

Diversification strategies for sustainable cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire

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Cocoa agroforestry system, around Abengourou © Tokou, 2022

Introduction

- Incentives for large-scale cocoa production have led to the loss of cocoa farming dynamics, the degradation of cultivable land, and poverty,
- Adoption of policies by Ivorian government to promote agroforestry and crop diversification to increase farmers' income and improve ecosystem services
- To date, the lack of data on diversification models in cocoa-based agrosystems makes it difficult to assess ecological and economic effects, particularly differentiated by area
- Strategies and level of diversification are considered as dynamic components and tools to simulate the sustainability of systems over time.

Research objective and questions

- Identify the level of diversification of agrosystems
- RQ1: What are the types of diversification in a cocoa-based agrosystems in Côte d'Ivoire?
- RQ2: What benefits do selected agroforestry systems have for farmers' households?

Methodology

- Research conducted in 5 regions of Côte d'Ivoire (map) between June- August 2022
- Data collection methods included:
 - Household survey (303 households) :
- Questions about cocoa agroforestry and the growing of other crops and their motivations were asked to producers
- Focus group discussions

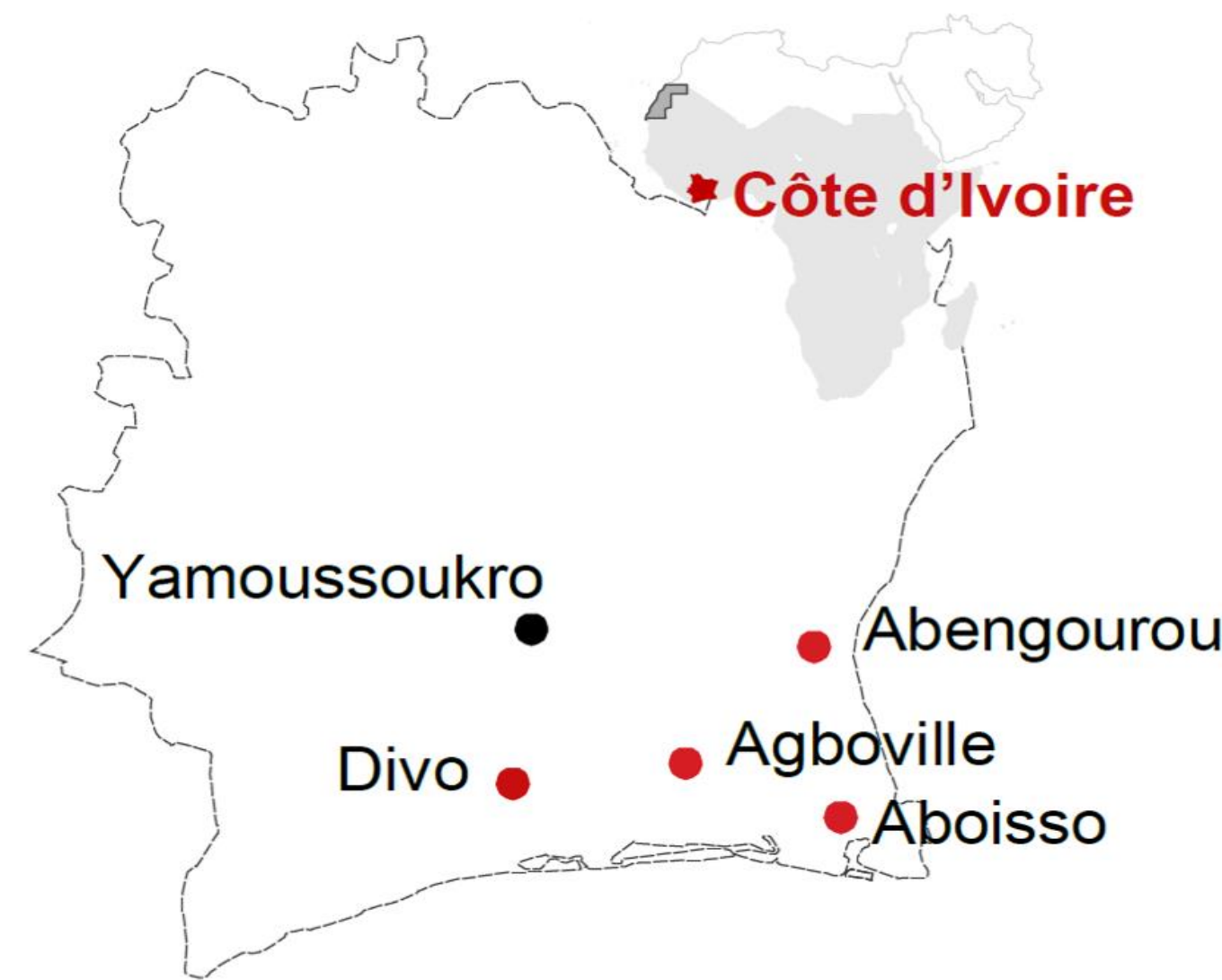


Figure: Regions PRO-PLANTEURS 1+2 (© GIZ)

