

PROJECTS: ETHIOPIA

FARMER'S ACADEMY: IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA



Project

Ethiopia has a variety of different farming communities and agricultural zones. Agricultural training offered by the government and private institutions does not account for this diversity and is insufficiently practical with regard to the needs of 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 governmental 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 collaboration between the Plantahof agricultural training and advice centre in Switzerland and the Ethiopian organisation Bioeconomy Africa (BEA) enables a direct **exchange of expertise in the field of agriculture**. As a first step in the North-South project, 3 collaborators and teachers from Plantahof visited various agricultural areas in Ethiopia. Together with the local partner organisation BEA, topics for a further exchange of expert training have been determined. In this phase, 5 collaborators occupied in agricultural training at BEA will complete a tailored practical education course at Plantahof. They will learn ecological methods and techniques in Alpine farming, such as dairy farming and cheese production, which they can then pass on to their colleagues in Ethiopia. Completion of the training includes a stay at a Swiss farm so that knowledge can be deepened in practical work.

Relevance

Lack of information is a great obstacle for sustainable development. Therefore, providing 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.

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.

Project number:
BV TS-01

Project active since:
January 2009

Project duration:
Phase II until December 2011

Budget for 2011:
40'000 USD

Project coordinator:
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Program responsibility:
Verena Albertin



South-North exchange between specialists in the field of sustainable agriculture. A farmer from the canton grisons discusses sustainable farming methods with the executive director of BEA.



Colleagues from BEA visit an Alpine cheese dairy and are introduced to the techniques of cheese production, and discuss the potential for milk processing in Ethiopia.

Development Goal

To improve livelihoods 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.

Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries of the project include 5 technical collaborators from the Ethiopian partner organisation BEA, who are completing further practical agricultural training in Switzerland. 1100 men and women farmers are trained in sustainable cultivation methods using newly developed, standardised teaching materials. In trainings the farmers learn to implement environmentally friendly techniques and methods. By passing on their newly-gained information to friends, neighbours and relatives, a further 5500 rurally active people benefit from the project.

Goals

1. **South-North exchange** between 5 collaborators from BEA and the Plantahof Agricultural College in Switzerland
2. **Testing, implementation and improvement of the new curriculum** in various regional states of Ethiopia
Promotion and dissemination of knowledge-based training through **training sessions with model farmers**.

Partner Organisations

Bioeconomy Africa (BEA, implementing partner), www.bioeconomyafrica.org; Plantahof Schweiz www.plantahof.ch; YEHA institute www.ynrmi.org; Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ethiopian Farmers' Training Centres (FTC)



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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