

## The Green Future Farming Programme Ethiopia

### The challenge

Degraded landscapes and poor watershed management in Ethiopia's Amhara and Oromia regions have resulted in significant soil erosion, water scarcity, and reduced agricultural productivity, undermining rural livelihoods and resilience to climate change. Many communities lack access to effective tools, training, and



Community participation in landscape restoration activities in Amhara, Ethiopia

participatory approaches necessary for sustainable land and water resource management. The Green Future Farming Programme (GFF) offers practical solutions regarding soil and water conservation techniques, participatory land-use planning, and capacity building, to improve agricultural productivity and landscape quality.

### Our approach

The Green Future Farming (GFF) program implemented an integrated approach to restore degraded landscapes and promote sustainable watershed management. Key interventions included soil and water conservation techniques like bunds, road water harvesting, and gully rehabilitation, alongside tree planting and vegetation restoration. Participatory land-use planning engaged communities in designing land management strategies, while coaching 41 cooperatives ensured active local involvement. Capacity building for 43 public sector experts equipped them with GIS tools and planning skills, promoting data-driven decision-making. By embedding practices within local institutions and promoting regenerative agriculture, the program boosted productivity, improved soil

health, and enhanced resilience for rural communities.

### The goal

The main aim of the GFF program was to improve the livelihoods of rural communities in Ethiopia's Amhara and Oromia regions, particularly those most affected by land degradation and climate change. Final beneficiaries include smallholder farmers, women, and youth who rely on agriculture for their income but face declining productivity due to soil erosion, water scarcity, and deteriorated ecosystems. The program's goals include rehabilitating degraded landscapes, enhancing soil and water conservation, and building climate resilience. By empowering local communities through participatory land-use planning, cooperative leadership, and capacity-building initiatives, the program sought to increase agricultural yields, restore natural resources, and support long-term sustainable development, ensuring a more secure and productive future for vulnerable rural populations.

Project name	The Green Future Farming Program
Project region	Ethiopia
Financed by	The IKEA Foundation
Implemented by	MetaMeta ( <i>Together with local partners: Bureaus of Agriculture of Oromia and Amhara</i> )
Duration	October 2019 – March 2024
Partners	Aidenvironment, Justdiggit

### Key highlights

#### ✓ Landscape Restoration

- Rehabilitated 595 hectares of degraded land in Amhara and Oromia regions.
- Conducted gully rehabilitation on 67.44 hectares using gabions, brushwood, and stones.
- Planted trees across 31.07 hectares and dug 10,500 pits in Jeju, supporting reforestation.

#### ✓ Soil and Water Conservation:

- Implemented bunds, road water harvesting, and micro-basins to enhance water retention and reduce erosion.

- ✓ **Community Engagement:**
  - Supported 41 local cooperatives in participatory watershed management.
  - Conducted workshops to integrate local knowledge into land-use planning.
- ✓ **Capacity Building:**
  - Trained 43 public sector experts in GIS tools for watershed planning.
  - Enhanced skills in forestry, water resources, agriculture, and livestock.

### Examples of our success

#### Promotion of Improved Onion variety production with integrated synthetic and liquid biofertilizer at Huruta Dore.

Onion, a vital crop in Huruta Dore kebele, Jeju woreda, is primarily cultivated using local varieties due to limited access to improved seeds. Seed supply is hindered by insufficient multiplication systems and high costs, leaving farmers with low-quality, disease-prone seeds. Additionally, synthetic fertilizers are increasingly unaffordable, prompting the exploration of alternatives like liquid biofertilizer.



*Farmer Gemechu Negash, recipient of improved onion seeds and training on biofertilizer preparation, from Huruta Dore Kebele*

Through the GFF Programme, farmers learned to prepare bio-fertilizer and received improved onion seeds (Nafis and Nasik). Trials showed combining synthetic and bio-fertilizer significantly improved onion yield, achieving a 60% increase over local varieties. This success highlights the potential of integrated approaches in increasing farming productivity for smallholders.

### Voices from the field

*"In many ways, these initiatives have benefitted our rural community, particularly women and youth. These practices are critical for increasing productivity and rural incomes and strengthening and diversifying the rural economy. The Oromia Bureau of Agriculture is ready to scale up the programme's best practices at the kebele, woreda, zonal, and regional levels by sharing the lessons learned through documentation, workshops, and more"*

Tena Gobena, Senior Natural Resources Expert,  
Oromia Bureau of Agriculture

### Impact story



*Demonstration of homemade liquid biofertilizers utilization at Deneb-Gudo kebele of Jeju woreda*

Since its inception in 2020, the GFF has made significant strides in promoting liquid biofertilizer adoption among local farmers. Through workshops, field demonstrations, and capacity-building, the project has equipped farmers with the skills needed to harness the full potential of liquid fertilizer. In the Arsi Zone, the project has trained over 139 experts in soil fertility and agronomy, development agents, and model farmers, who have subsequently reached out to over 3,315 farmers in the project implementation woredas and 2,738 farmers indirectly in the neighboring woredas. Of these farmers, the majority have adopted liquid fertilizer for at least two consecutive farming seasons, attesting to the tangible benefits and effectiveness of this approach.