Results

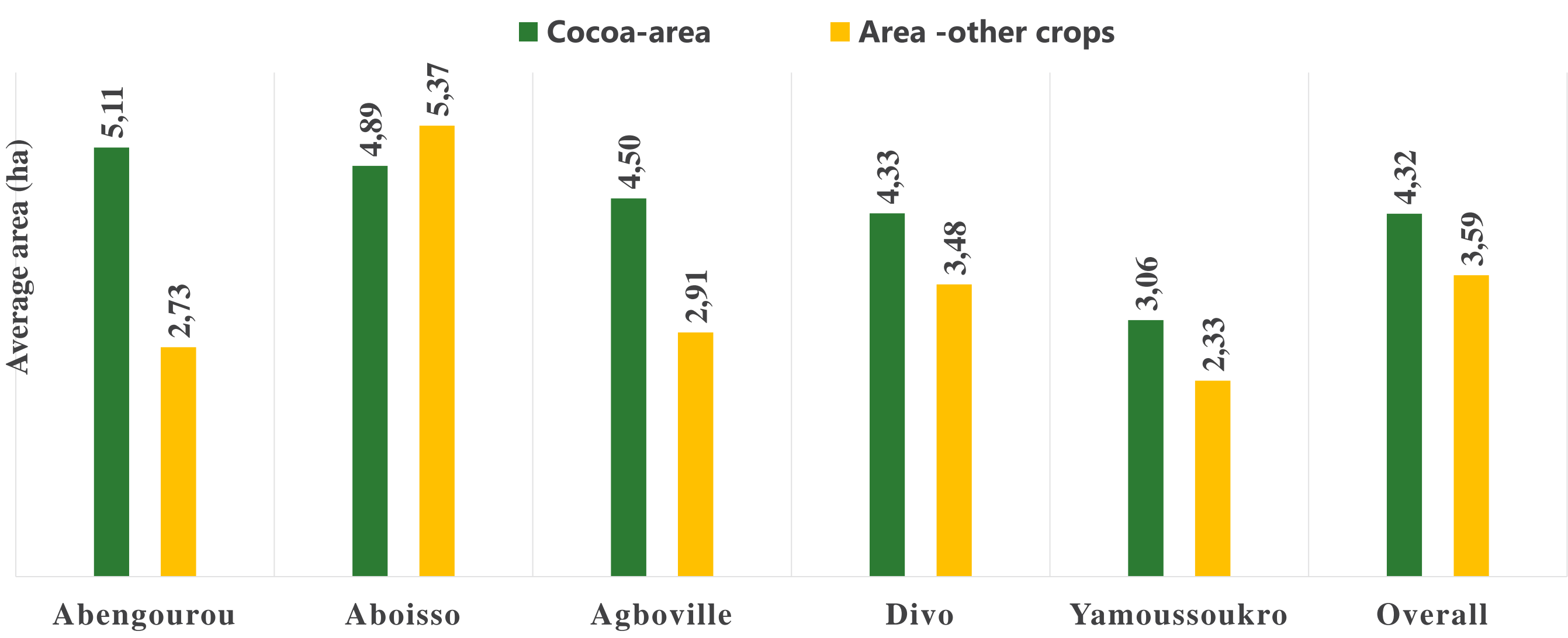


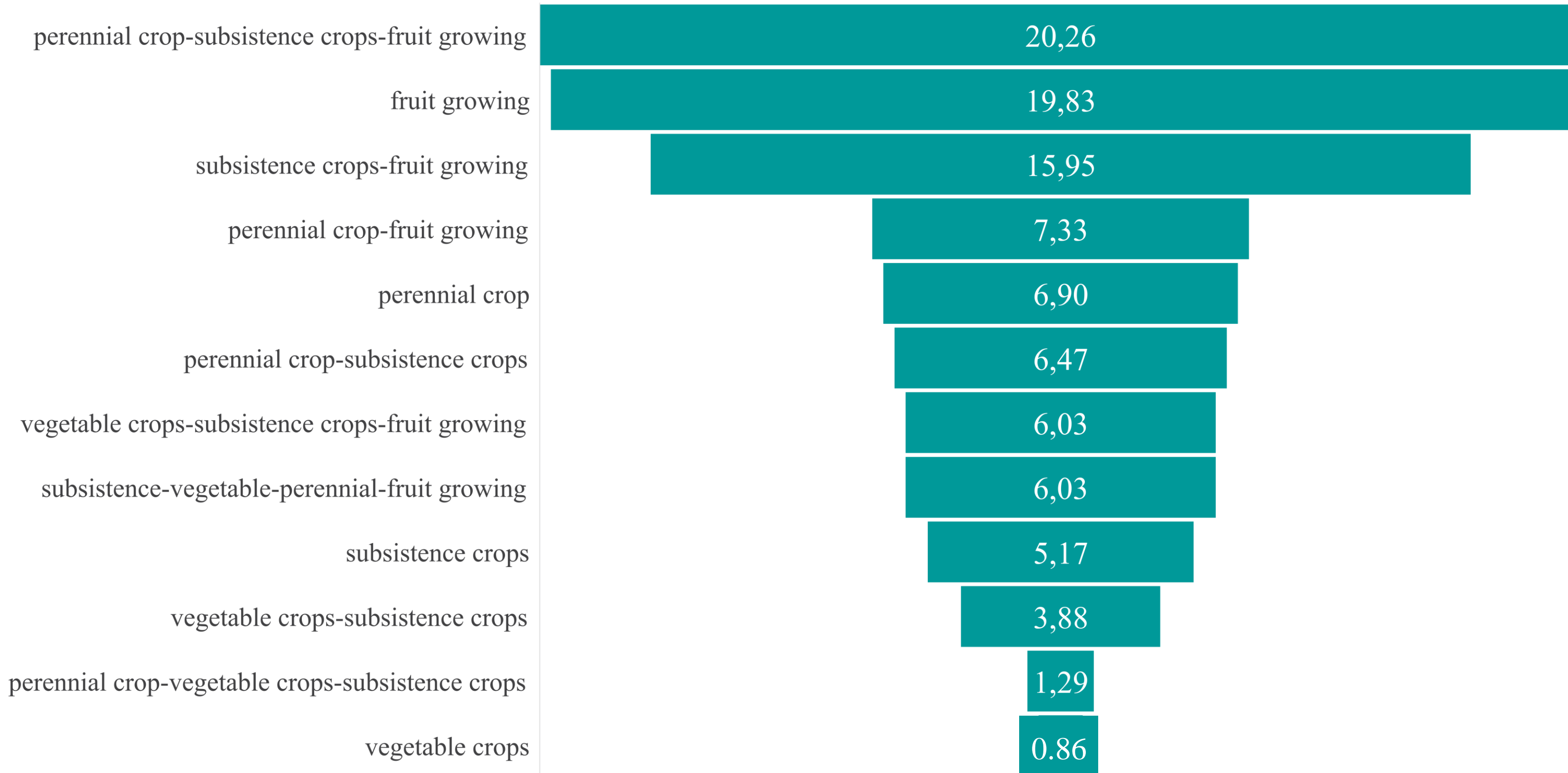
Figure 2: Characteristics of the farms by regions

On average, producers have larger areas of cocoa (4.32 ha) than other crops (3.59 ha).

- Among the five regions, producers in Abengourou have larger cocoa farms (5.11 ha) compared to producers in Aboisso who have larger farms (5.37 ha) of other crops (Figure 2).

Conclusion

- Crop diversification is characterized.
- Several degrees of diversification are identified to assess profitability
- Motivations for diversification types are known by region.
- Significant impacts of diversification degrees on livelihoods if properly implemented and adapted to the region.



- Four types of crops are associated with cocoa (perennial crops, food crops, vegetable crops and fruit crops) with varying degrees of association (Figure 3).
- 12 levels of association with perennial crop, subsistence crops, fruit growing most associated (20.26%) and weakly associated with vegetable crops (0.86%).

