



MMSP

A cocoa breeding initiative to improve the seed gardens of today and develop the clones of tomorrow

“ Cocoa producing regions in **West Africa** are facing a devastating form of black pod disease, ***Phytophthora megakarya***, which threatens the profitability of the long-term future of **cocoa production** in these areas.

Since this form of the disease cannot be controlled **economically** with fungicide sprays or other cultural techniques, there is an urgent need to develop **new varieties** with greatly reduced disease incidence. ”

► Lockwood, G. & Nsiah, E
MMSP Establishment Phase
Final Report to LNV (2010)

The **Mabang Megakarya Selection Programme** (MMSP) is an advanced, large-scale breeding programme which will develop high performance planting materials capable of producing high yields of good quality cocoa even under heavy pressure from *Phytophthora megakarya* and other pests and pathogens.

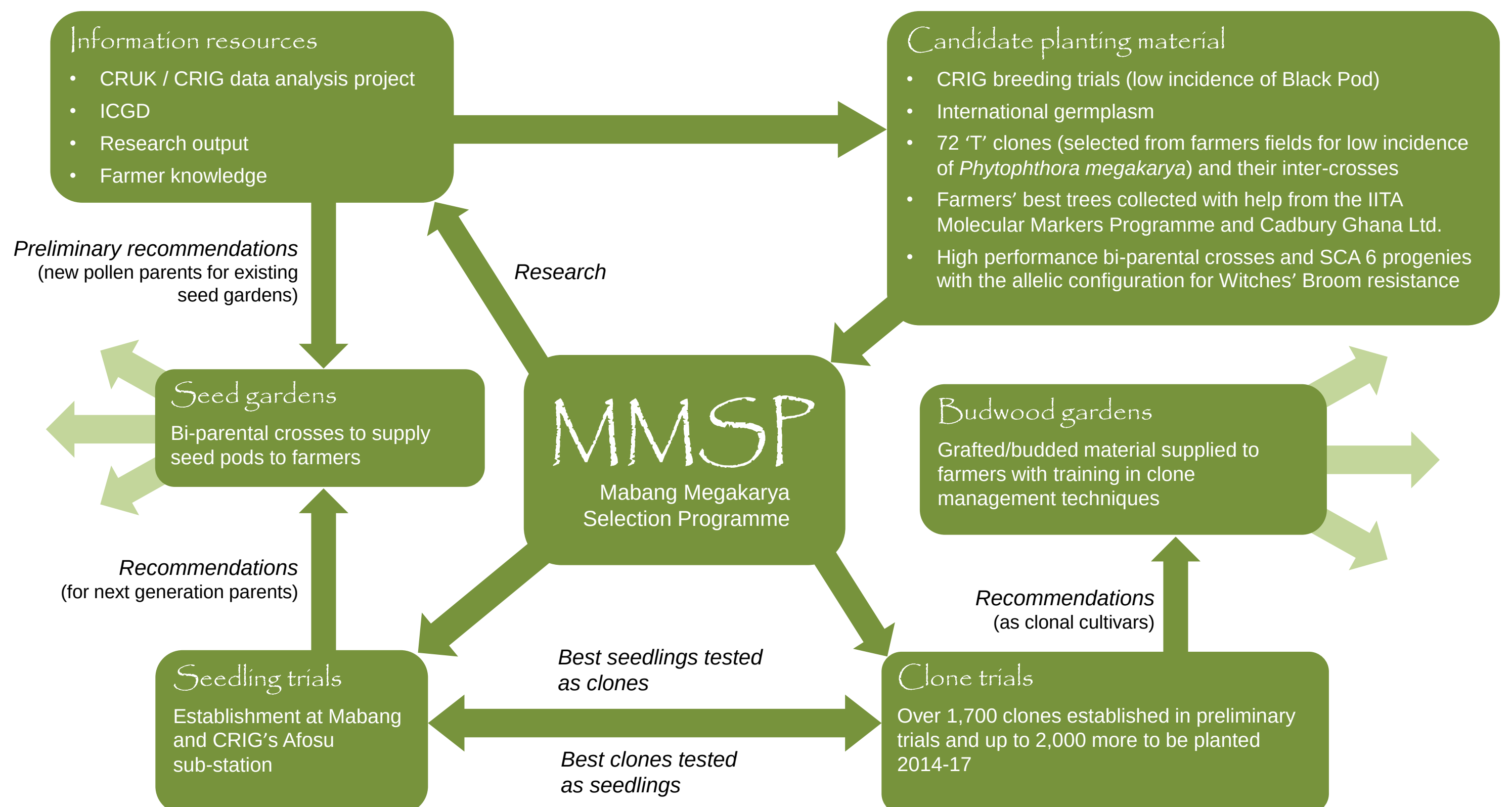
Incorporating a large green field site (219 ha) and excellent facilities, including a world class nursery, MMSP builds on the research underway at CRIG (Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana), focusing on establishment ability, vigour, growth habit, reaction to *Phytophthora megakarya*, yield and quality. Links with COCOBOD's (Ghana Cocoa Board's) network of seed gardens will ensure Ghana's cocoa farmers have access to the high performance planting materials they require.

With over 400,000 farm families depending directly on cocoa for their livelihoods in Ghana, and with even more Ghanaians making their living indirectly from the crop, the outputs from MMSP stand to make an important contribution to poverty alleviation and the development of the cocoa sector in the country over the longer term.



Limited access to improved planting materials is one of the major contributing factors to the current unsustainability of the business model of many cocoa farmers.

► World Cocoa Conference
(Abidjan, 2012)



A **public / private partnership** towards **sustainable** production of **cocoa** in Ghana

MMSP was established in 2005 as a joint venture between **CRIG** and **GCGRA** (a UK based industry association supporting scientific cocoa research), with additional funding from the **Government of the Netherlands**, and with new partners from the industry joining the project in 2013.

The **first impact** of MMSP will be an improvement in the output of Ghana's existing and planned seed gardens through the use of **superior pollen parents**. In the longer term, trials already underway will lead to new **clonal cultivars** being identified that will be a key step in the **modernisation** of cocoa farming.

The involvement of **farmers** and **industry** throughout will ensure that the clones developed will have the desired **agronomic characteristics** and produce fermented and dried beans that are of **high quality** 'Ghanaian' cocoa.

MMSP also has a **positive social impact**, giving employment and training opportunities to hundreds of people from the **local community**, with a multiplier effect on the **rural economy** of the Mabang area.



Kingdom of the Netherlands



If you are interested in becoming a new partner in this important initiative, please contact:

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Or visit ► www.cocoaresearch.org.uk/mmssp.php

