

PROJECTS: ETHIOPIA

FARMER'S ACADEMY IN ADDIS ABABA



Project

Ethiopia has a variety of different farming communities and agricultural zones. Agricultural training offered by the state and private institutions does not account for this diversity and is insufficiently practical with regard to the needs of the small-scale farmers. The „Farmers' Academy“-project, supported by Biovision, aims to improve **agricultural education** in Ethiopia. A new, standardised **academic syllabus for farmers** is being devised. This will be used by both state and private educational institutions in the agricultural sector. The revised curriculum is adapted especially to the needs of the small-scale farmers and offers them the opportunity to receive **certified basic and further education**. The new curriculum will be tested at project conclusion with 50 selected farmers from the various regions of Ethiopia.

Relevance

Lack of information is a great obstacle for sustainable development. Therefore, provision of scientifically supported, **practical knowledge** contributes to the improvement of agricultural production in Ethiopia. The BEA affiliated YEHA Institute for the management of natural resources in Addis Ababa already offers masters and PhD courses in Natural Resource Management. During their field studies the students work closely with farmers. The **exchange of information** flows in both directions; the learning and teaching process is experienced by both students and farmers. The „**Farmers' Academy**“ is now going a step further and offering interested men and women farmers certified education. Professional basic and further training will improve the **reputation of, and respect shown to the farming community**, who are an integral element of Ethiopian society and who represent an important part of Ethiopia's development.

Development Goal

To improve living conditions for the rural population and to care for the environment through specific basic and further education in sustainable agriculture by means of officially recognised training courses.

Project number:
BV TS-01

Project active since:
January 2009

Project duration:
until December 2010

Budget for 2010:
20'000 USD

Project coordinator:
Abebe Fantahun,
Programme Officer BEA

Program responsibility:
Verena Albertin



At the YEHA-Institute in Addis Ababa (in the background) students take part in courses on agriculture.



Knowledge of new, sustainable agricultural methods such as biogas technology is passed on in clear, practice-oriented courses.

Beneficiaries

The official state and private farmers' training centres and their graduates profit from the development of a standardised curriculum and improved quality of education. The initial 50 model farmers already receive training within the framework of the new curriculum.

Goals

1. Formalisation and strengthening of **agricultural education** in Ethiopia through the development of a **standardised curriculum**.
2. Promotion and spread of knowledge-based training by means of **courses with model farmers**.
3. Consolidation of **co-operation** with the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture.

Partner Organisations

BioEconomy Association BEA and YEHA institute www.ynrmi.org;
Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
Ethiopian Farmers' Training Centres (FTC)

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.



The Yeha Institute is located in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. The curriculum will however, also be applied in biofarming and agricultural schools all over the country.

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