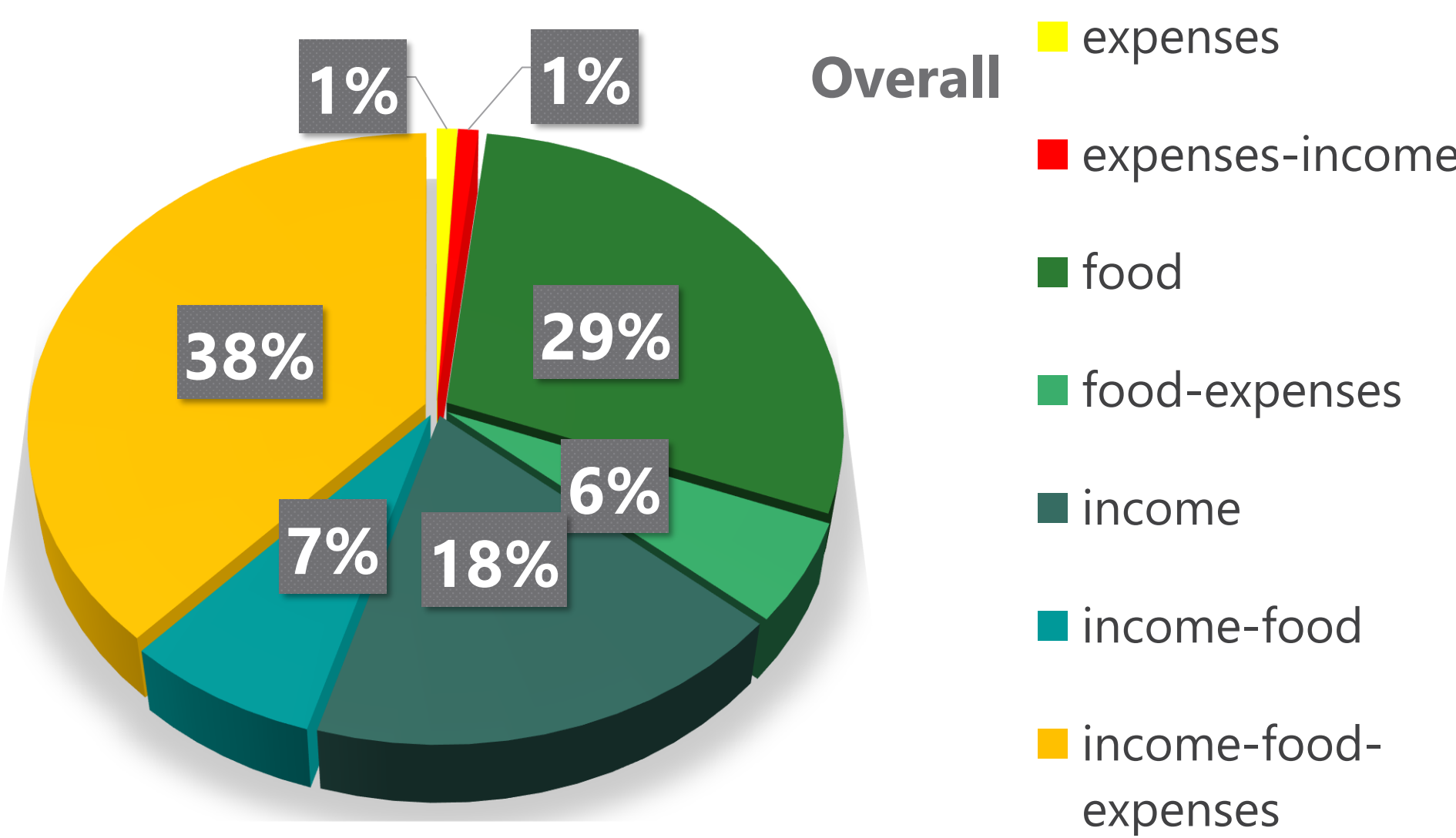


Figure 4: Motivation for diversification

- Seven types of motivations drive producers to adopt crop diversification : 38% for additional food income and expenses, while only 1% are motivated by supplementary food income and expenses and expenses-income (Figure 4).



Monoculture of cocoa, Aboisso © Tokou 2022