



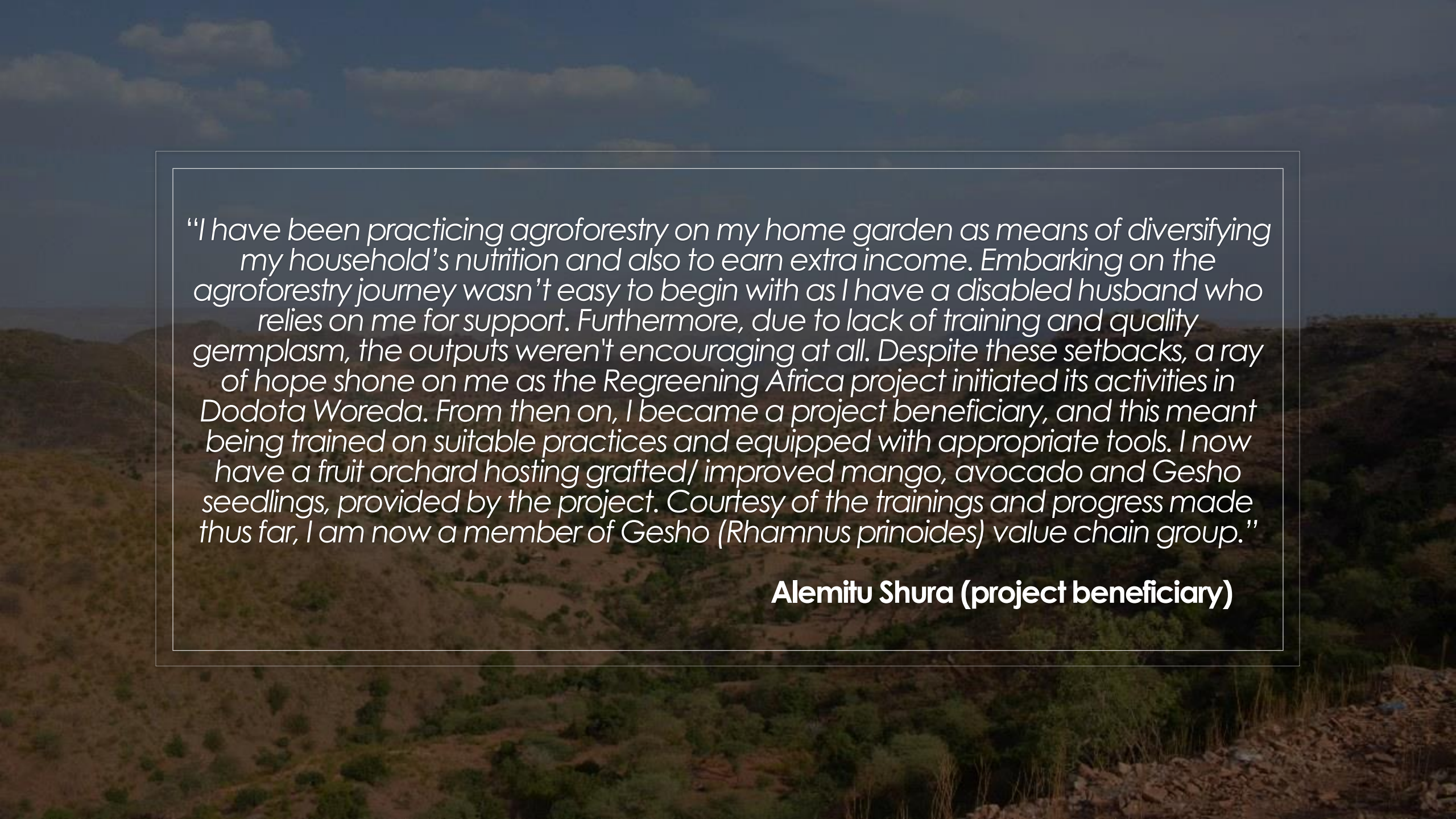
REGREENING ETHIOPIA NEWS

Strengthening capacities of
stakeholders to restore
degraded landscapes and
improve resilience.



Funded by European Union





*"I have been practicing agroforestry on my home garden as means of diversifying my household's nutrition and also to earn extra income. Embarking on the agroforestry journey wasn't easy to begin with as I have a disabled husband who relies on me for support. Furthermore, due to lack of training and quality germplasm, the outputs weren't encouraging at all. Despite these setbacks, a ray of hope shone on me as the Regreening Africa project initiated its activities in Dodota Woreda. From then on, I became a project beneficiary, and this meant being trained on suitable practices and equipped with appropriate tools. I now have a fruit orchard hosting grafted/ improved mango, avocado and Gesho seedlings, provided by the project. Courtesy of the trainings and progress made thus far, I am now a member of Gesho (*Rhamnus prinoides*) value chain group."*

