

## PROJECTS: ETHIOPIA

# TSETSE FLY CONTROL AND ORGANIC FARMING IN ASSOSA



### Project

The vast majority of the population in Benishangul-Gumuz lives off the land. Although the soil is fertile and the climate is favourable, the region often suffers from food scarcity („green hunger“). One of the main causes of this is the abundance of the tsetse fly. The tsetse fly is the main transmitter of deadly sleeping-sickness to livestock (Nagana). In affected areas keeping livestock is often nearly impossible.

Since farming in Ethiopia is dependent on ploughing oxen, many large fields lie fallow due to a lack of these animals, which worsens the food security and livelihoods of those affected. For this reason, interest in and need for information on the integrated approach to environmentally friendly tsetse fly control and organic farming is huge.

Biovision supports its long-term partner organisations BEA in the establishment of a model Biofarm, which serves as an education and training centre for farmers and also extension workers and interested teaching personnel from the entire region. Small-scale farmers learn how to protect their oxen from tsetse bites and apply organic farming methods on their farms and fields in a practice-oriented way that is aligned with their needs. Other important complementary topics such as marketing, basic hygiene, family planning and HIV prevention are dealt with alongside the practical courses in tsetse fly control and organic farming.

### Relevance

Biovision has previously supported successful projects in ecological tsetse fly control and has recognised that this is a gateway to rural development in Ethiopia. Additionally, it has been scientifically documented that it is necessary to apply measures for sustainable agriculture alongside tsetse fly control. Otherwise, if the fields are not sustainably farmed, resources are overused and soil fertility declines. The successful concept of organic farming schools (“Biofarms”) is the key to sustainable and environmentally friendly rural development in Ethiopia.

### Development Goal

Alleviation of poverty and support for sustainable rural development in Ethiopia through the promotion of effective, environmentally friendly measures.

#### Project number:

BV AH-04

#### Project active since:

Januar 2009

#### Project duration:

Phase II until 31. December 2012

#### Budget for 2011:

50'000 USD

#### Project coordinator:

Abebe Fantahun, BEA

#### Program responsibility:

Verena Albertin



*The tsetse fly is the main transmitter of deadly sleeping-sickness to humans and livestock (Nagana).*



*Agriculture in Ethiopia is dependent on ploughing oxen. Healthy livestock is the backbone of small-scale farming families and allows them to produce enough food for themselves.*

## Beneficiaries

Over 7600 small scale farmers and rural agricultural advice teams benefit from the training in organic cultivation methods and environmentally-friendly tsetse fly control. Farming families are supported with additional guidance on improving their cultivation systems and in tackling the tsetse fly problem together on a community level.

## Achieved so far

Establishment of a **Model Biofarm** in Assosa, which serves as an education and training centre for the whole region. Execution of **training sessions** and learning courses in integrated organic farming methods and **complementary courses** in marketing and health for 1000 people.

## Goals

1. Knowledge dissemination and operational research to consolidate and scale-up integrated tsetse-control to other regions
2. Provision of training and education courses in integrated organic farming methods and complementary topics (marketing, health) for 50 master farmers who in turn will pass on their knowledge to 2500 farmers in total.
3. Build up and strengthen partnerships with likely-minded organisations and communities.

## Partner organisations

**BioEconomy Africa** (BEA, [www.bioeconomyforum.org](http://www.bioeconomyforum.org), implementing partner), Ministry for Science and Technology(MoST); Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development;(BoARD); Ministry for Finance and Economic Development(BoFED);



*The project area, Assosa, lies in the regional state Benishangul-Gumuz, on the border with Sudan..*

### Contact:

Biovision – Foundation for Ecological Development  
Schaffhauserstr. 18  
CH-8006 Zürich  
Tel. +41 44 341 97 18  
Fax +41 44 341 97 62  
[info@biovision.ch](mailto:info@biovision.ch)  
[www.biovision.ch](http://www.biovision.ch)  
Swiss Post Account:  
87-193093-4

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