



Trilateral Resilience Enhancement in the Ethiopian Lowlands (TREE)

Enhancing resilience to improve livelihoods by supporting tree production

The challenge

More than 40% of the population of Ethiopia's Afar Regional State is reliant on food aid due to drought. Vegetation cover, which used to provide food, income and fuel while stabilizing the soil, has been critically compromised in the region, and it is under significant pressure from population growth (2.6% per annum). Afar Region is hot and dry, with daytime temperatures of up to 48°C and annual precipitation of less than 350mm. Merely 7% of the region's area is viable for agriculture. Farming and small-scale irrigation are practiced where water is available, usually in valleys where mixed herds of camels, cattle, sheep and goats are grazed.

The Afar Region is facing immense pressure from migration, with high potential for conflict wherever clans of other ethnic origin displace the indigenous population. As a result, Afar's hierarchical clan structures, which traditionally manage communal resources and irrigation systems, are under strain as soil degrades and productivity is lost. Reforestation has been unable to make up for the reduction in tree stocks since local nurseries do not have the expertise or capacity to produce high quality planting material.

Moreover, community members have little to no knowledge about the cultivation and productive management of fruit trees. Until recently, people relied on natural species regeneration, and so they had no need to know how to plant or care for them.

Our approach

TREE is a trilateral partnership between the Government of Ethiopia, the State of Israel and the German Government. It is a supporting project to the SDR-ASAL (Strengthening Drought Resilience in Arid and Semi-Arid Lowlands) Programme, with a target population of 350,000 people.

Project name	Trilateral Resilience Enhancement in the Ethiopian Lowlands (TREE)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner organizations	Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Project region	3 Districts in Afar Region, Ethiopia
Lead executing agency	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Duration	10/2016 - 09/2021

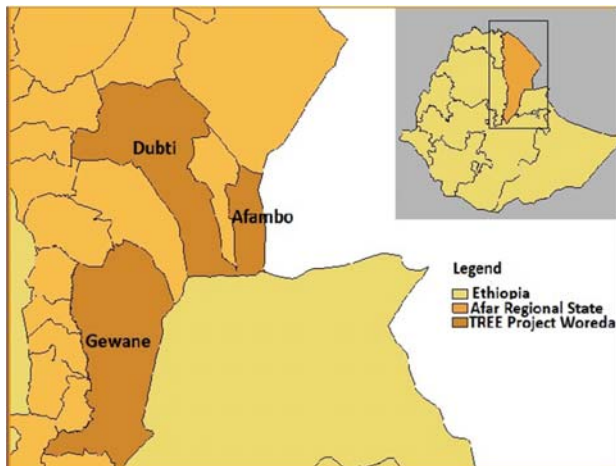
The implementing partners of TREE are the Afar Bureau of Livestock, Agriculture and Natural Resource Development (BoLAND), Dubti, Afambo and Gewane WoANRs (Woreda Offices of Agriculture and Natural Resources) and Gewane ATVET. For implementing the approach, we closely work together with our key collaborators and stakeholders, namely are the Afar Pastoral & Agro-pastoral Research Institute (APARI); Semera University; development agents; private and civil-society organizations; clan chiefs and kebele leaders and community-development committees. The TREE approach consists of the following elements:

Equipping and expanding existing nurseries (in Afambo and Dubti Woredas): to produce multi-purpose trees and fruit trees and equip one nursery of Gewane ATVET (Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training) College to become a knowledge hub.

Raising awareness and train community members: training in planting and caring for multi-purpose and fruit trees, in combination with water and soil-conservation measures from other projects of the SDR-ASAL programme. In the long term, the establishment of fruit value chains is envisaged, from which women in particular are to benefit.



Photo: © GIZ / Monika Ellinger



Training nursery staff and agricultural extension services: training in planting multi-purpose and fruit trees and ensure that this new knowledge is institutionalized and shared.

Our Goals

The goals of TREE are reflected in the following areas:

- We contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals, including participatory development, good governance, resource conservation, combating desertification, climate change adaptation, reduced poverty, increased food security and gender equality;
- We want to create opportunities for communities to harvest multi-purpose trees (MPT) and fruit trees (FT), up to a larger degree than at present, in areas where this is suitable, to contribute to a more continuous delivery of fodder, food and marketable products.

- We want to strengthen the livelihood of vulnerable population and contribute to resilience building directly by supporting family members' and livestock through increased nutritional supply and to cash crop production, whereas, indirectly by securing the soil. This contributes to one of the main goals of TREE project towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our Achievements

Three nurseries for FTs and MPTs were established and fully equipped with our support. One nursery at Gewane ATVET (Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training) was equipped and is managed with our support as a knowledge hub.

- More than 77.000 fruit plants (Orange, Papaya, Mango, Lemon, Banana and Guava) and MPTs (Moringa, Neem and Delonix seedlings) produced and planted;
- Experience sharing visits undertaken to raise awareness, knowledge and practice of agro-pastoralist community members towards planting and caring of FTs and MPTs;
- More than 6 ha of fruit orchards established for producing scion, buds and seeds for enhancing regional availability;
- 240 model agro-pastoralists, 108 experts, agricultural extensionists, nursery operators and Development Agents, and 120 college students of Gewane ATVET college are trained on (i) management of FTs and MPTs, (ii) management /protection of vegetables and date palms and (iii) agricultural development in arid regions, to ensure new knowledge is institutionalized and shared.

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