Alemitu Shura (project beneficiary)



CONTENTS

Briefs from project managers	5 & 6
Key activities implemented by CRS	7
Key activities implemented by WVE	7
Voices from the field	10
Key activities ICRAF has supported	11
In the news	14
Gallery	15

ABBREVIATIONS

AP	Area Program	JRLM	Joint Reflection and Learning Mission
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations	MoALR	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
DA	Development Agents	RRCs	Rural Resource Centres
ECC-SDCBOM	Ethiopian Catholic Church-Social and Development Commission Branch Office of Meki	SILC	Saving and Internal Lending Community
ECC-SDCOAd	Ethiopian Catholic Church-Social and development Commission of Adigrat Branch	SWC	Soil and Water Conservation
EU	European Union	ToT	Trainer of Trainers
FMNR	Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration	VCD	Value Chain Development
ICRAF	World Agroforestry	VF	Volunteer Farmers
		VFTs	Volunteer Farmer Trainers
		WVE	World Vision Ethiopia

Briefs from project managers



Malefia Tadele

Catholic Relief Services Project Manager

Implementation of activities in project intervention sites intensified in May and July 2019 after delay in implementation due to contractual challenges. However, amicable agreements were reached upon between CRS, WVE and other implementing partners such as ECC-SDCO Adigrat, Mekele sub-branch and ECC-SDCBOM-Meki. Trainings on Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), agroforestry, land restoration and tree nursery management have equipped Trainer of Trainers and Volunteer Farmer Trainers with the relevant skills and knowledge on these practices. Furthermore, tools and tree seedlings were also distributed to selected nurseries to improve the quality and quantity of tree seedlings. These initiatives have spearheaded Regreening activities further. New FMNR and value chain groups were established and have stirred up frequency of exchange visits between Woredas. Furthermore, more than 1.5 million indigenous and commercial/high value tree seedlings were produced in the nursery and currently being distributed for planting.

At the onset of the main rainy season in June, implementing partners kicked off a tree planting exercise in all Woredas in collaboration with the district offices. This was in support of the governments' campaign to plant 200 million seedlings in a single day and also presented an opportunity to achieve regreening targets and intensify project initiatives already underway.

Briefs from project managers cont.



Asfaw Mariame

World Vision Project Manager

The project follows three approaches: scaling-up best practices, intensification of proven techniques such as FMNR, and leveraging with other stakeholders to influence and improve their current programs/ projects. In collaboration with CRS, local partners and regional bureaus, activities are being implemented in six Woredas in Tigray and Amhara in the Northern region, Oromia in Central Region, South Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR).

The projects' ambitious target is to regreen 100,000 hectares of land in these and in return, directly benefit 60,000 households. This posed a challenge at the onset of implementation as the allocated budget couldn't match the task ahead. Despite this, the continued commitment amongst WVE, CRS and other stakeholders will ensure that all targets are met.

Activities implemented by CRS

Although farmers in Enderta, Hintalo Wajirat and Degua Tembien Woredas in Tigray Region were already familiar with FMNR and tree planting, they lacked knowledge on suitable techniques and appropriate tools to manage the trees. The Ethiopian Catholic Church–Social and development Commission of Adigrat (ECC-SDCOA)-Mekele sub-branch, under guidance from CRS organized trainings for trainer of trainers, volunteer farmer trainers, development agents, Woreda sector office experts, local non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and tree nursery service providers. 90 people including 76 men and 14 women from Enderta, Hintalo Wajirat and Degua Tembien Districts in Tigray Region participated in the training.

Nursery operators in select government and community nurseries received appropriate tools and quality tree seeds. As a result, there was a rise in the number of experience-sharing visits and community sensitization and mobilization sessions between the Woredas. These translated strengthened groups that were already in existence and new one's establishment with a focus on FMNR and area enclosures.



*Seedling production in Sire Woreda.
Photo: Malefia Tadele*

Following the training, farmers started managing naturally regenerated trees on their farms, farm boundaries and homesteads. Various tree species seedlings were also raised at selected nurseries and planted in communal areas, farm boundaries and as woodlots around homesteads and on farmers' fields. Moreover, high value fruit and Gesho (*Rhamnus prinoides*) seedlings were distributed to households with access to water, and some farmers have set-up fruit orchards on their home gardens.

Furthermore, participation in annual government-led soil and water conservation campaigns, Saving and Internal Lending community group meetings and government-initiated tree planting campaigns contributed greatly to these achievements. CRS partners (ECC-SDCO-Adigrat and Mekele Branch) participated in workshops, awareness raising events in schools and trainings organized by sister projects in their organization such as "Strengthening resilience for sustainable food and nutrition security program" in Hawzen district, Climate change project in Degua Tembien and Enderta Woreda.

