REGREENING AFRICA

Inclusive and Evidence-Based Approaches to Accelerating Land Restoration in Ethiopia

**STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP OCTOBER 4TH - 5TH, 2022
ILRI CAMPUS, ADDIS ABABA**

Contents

Acronyms

ANR	Assisted Natural Regeneration
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
ECC-SDCBOM	Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission Branch office of Meki
ECC-SDCOAdB	Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Coordinating Office of Adigrat
EFD	Environment for Development
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
ICRAF	The International Council for Research in Agroforestry
LRP	Land Resources Planning
LUP	Land Use Planning
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Forestry
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
NOCC	National Oversight Coordination Committee Meeting
NWAMP	The National Watershed and Agroforestry Multi-Stakeholders' Platform
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Rorest Degradation
RRCs	Rural Resource Centers
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHARED	Stakeholder Approach to Risk-informed and Evidence-based Decision-making
SNPRS	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region
SWC	Soil and Water Conservation
VFTs	Volunteer Farmer Trainers
WVE	World Vision Ethiopia

Regreening Africa

Workshop Overview

Regreening Africa held a 1.5 day Stakeholder Approach to Risk-informed and Evidence-based Decision-making (SHARED) workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from October 4-5, 2022.

This workshop brought together a wide range of stakeholders and partners across local, national, and regional scales to showcase the evidence and achievements of the European Union funded Regreening Africa program in Ethiopia. Additionally, existing and future programs, strategies, policies, and resources regarding sustaining and expanding restoration efforts were identified and discussed.

Workshop Objectives

1 Showcase the successes to date of Regreening Africa

2 Highlight the ongoing efforts of Regreening Africa

3 Plan for future programming of the project over the next 5-10 years

Participants

?? Attendees

?? Women ?? Men

? farmers

?? EU and government

?? partners and NGOs

Regreening Africa

Background and Key Lessons to the Regreening Africa Programme

Regreening Africa is a 5 year program (September 2017 – January 2023) funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium of international NGOs, including Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as the country lead and World Vision Ethiopia (WVE), as implementing partners to The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

In Africa over 65% of agricultural land is degraded and land degradation is affecting 3.2 billion people globally. In response, Regreening Africa works to restore degraded lands and increase resilience across the continent. The program is implemented in 8 countries (Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, Senegal, Mali & Niger).
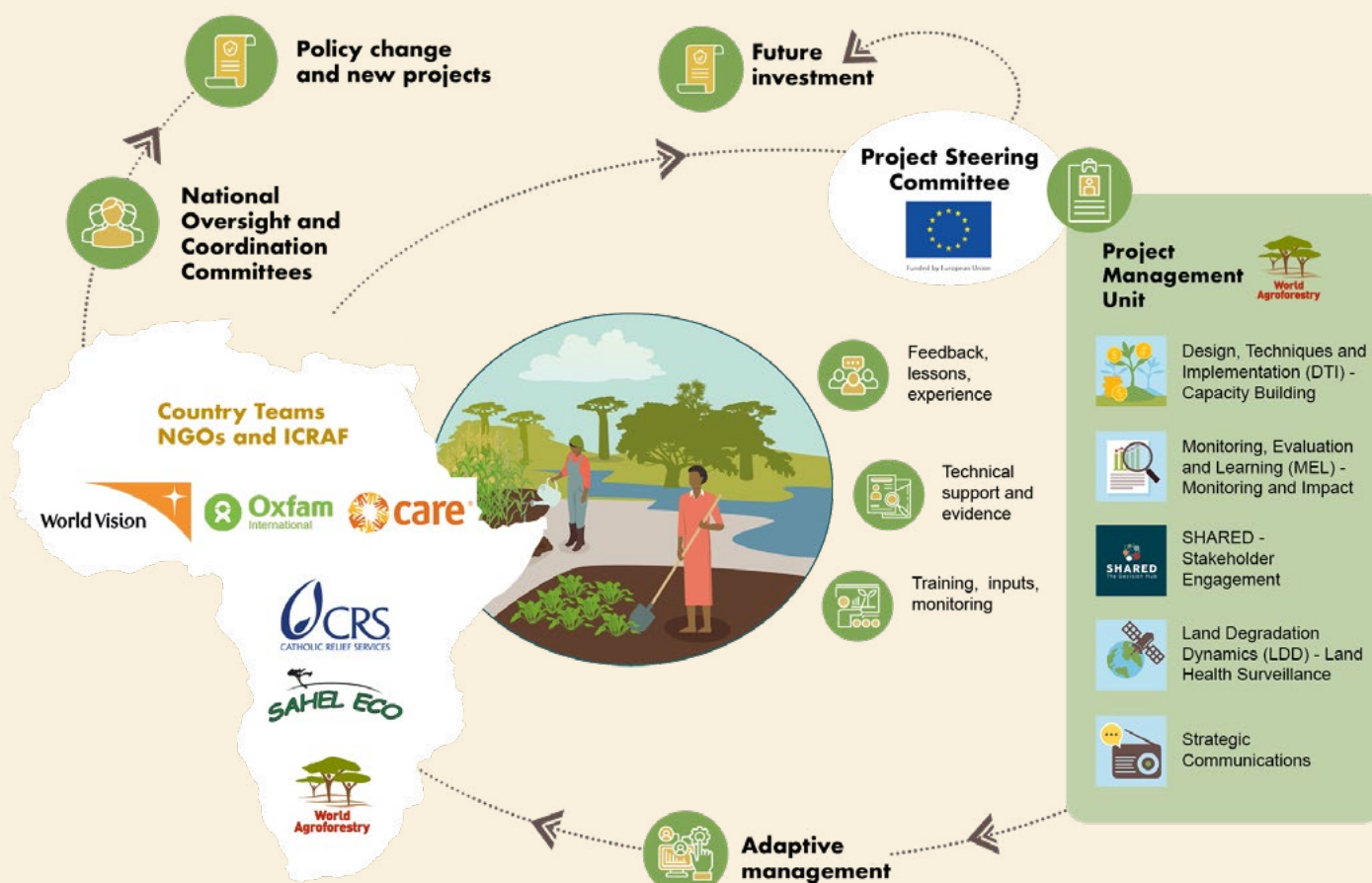
The programme seeks to restore

