

SECURING INCOME FOR MARGINALISED SMALL FARMERS AND DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH INTEGRATED ORGANIC FARMING METHODS



Project

In this phase of the project, the **Sebeta Biofarm** will be expanded with additional components such as a biogas facility. Employees of local partner organisations are trained to operate the biofarm and to become **agriculturally and financially more productive in a sustainable way**.

The Sebeta Biofarm will be expanded as a training and **model farm for neighbouring farmers** and also countrywide for disabled people in a rural context. The participants also receive material input, which, alongside expert supervision ensures that **knowledge learned** can be **applied on the farms** and passed on to neighbouring farmers.

Alongside practical work and theoretical teaching in organic farming, the participants are also taught **life skills**. Important topics in particular are HIV/Aids, family planning and awareness creation to prevent sexual exploitation of disabled women.

Relevance

In an initial phase of the project, a model farm as an organic farming school was established in conjunction with the Development Organisation for People with Disabilities (DOPD) on a plot belonging to the Sebeta School for the Blind. Visually impaired children and teaching personnel were trained in organic farming methods and were able to apply their new knowledge on their own farms and gardens. The produce was used by the school kitchen, while sale of the excess at the local market provided a welcome profit.

Disadvantaged people with disabilities and poor small-scale farmers are acquiring new prospects thanks to the integrated approach of the organic farm and agricultural school and its adapted, **practice-oriented teaching**. The opportunity to independently improve one's own financial situation is a first decisive step in social integration.

Development Goal

To contribute to sustainable development in the Sebeta district and to the welfare of marginalised people.

Project number:
BV PH-04

Project active since:
January 2007

Project duration:
until December 2010

Budget for 2010:
40'000 USD

Project coordinator:
Abebe Fantahun,
Programme Officer BEA

Program responsibility:
Verena Albertin



The cows at the Sebeta Biofarm not only provide healthy milk. Thanks to their dung the on-site biogas plant can be operated.



Inhabitants of the nearby villages profit from trainings in biofarming. After a training Ms. Bogalech (picture) converted her backyard into a vegetable garden.

Beneficiaries

1500 people (of those at least 500 are women), who are trained in sustainable agricultural methods profit directly from the project. Additionally, 100 disabled people (40 young women, 60 young men) profit from income-generating activities. This includes blind, deaf and physically challenged people.

Goals

1. To strengthen the **Sebeta model biofarm** as a demonstration farm for organic agriculture and to give disabled people an opportunity to generate their own income
2. 1500 small-scale farmers and 100 people with disabilities receive **training in sustainable farming methods**
3. **Dissemination** of the model-concept of the organic farm and establishment of other model farms in the region
4. Expansion of the organic farm with additional **biofarm components and material** (greenhouse, biogas facility etc.)

Partner Organisations

BioEconomy Association (BEA), Ethiopia www.ynrmi.org;
Development Organization for People with Disabilities (DOPD);
Sebeta Special School for the Blind

Sustainability

Sustainability calls for a holistic vision: healthy people, animals and plants in a healthy environment. (4x Health, 4-H Strategy). Every project supported by Biovision effects considerable improvements in at least one of the four health areas. The key to effectively replicating the success of the project is the availability of specific information on the methods applied and the results achieved. With this approach and its 'helix of effects', living conditions are improved and the poverty of the people is gradually overcome while the environment is protected.



Sebeta lies 30 km outside of Addis Abeba.

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