Videos on two best practice sites were presented to FMNR groups, volunteer farmer trainers, development agents and lead farmers in Sire, Dodota, Gantaafeshum, Enderta, Degua Tembien to encourage them to adopt greening practices. A radio program on greening best practices aired on Dimtsi Weyane radio, in Tigray region.



*FMNR on farmland in Dodota Woreda.
Photo: Ababu Yirga*

Activities implemented by WVE

World Vision Ethiopia has been working with European Union and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) country office delegates, Ministry of Agriculture, Catholic Relief Services, community-based organizations and the local government to make the Regreening Africa Project successful in reversing land degradation. This meant collective effort from the word go amongst all partners and enactment of conducive policy frameworks and platforms, to contribute to attainment of the envisioned goal, such as the Agroforestry Platform.

Some of the achievements thus far include:

1. Selection of volunteer farmer trainer's selection, training and experience sharing to enable the transfer of regreening technology targeted communities; development agents, government experts working at grassroots and Woreda level to support project implementation among communities.
2. Videos on best practices produced and presented to stakeholders at fora so that benefits of regreening are clearly understood by the user groups.
3. Private tree nurseries established, and operators trained. Both private and government nurseries supported with tools and tree seeds to produce quality planting materials for agroforestry and enrichment planting.
4. Seedlings of different tree species based on the identified needs of the communities planted and with some still being planted.
5. Tree-based value chain enterprise plan developed on identified products from each site and sent to ICRAF technical teams for review. The leveraging concept was shared with Woreda and zone agriculture and natural resource office where a productive safety net program is assumed to buy into the approach and implement regreening activities. A workshop has been organised by WVE staff for zonal and Woreda level officials, to discuss this further and put into practice.



*Communal land identified and moisture harvesting structures constructed to support regeneration.
Photo: Asfaw Mariame*

Activities implemented by WVE cont.

6. WVE staff and communities where the project is implementing activities, were sensitized and participated in Ethiopia's Green Legacy Day where the government committed to plant 200 million tree seedlings in one day. Through World Vision Ethiopia, 30,000 seedlings were planted. All World Vision Ethiopia staff were roped in to participate in tree planting in their respective programme areas. The National office team also planted seedlings with the field team in two area programmes advocating for the Regreening Africa project leading the process to reverse land degradation.
7. The project was staffed with qualified professionals and field staff, regional coordinator and area programme managers oriented into the Regreening Africa project. This increased commitment and accountability for the project implementation.



*Tree seedling production to support enrichment planting and agroforestry practices.
Photo: Asfaw*

8. Participatory community action planning where problems were analysed and prioritized, and consensus reached on regreening degraded landscapes. This created synergy among partners for accountability and commitment to make the project achieve planned targets.
9. Radio broadcasts in three local languages, Amharic, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna, advocating for regreening increased knowledge on regreening knowledge and scaling out. The radio messages transmitted are estimated to have reached over 10 million people, increased collaboration and encouraged people for tree planting.
10. Project implementation sites, communal land (sub-catchment) for FMNR and farmland for agroforestry practices were identified by the community by technical support from development agents.
11. T-shirts for visibility purchased and distributed to stakeholders to advocate for regreening. Signboards indicating sites of intervention were also erected and field guidelines prepared for training of volunteer farmer trainers. The team has also produced and distributed leaflets and posters.



ADEM HUSSEIN
(lead farmer)

"I was keen to work as a volunteer farmer trainer for the Regreening Africa project since activities commenced in Sire Woreda. After I took part in an FMNR training organized by ECC-SDCBOM, Dera branch office, I immediately started protecting and managing naturally regenerated trees in my 2.5-hectare farm. I am now on the frontline passing on the knowledge I acquired, to as many farmers as I can. My position as leader of Dire Kiltu Kebele, gives me great platform to mobilize communities and spread the message of the benefits of trees. As a result of this, an FMNR group known as Magarisa was established, and I am its leader. Hopefully both the Kebele and Woreda will be completely transformed by 2022, as the Project completes its lifespan. Even beyond that time, we shall carry on the legacy."

Key activities ICRAF has supported

Support from ICRAF team and World Vision Australia with close monitoring and guidance and technical support from Catholic Relief Services and World Vision Ethiopia national office to field staff made the pathway clear and transparent at all levels and contributed highly to the achievement of the project. On the other hand, back and forth with project design and agreements signing with four regions, partners' awareness creation and capacity building to creating sense of ownership took more time than expected and contributed to the delay in commencement of implementation.

Security problems in Chilga, one of the project sites, hindered project implementation for over six months, affecting planned results for World Vision Ethiopia. With partners, the project mobilized 37,592 community members to manage the greening of 10,593 hectares of degraded land, on both communal and private lands. 867,309 seedlings of different species were introduced for enrichment planting in degraded communal land, and 50,283 fruit tree seedlings in agroforestry practices. In total, 91,2593 tree seedlings were planted and are under management in all sites.



