

Promoting Autonomous Adaptation

Developing Effective Coping Mechanisms to Reduce the Vulnerability of Farmers to Climate Change

Period:

January 2012-
December 2014

Location:

Addis Ababa and
Beninshangul-
Gumuz, Gambella,
Oromia and Tigray
regions

Budget:

USD 5.6 million
GEF: USD 5.3 m
UNDP: USD 0.3 m

Implementing partners:

Ministry of
Environment and
Forest, and Regional
and District
Environmental
Protection Offices

Opportunities:

Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy vision and strategy seeks to improve resilience to climate change, ensure abatement, enhance avoidance of future emissions, as well as foster both economic development and less carbon dependent growth. Ethiopia similarly emphasizes adaptation, conservation and rehabilitation of environmental resources and is embedding climate resilience into its development policies, plans and programmes.

Ethiopia's economy and the wellbeing of its people are closely linked to agriculture and the use of natural resources – water, land, soil, forests, biodiversity and fisheries. This means that adaptation and action towards climate resilience can largely be achieved by focusing on improving performance and management of its natural resources.

A key route to climate resilience is increased income and more diversified livelihoods; better healthcare and education; better access to technology and agricultural inputs; and greater social equity particularly for women and marginalized groups. Further, to build resilience, communities across the country need to take full ownership and responsibility for climate change adaptation.



Strategies:

The Promoting Autonomous Adaptation project aims to help communities to adapt to climate change at community level by developing and piloting a number of effective coping mechanisms for reducing the vulnerability of smallholder farmers. The project is a partnership between the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP.

The activities range from providing high yielding, early maturing and drought resistant crop seeds and delivering assistance in irrigation from rainwater harvest to teaching farmers how to rehabilitate degraded watersheds.

The project likewise seeks to develop the capacity of planning authorities and help them to mainstream climate issues into their planning processes. It will also help communities adapt by providing them with the tools needed for anticipatory and autonomous adaptation, such as climate risk information, financing, insurance and technical support.

The project targets eight kebeles (neighbourhoods) from four woredas (districts) in four regions – Beninshangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia and Tigray – and at sub-national level by working with Addis Ababa city administration. Community groups and green enterprises are major actors in the project implementation.

Beneficiaries:

The beneficiaries of the project are community members and smallholder farmers living at project sites in Beninshangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia and Tigray regions. Lessons learnt from project implementation will be scaled up to benefit communities across the country.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Actions:

Strengthen institutional capacity for coordinated climate resilient planning and investment

- Established a project governance structure at the federal and local levels
- Created a guideline, methods and templates for promoting climate change adaptation through vulnerability assessments, prioritization of response measures, implementation of activities, and monitoring performance
- Helping to assess the capacity of development agents' (at lower levels of administration) and district planning officers
- Providing trainings to district task team members and development agents

Improve access to technologies and practices that increase the range and efficiency of adaptation options

- Conducted capacity assessments and barrier analysis related to vulnerability and adaptive capacity of the green enterprises
- Providing training and awareness workshops on market development and access to finance to participants selected from community groups, green enterprises, and district task teams
- Assisting in preparing draft climate change response investment proposals

Improve capacity for community-based climate change adaptation

- Helped to create 40 farmers self-help groups (incl. 2628 members) to carry out the planned support activities
- Conducting trainings on the use of climate and weather information for planning and short-term decision-making
- Supplying farmers with improved, early maturing and high yielding cereal and pulse seeds and helping to increase their income
- Provided community members with private plastic rain gauges for measuring level of rainwater and making decisions on their agricultural practices.

Progress to Date

- Eight district task team members and development agents trained in and use climate related vulnerability and risk assessments in an integrated area-based planning approach
- 40 green enterprises established
- 1422 farmers trained in and tested in climate change resilience building techniques and practices.

Impact:

The project interventions will help communities adapt to climate change and provide catalytical lessons to national, regional and local authorities on how to promote and facilitate autonomous adaptation to climate change at the community level across the country.

Practical trainings and demonstrations on the feasible adaptation technologies (such as beekeeping technologies and fuel efficient stove production) will help the development agents and targeted farmers to train in and experiment climate smart agricultural practices from land preparation to harvesting processes. They will also provide the district decision-makers, task team members and farmers expertise on how to use weather and climate information for climate change adaptation actions.



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