

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 humans and 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 supply and living conditions 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 and *icipe* 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 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, health precautions, 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 cultivation of the land alongside tsetse fly control. Otherwise resources will quickly become overused and soil fertility will diminish. 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:
January 2009

Project duration:
until December 2010

Budget for 2009:
50'000 USD

Project coordinator:
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Program responsibility:
Verena Albertin



The tsetse flies are caught with colour and scent traps. The traps are an effective, affordable and easy-to-use measure against sleeping sickness.



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

Beneficiaries

Over 1000 small farmers (among these at least 150 women) and agricultural advice teams profit from training in organic farming methods and environmentally friendly tsetse fly control. With the provision of additional advice, farming families are supported in improving their cultivation systems and in tackling the tsetse fly problem together in the village on a community level.

Goals

1. Construction of a **Model-Biofarm** in Assosa, which serves as education and training centre for the whole region.
2. Provision of **training** and education courses in integrated **organic farming methods and complementary topics** (marketing, health) for 1000 people.
3. Renewal of **tsetse fly control** and development of a sustainable control system with local state agencies.
4. **Documentation of health improvement among livestock** achieved through combination of complementary veterinary measures with Nagana control.

Partner Organisations

BioEconomy Association (BEA), Ethiopia www.ynrmi.org;
Benishangul-Gumuz Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development, International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) www.icipe.org

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

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