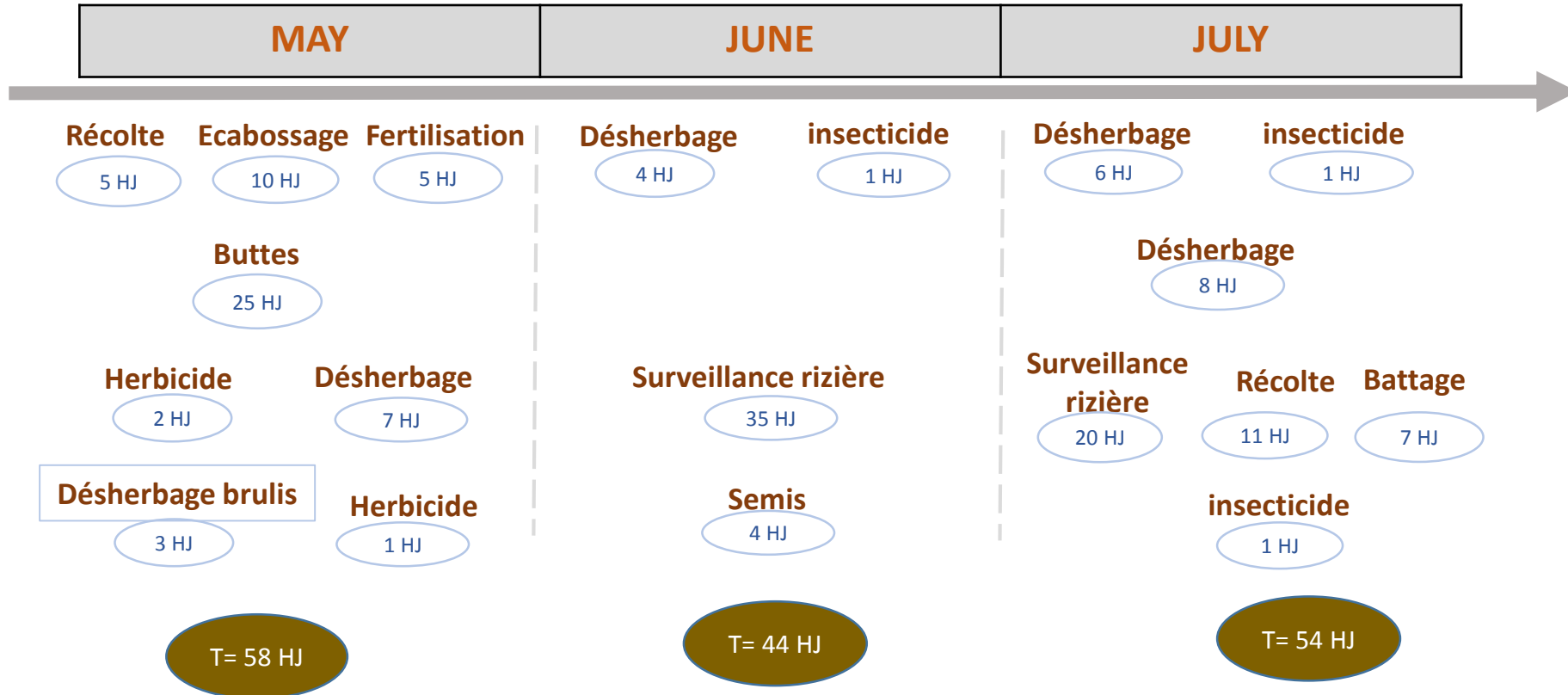
Case of one farmer with:

Cocoa (1ha)

Yam (0,5)

Rice (0,5)

Vegetables (0,25)

