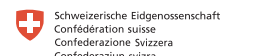


MODULE 1

**Organic
Cocoa
Production**

PLANTING THE COCOA FARM

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1 Establishing a new cocoa farm

Tips:

- Select a suitable cocoa variety (or hybrid) for your farm. Consider yield, quality and resistance to diseases.
- Best option is to use only planting material from Seed Production Unit of COCOBOD or any other registered nursery which is recommended by the Yayra Glover Ltd.
- Clear the land by slashing, but leave the healthy shade trees.
- Chop and shred plant material (weeds and bushes) and distribute them homogenously on the soil surface.
- Plant other crops to be mixed with cocoa either beforehand or at the same time as cocoa.

Benefits

- More nutrients are preserved for your cocoa trees.
- There are less insects and diseases on a clean cocoa farm.
- Weeding saves pesticide cost and makes work easier.



ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Establishing a new cocoa farm												

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2 Improving an existing cocoa farm

Tips:

- Cut unproductive and diseased trees completely down.
- Prune all cocoa trees, clean the farm and prune all shade trees to increase production.
- Plant new cocoa seedlings in gaps.

Benefits

- The cocoa farm receives more air
- Anonom (black pod disease) is better under control
- You save pesticide cost and work is easier
- You harvest more and bigger pods.



ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Improving an Existing Cocoa Farm												

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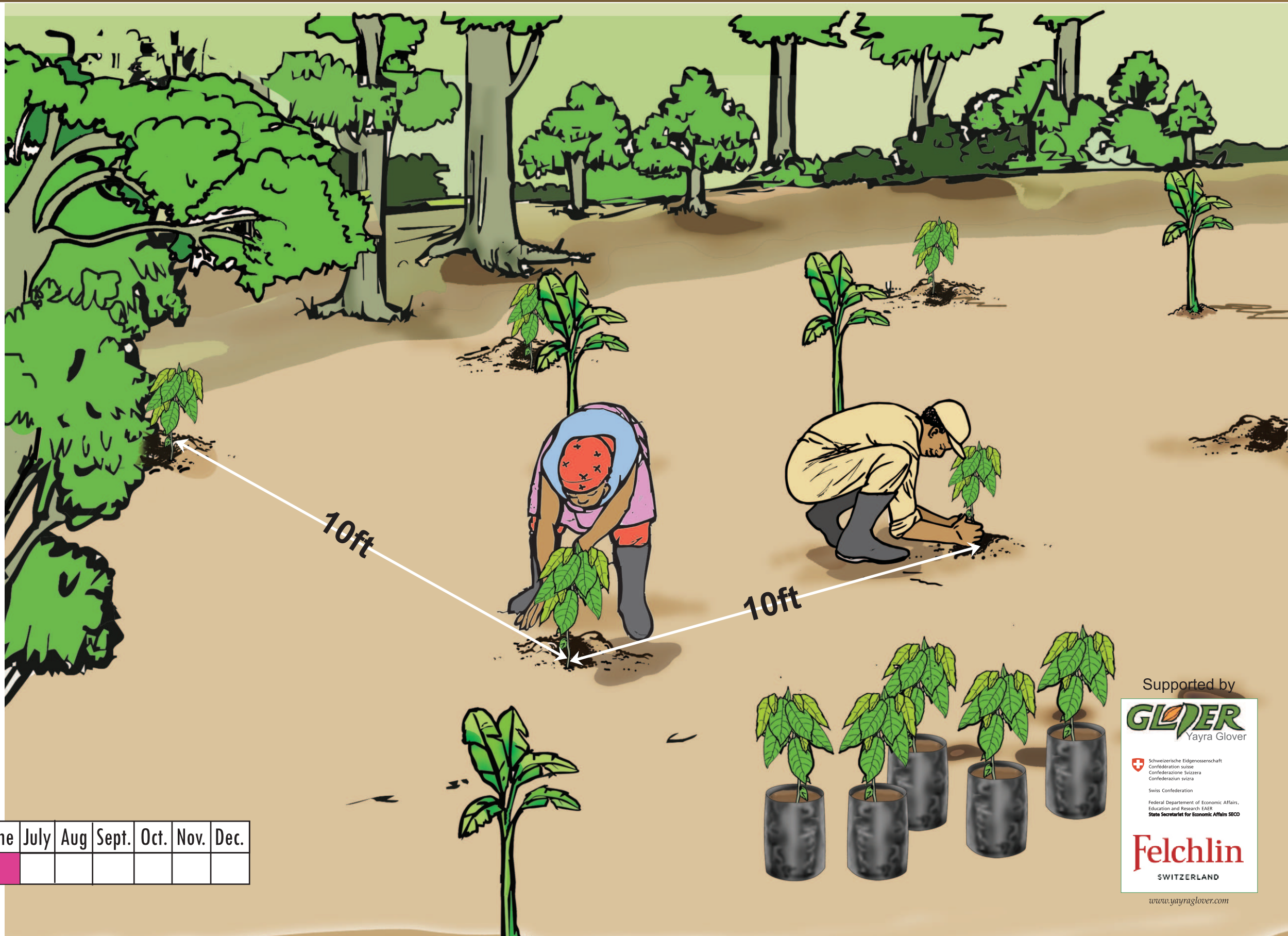
3 Planting Cocoa