*Nursery management demonstration Dera nursery, Ethiopia.
Photo: Asfaw*

This is great success for a new project, and we are sure that more will be done in the coming project period. ICRAF team led by the project manager Dr. Susan Chomba is playing great role in making project work better and move towards the envisaged goal. This has been demonstrated through:

1. Baseline survey assessment and value chain scoping surveys in sample Woreda's
2. SHARED workshops which enabled us to identify key stakeholders that would influence the implementation process
3. Joint Reflective and Learning Mission where different issues were discussed, and guidelines given on the suitable next steps
4. Generic innovation model, outcome mapping, tracking tools and leveraging approach produced and shared
5. Review of biannual reports, plans and budgets for proper reporting and planning for future activities
6. Building decision support dashboards where analysed data is integrated and visualized in a manner suitable for diverse audiences



*Reflection and learning meeting with ICRAF team.
Photo: Asfaw Mariame*

7. Value-chain development training with focus on tree-based value chains

This is a key component of the Regreening Africa project. However, the capacity of project staff on value chain development was limited and project staff frequently requested for training. Therefore, Catholic Relief Services and World Vision Ethiopia, with the support of ICRAF value chain specialists organized a two-day training on value chain development to build capacity and share knowledge with the technical implementing team.

22 experts from Catholic Relief Services, World Vision Ethiopia, ECC-SDCBOM, ECC-SDCOAd Adigrat and Mekele participated in the training. The training mainly focused on value chain development and marketing concepts, key areas of enterprise development and development of business plans for prioritized value chains. Results on the value chain scoping studies and opportunities for value chain development by the regreening project and next steps were discussed. Staff were also trained on the concept and approach of Rural Resource Centres as a business model. The training was a success and a common understanding was reached on the prioritized value chains and project staff are currently working on an enterprise development plan for the same.



Value chain Training for project staff at Eliana Hotel, Addis Ababa. Photo: Malefia Tadele

8. Annual project review and planning workshop

Following the value chain training, an annual project review and planning workshop took place from 12-14 June 2019 at Eliana hotel with 22 participants drawn from Catholic Relief Services, WVE, ECC- SDCO Adigrat, Mekele subbranch and Meki. The major discussion points were overview of annual project progress, achievements and implementation challenges by partners and presentation on revised leveraged adoption principles and local level scaling model. Year three annual plan and budget was prepared and reviewed as well.



Annual review and planning workshop. Photos: Ababu Yirga

A photograph of two women in Ethiopia, wearing traditional headwraps and patterned clothing, kneeling on the ground and planting small green tree seedlings. The background shows a dry, brushy landscape.

Ethiopia in the news: Tree planting campaign

In a nation-wide campaign to plant 200 million tree seedlings in one day, the Regreening Africa project led the tree planting initiative in all Catholic Relief Services and World Vision Ethiopia project implementation sites. The project staff in Addis Ababa also took part in the event.

More than 350 million seedlings were planted in a single day across the country as part of the campaign to create green landscapes and fight climate crisis. The campaign was a good opportunity for the project to create awareness and achieve its targets through tree-planting.

The project featured on DW TV in Tigrigna and some of the footage can be viewed here (<http://www.dmtsiweyane.com/>).

Gallery



Moisture retention structure for greening in dry and degraded areas of Asgedetsimbela site, Woreda/ region.
Photo: Asfaw Mariame



Agroforestry practice introduced by WVE APs, Leliso said, "I sometimes enjoy the apple but most of it is for sale" Hula, Woreda/ region. Photo: Asfaw Mariame



Tree seedlings being transported to a planting site on camels' back. Photo: Habtamu Regasa



Copies reduction demonstration to VFTs, Jeju, Ethiopia.
Photo: Habtamu Regasa



FMNR tree management demonstration, Jeju project site.
Photo: Samuel Admasu



Mango seedlings ready for planting, Ambasel, region/
Woreda. Photo: Habtamu Regasa



FMNR in Degua Tembien and Hintalo Wajirat, Tigray. Photo: Michael Tesfaye



Grafted, Mango, Avocado and Apple seedlings distribution to beneficiaries. Photo: Michael Tesfaye



*Tree planting campaign across the country.
Photos: Ababu Yirga*



Joint Monitoring visit with government staff in Sire woreda. Photo: Ababu Yirga



Tree planting campaign in Dodota, Oromia. Photo: Bisrat Tesfaye



Tree planting campaign in Dodota, Oromia. Photo: Bisrat Tesfaye



CRS Tree planting campaign at Entoto. Photo: Ababu Yirga





CONTACT US

RegreeningAfrica@cgiar.org

<https://www.regreeningafrica.org/where-we-work/ethiopia/>



@RegreenAfrica

|



@Regreen Africa

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Regreening Africa and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.