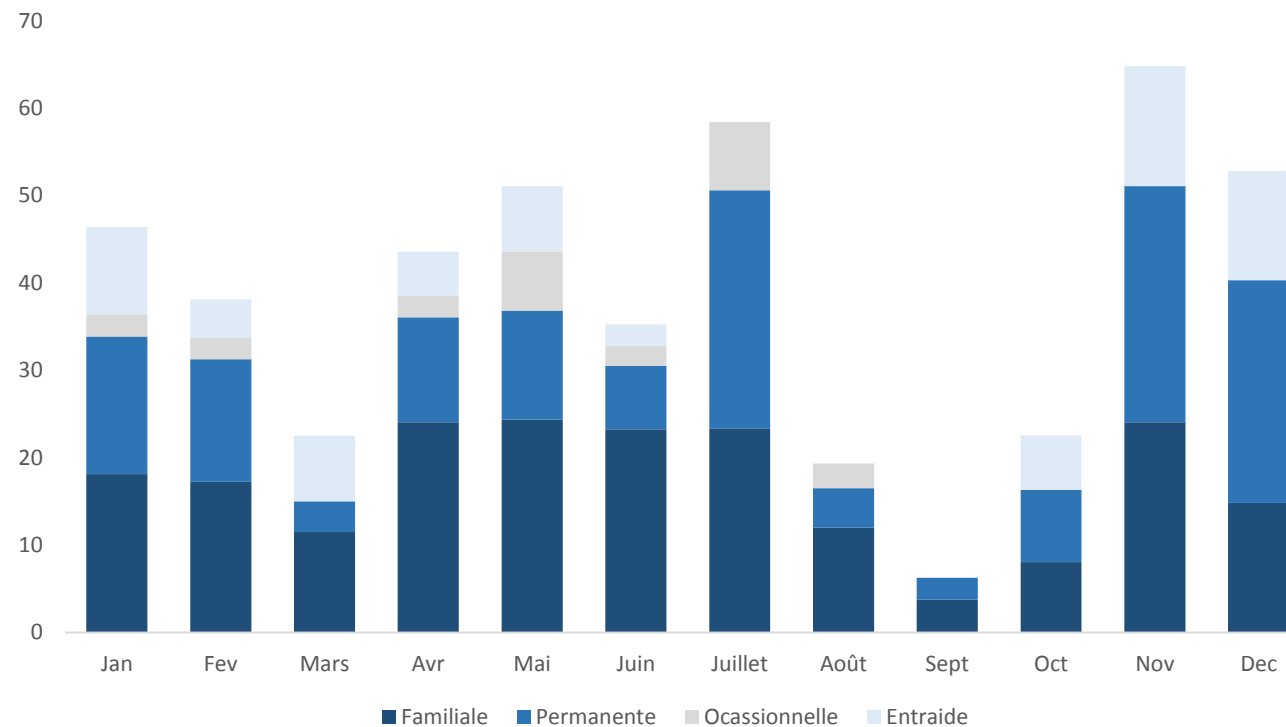


May – July : Weeding for cocoa, mound of soil for yam, maintain and surveillance for rice, sowing for vegetables,...
Fragile balance → Calendar imposed by **rainfall cycle**, crops **physiological** phase, cycle of **pest and diseases**, **food security** preoccupations, **urgency** to carry out some activities to **guarantee** an acceptable production...

