

# Documenting Impacts of Artisanal Mining and Land Clearing on Cocoa Cultivation in Ghana

## Synopsis:

The documenting the impact of illegal small-scale artisanal gold mining and land clearing activities on cocoa cultivation is a joint research project between the International Programs at the College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources, University of Missouri, Columbia, USA and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (CSIR-FORIG). The research investigates the impacts of land degradation due to unregulated mining on small-holder cocoa cultivation within a first-order watershed, and evaluates the perception of farmers on the awareness of multiple threats facing the cocoa industry, and rural livelihoods in general.

## Household-level Data Collection



Plate 1. Interview with a female cocoa farmer



Plate 2. Interview with a male cocoa farmer

## Field Observations



Plate 3. Transect walk around impacted farms exposing the multiple threats posed by activities of unregulated artisanal small-scale mining on residents' cocoa farms in the project landscape.



## Data Collection on Weather Conditions & Physico-chemical Properties of Soil



Plate 4. Automatic weather station for collecting data on different climatic conditions.



Plate 6. Soil sensors installed in a cocoa-agroforestry farm to collect data on soil physico-chemical properties (pH, moisture, electrical conductivity, etc.)