Tips:

- Select appropriate plant spacing according to local conditions and other crops on the farm.
- For usual Ghanaian conditions the recommended spacing is 3x3 mtrs (10x10 feet).
- Make planting holes with earth chisel and cutlers
- Plant other crops such as banana, plantain and cocoyam between the holes.
- Later, plant cocoa seedlings in the prepared holes.
- Plant desirable shade trees

Benefits

- It promotes:
- This makes farm operations easier.
- It promotes healthy trees,
- It promotes high yield per unit area and high income.



ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Planting Cocoa												

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4 Establish a healthy and diverse cocoa farm to produce more and quality cocoa



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MODULE 2 Organic Cocoa Production

CROP AND FARM MANAGEMENT

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Cropping Activity Calendar

Produce more and quality organic cocoa by following the Yayra Glover Ltd.
Organic Cocoa Cropping Activity Calendar!

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cleaning, weeding												
Pruning and height control												
Shade management												
Soil fertility management												
Buy organic fertilisers												
Apply organic fertilisers												
Sanitary harvest												
Spraying for black pod disease												
Spraying for Mirids												
Safe use of organic pesticides												

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1 Weeding and cleaning the farm

Tips:

- Weed your farm at least 3 or 4 times a year when the weeds reached the height of your knees.
- New plantations require weeding 6 times
- Remove climbers from the cocoa trees.
- Practice selective weeding on your farm.

Benefits

- Reduces competition from weeds for soil water and nutrients
- Controls pests, diseases and rodents
- Ensures easy access to trees for spraying and safe harvesting

ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Pruning and height control of cocoa trees												



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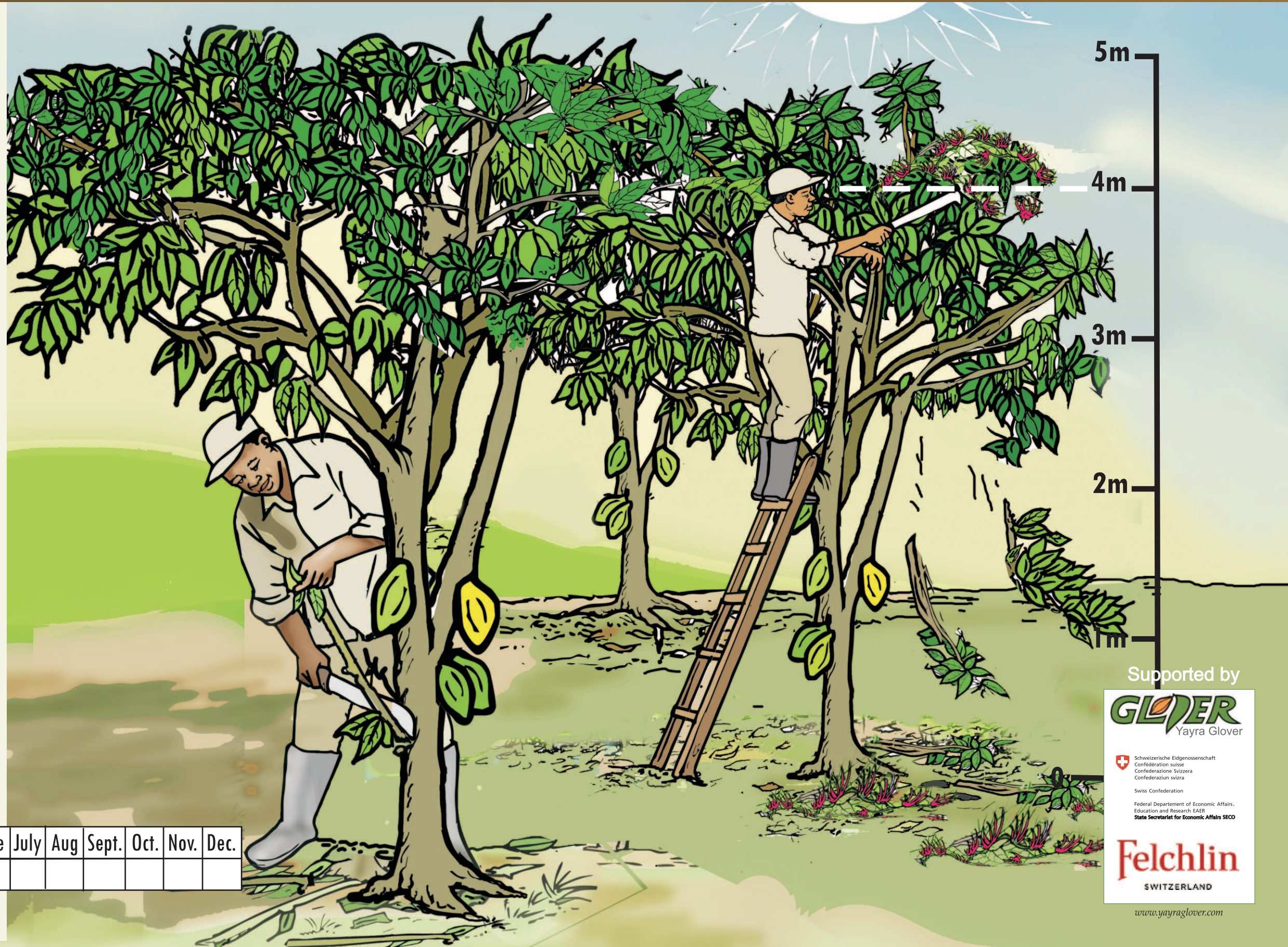
2 Pruning and height control of cocoa trees