Supply of labour force

Distribution of labour force for cocoa farming activities

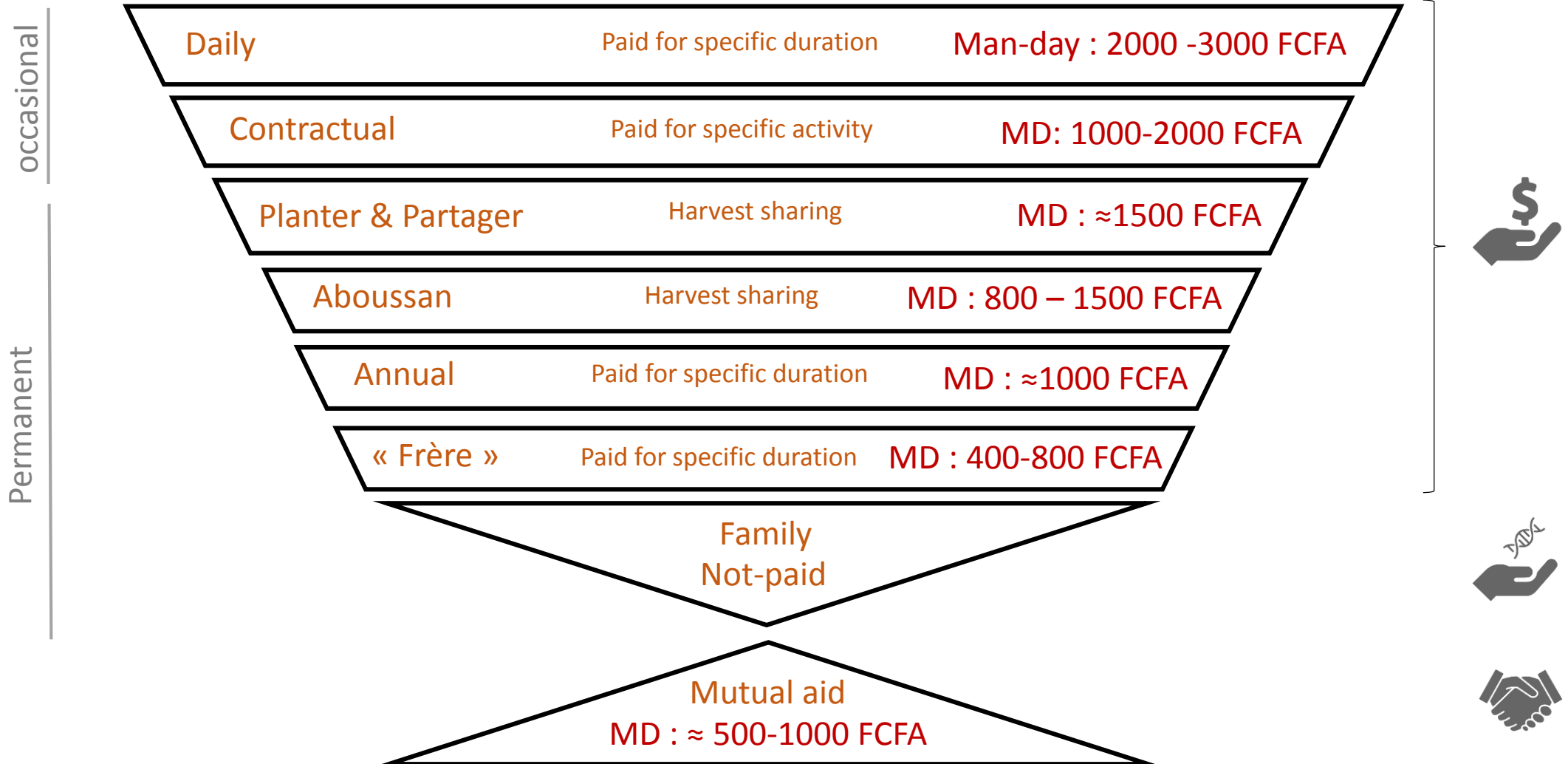
Types of labour force used



44% family – 35% permanent - 6% occasional - 15% mutual aid

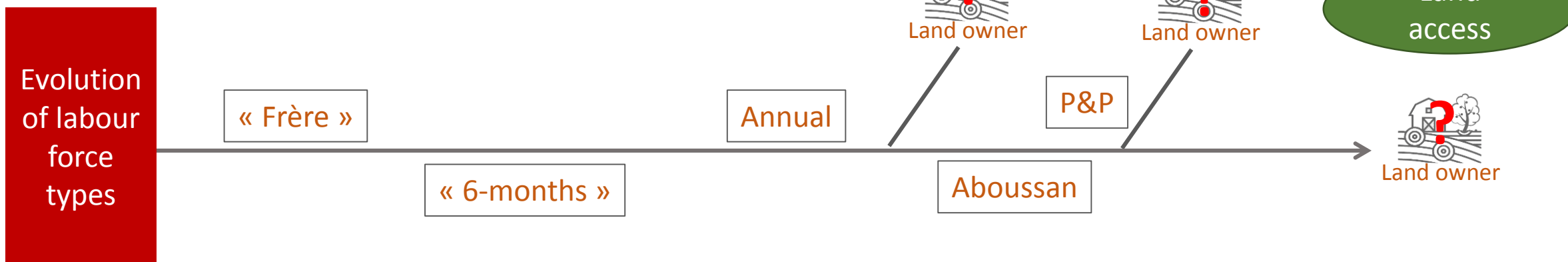
Supply of labour force

Different types of labour force



Supply of labour force

Degradation of labour conditions and scarcity of available labour force



- **Degradation of labour conditions.**
 - Yields decrease, increase of production costs and hardship of the activity
- **Less available lands**
 - Migrant workers mainly attracted for that, land access is uncertain today
- **Recruitment difficulties**
 - Aspirational changes, farming activities are not attractive, better information systems

Supply of labour force

Group of workers, organized contractual labour force



By gender, ethnic origin, religion, age, type of worker.



