

PROJECTS: ETHIOPIA

SEBETA BIOFARM FOR DISABLED STUDENTS AND MARGINALIZED FARMERS



Project

In the plot of the Sebeta School for the Blind and Disabled, a **Biofarm school** was established in cooperation with the Development Organisation for People with Disability (DOPD). Visually impaired students and teachers are trained in integrated organic farming methods and can apply the knowledge they have gained on the field. The Sebeta Biofarm serves as a **training and model farm** for bordering areas and nationally for people with disability from rural areas. Participants receive material inputs, which when accompanied by expert guidance enables them to apply their new knowledge on their own farms and pass it on to their neighbours.

Food produced on the biofarm is used by the school kitchen and surplus is sold at the local market. Through this market access, additional income is generated for disadvantaged people.

Alongside practical work and theoretical knowledge of organic farming, course participants are also given classes in life skills. Important topics are HIV/Aids, family planning and awareness building to prevent sexual exploitation of disabled women.

Relevance

Disadvantaged people with disabilities and impoverished small-scale farmers gain new opportunities thanks to the integrated approach of the Biofarm. Through training in sustainable agriculture the people are supported in improving their food security and livelihoods. The opportunity to improve their economic situation independently is a first decisive step to social integration.

Development Goal

To contribute to sustainable development in the Sebeta District as well as to the welfare of marginalised people through the application of ecological cultivation methods.

Beneficiaries

50 men and women farmers have been coached to expert level in organic agriculture, who in turn inform 1500 impoverished small-scale farmers on sustainable cultivation methods. Additionally, 250 disabled students benefit from activities on the biofarm.

Achieved so far

500 men and women farmers are now experts in ecological agriculture. 1500 small-scale farmers from the Sebeta District have profited from training in sustainable cultivation methods.

Project number:
BV PH-04

Project active since:
January 2007

Project duration:
Until December 2012

Budget for 2011:
30'000 USD

Project coordinator:
Abebe Fantahun,
Project manager BEA

Program responsibility:
Verena Albertin



Inhabitants of the surrounding villages profit from training in organic farming. Mrs Bogelach (pictured) transformed her plot into a vegetable bed and happily passes her knowledge on to eager neighbours.



Through provision of training in ecological cultivation methods, the people are supported in decisively improving their food security and living conditions.

Goals

1. **Training of 50 farmers, 20 agricultural advisors, 5 agriculturists and 50 disabled students** in ecological cultivation methods (e.g. compost and fertiliser production, biogas)
2. **Knowledge transfer and applied research for the dissemination of the model concept of the biofarm** in other regions of Ethiopia
3. **Establishment and strengthening of partnerships** with goal-related organisations and communities to ensure the long-term effect of the project



Sebeta lies 30 kilometres outside of Addis Ababa,

Partner organisations

BioEconomy Africa (BEA, implementing partner, www.bioeconomyforum.org); Development Organisation for People with Disability (DOPD); Sebeta School for the Blind; Woreda Office for Agriculture.

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.



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
www.biovision.ch
Swiss Post Account:
87-193093-4

A future for all, naturally