Tips:

- Prune after the main harvesting or just before flowering
- Remove low hanging and unhealthy branches as well as mistletoes.
- Restrain cocoa trees from being taller than 3m.

Benefits

- More air and light ensures higher yields
- Controls pests and diseases, such as the black pod disease
- Ensures easy access to trees for spraying and safe harvesting



ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Pruning and height control of cocoa trees												

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3 Shade management

Tips:

- Shade trees that do not shed their leaves need to be pruned back.
- This is best done before the expected main harvest of cocoa to enhance flowering.
- Manage the inter-cropped bananas by removing old leaves and surplus shoots (plantain suckers). After the harvest the banana (pseudo)stems should be used as ground cover.

Benefits

- Shade trees protect the cocoa trees by serving as wind breaks



ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Shade Management												

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4 Soil fertility management

Tips:

- Cover the soil with tree pruning, leaves and harvest residues (cocoa husks).
 - Apply regularly compost and locally sourced manure.
 - Integrate legumes to your farm.
- Use the organic fertiliser by YGL

Benefits

- Continuous addition of organic material to the soil improves soil structure and fertility
- Improves availability of Potassium and other nutrients
-



ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Soil fertility management												

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6 Sanitary harvest

Tips:

- Take off and gather all rotten and black pods and bury them.
- Remove branches that are attacked by insects.

Benefits

- Less diseases
- Less expenditures for organic fungicides
- Nice big cocoa pods



ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Soil fertility management												

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8 Spraying against capsids and mirids (akate)

Tips:

- Use only organic insecticide (Pyrethrum 5EW) approved by YGL/COCOBOD.
- Dilute insecticide at the correct rate in water (180ml per 11 liter spray machine)
- Spray against capsids and mirids as soon as you see pest damage.
- Use organic insecticide properly, as instructed.

Benefits

- Less diseases
- Less expenditures for organic fungicides
- Nice big cocoa ponds