Cash or in-kind service, for the members.



Often specialized for a cocoa or food crops activity



- Quick reaction required to cover short crop calendars.
- Need of organization around pics of work.
- Cooperative model not any more reliable.

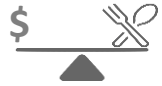


Contracts around 20 000 – 30 000 FCFA/ha:

- Gathered in collective box: to give informal loans and collect interests
- Benefits shared among members

High vulnerability periods

Superposition of work calendars, cash flow and risks exposure



Fragile balance of agriculture calendars between cocoa and food crops.



Strong pics of work, high exposure to sanitary and agro climatic risks, during a very weak cash flow period.



High priority to food crops.

Vulnerability Calendar of risks exposure

VULNERABLE SEASON



Farmer



agriculture



Cash flow

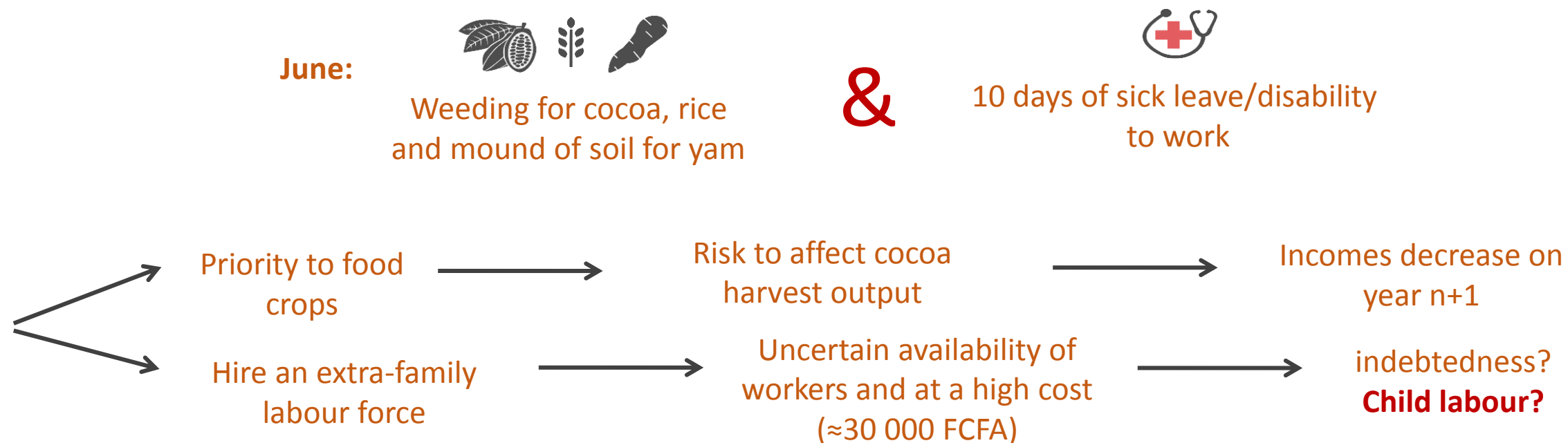


Labour demand + Chemical inputs + School fees

Family and farming needs

Case of a vulnerable scenario

The impact of an unexpected event during a critical period on household vulnerability



A long incapacity to work affects cocoa output, and then household food security.

Households can get into a indebtedness cycle that will affect children schooling.

Conclusions and proposed interventions



High labour force demand and strong competition among activities during very short time windows

- **Solution 1**: Mechanization and modernization of equipment, tools and practices; need to change of production system
- **Solution 2**: Access to financial services to adopt technological innovations



Poor labour conditions of the adult labour force

- **Solution 3**: Reinforce local organizational innovations to strengthen collective action, focus on workers groups.
- **Solution 4**: Workers unions should reach out to the « invisible » labour force, not limited to cooperatives members but to all workers



Reduction of workers and their families' vulnerability level

- **Solution 5**: Extent of social protection schemes offered by the Government
- **Solution 6**: Develop innovative financial services (savings for cash flow stabilization, inclusive insurance to protect against specific risks, among others)