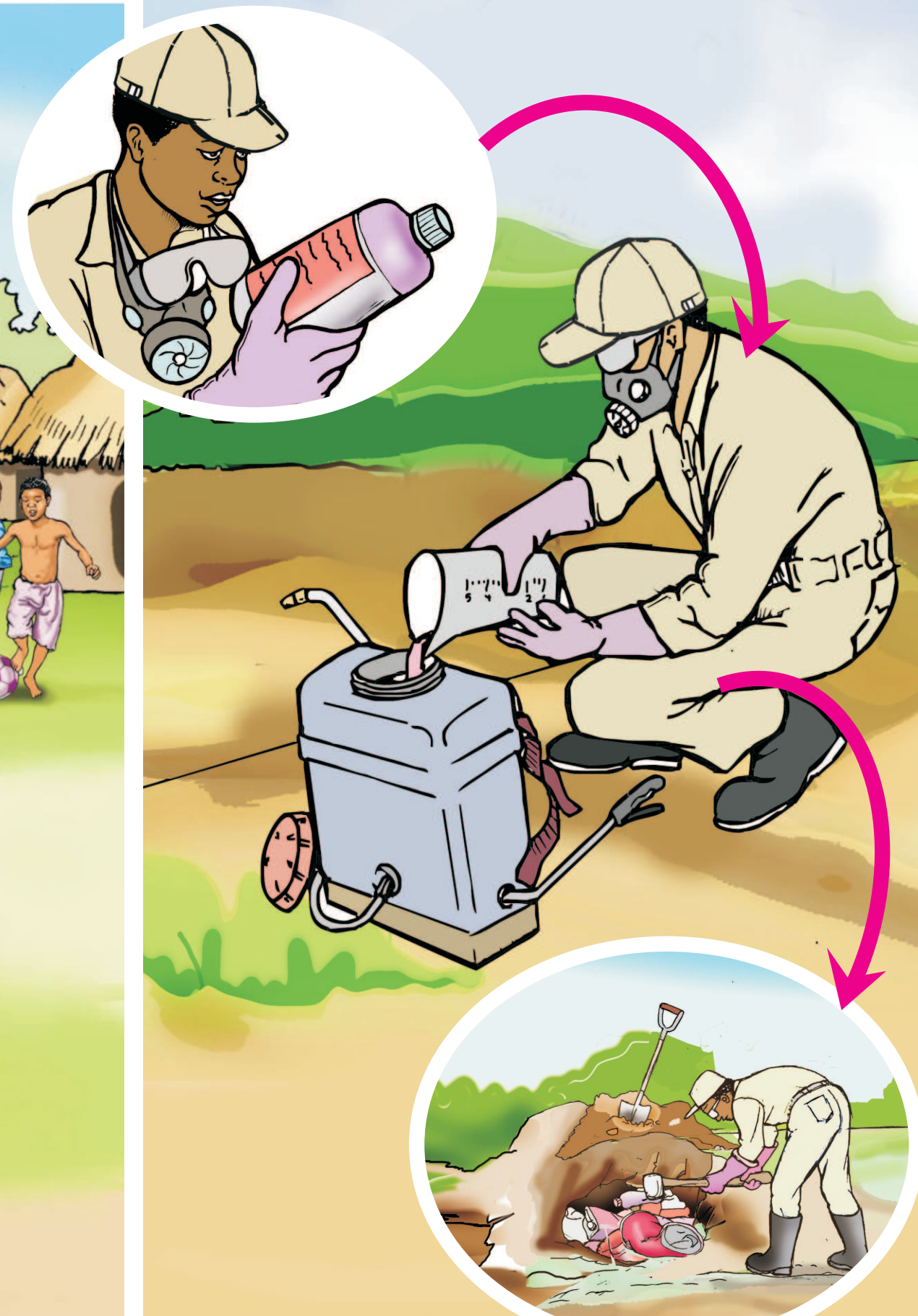
ACTIVITY	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Spray against capsids and mirids (akate)												

9 Safe use of organic pesticides

- Store bio-pesticides cautiously
- See whether a collection of empty bio-pesticide can be established or bury them.
- Make sure children do not reach the bottles.

Spraying:

- Read the label, know about correct dosage and utilisation.
- Always wear protective clothes and mask.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke.
- Wash your clothes and yourself when finished.



10 Good farm and crop management increases cocoa production and quality for better income



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MODULE 3

Organic Cocoa Production

RAISING COCOA SEEDLINGS IN A NURSERY

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1 Raising seedlings from seeds


Tips:

- Choose well accessible site with good water supply for the nursery
- Use healthy and mature pods only sourced from the Seep Production Unit COCOCOD
- Plant the seeds (fresh beans) into black polythene bags which are filled with a mix of top soil (40%), compost and sand (both 30%).
- Make sure there is enough shade, ample water and protection from the wind. Start with dense shade and decrease it, as the seedlings grow.



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2 Produce quality seedlings for higher yield and income

Tips:

- Choose well accessible site with good water supply for the nursery
- Use healthy and mature pods only sourced from the Seep Production Unit COCOCOD
- Plant the seeds (fresh beans) into black polythene bags which are filled with a mix of top soil (40%), compost and sand (both 30%).
- Make sure there is enough shade, ample water and protection from the wind. Start with dense shade and decrease it, as the seedlings grow.