1 million hectares reaching

500,000 households

through the integration of trees into agroforestry landscapes, strengthening livelihoods, and influencing policy

As of September 2022, Regreening Africa has reached 401,209 households and 665, 924 hectares.

LESSON 1

Practices are varied and must match local context – if it doesn't work for the local community, we won't have adoption. Nurseries, tree growing and grafting and direct seeding. It's not so much how many we plant, but how many are still there and how diverse they are.

Regreening Africa Programme Manager Mieke Bourne presents a summary of the key lessons

Nurseries
(Including indigenous trees)

Farmer managed natural regeneration, assisted natural regeneration
(Big return on investment)

Tree growing Grafting Direct seeding

Niger
soil & water conservation

Ethiopia
exclosures

Regreening Africa
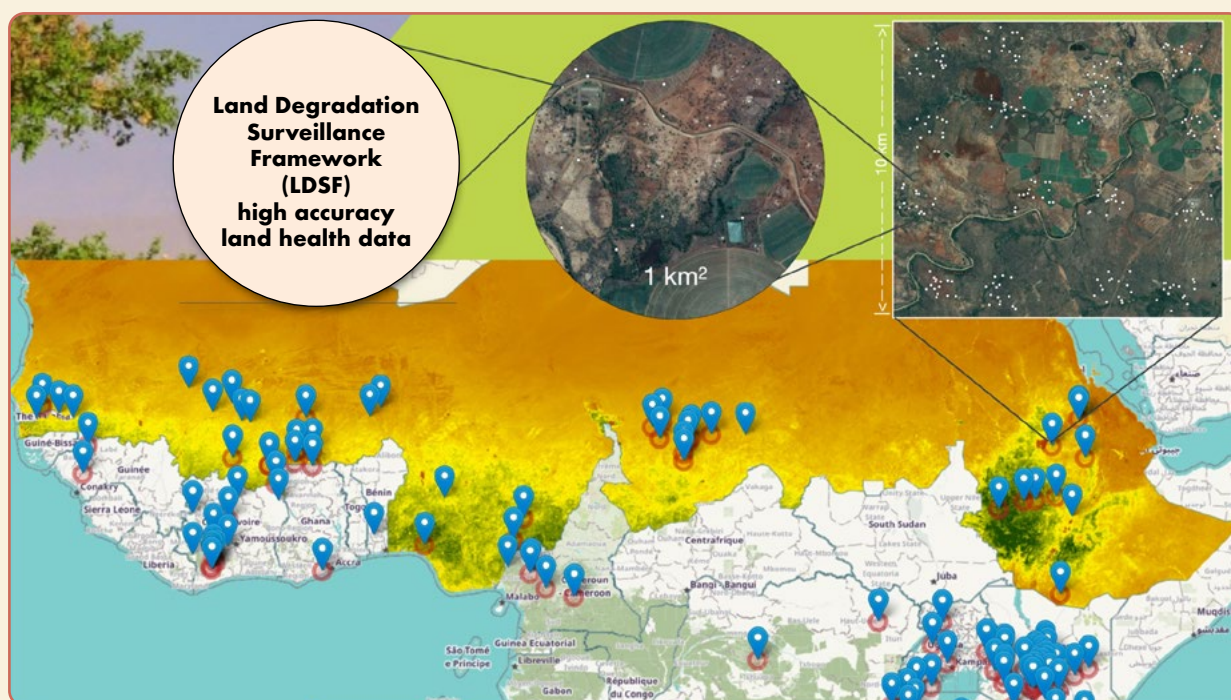
Figure 2: Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF)
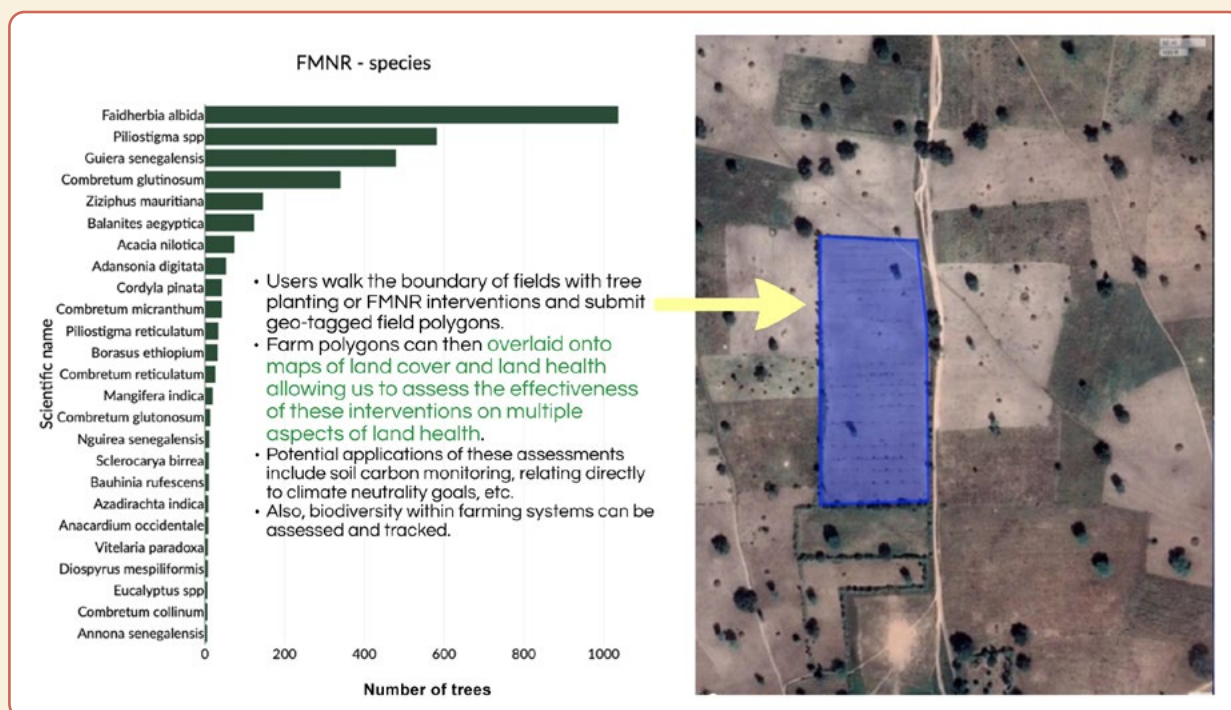
Figure 3: FMNR species

LESSON 2

Data should be accessible and available for adaptive management. Joint Reflective Learning Missions (JRLM) have strengthened the partnership between research, implementation, and community.

Field visits 2-4 days

JRLM design

Virtual

Field trip summary

Structured reflection workshop

Virtual reflection workshop
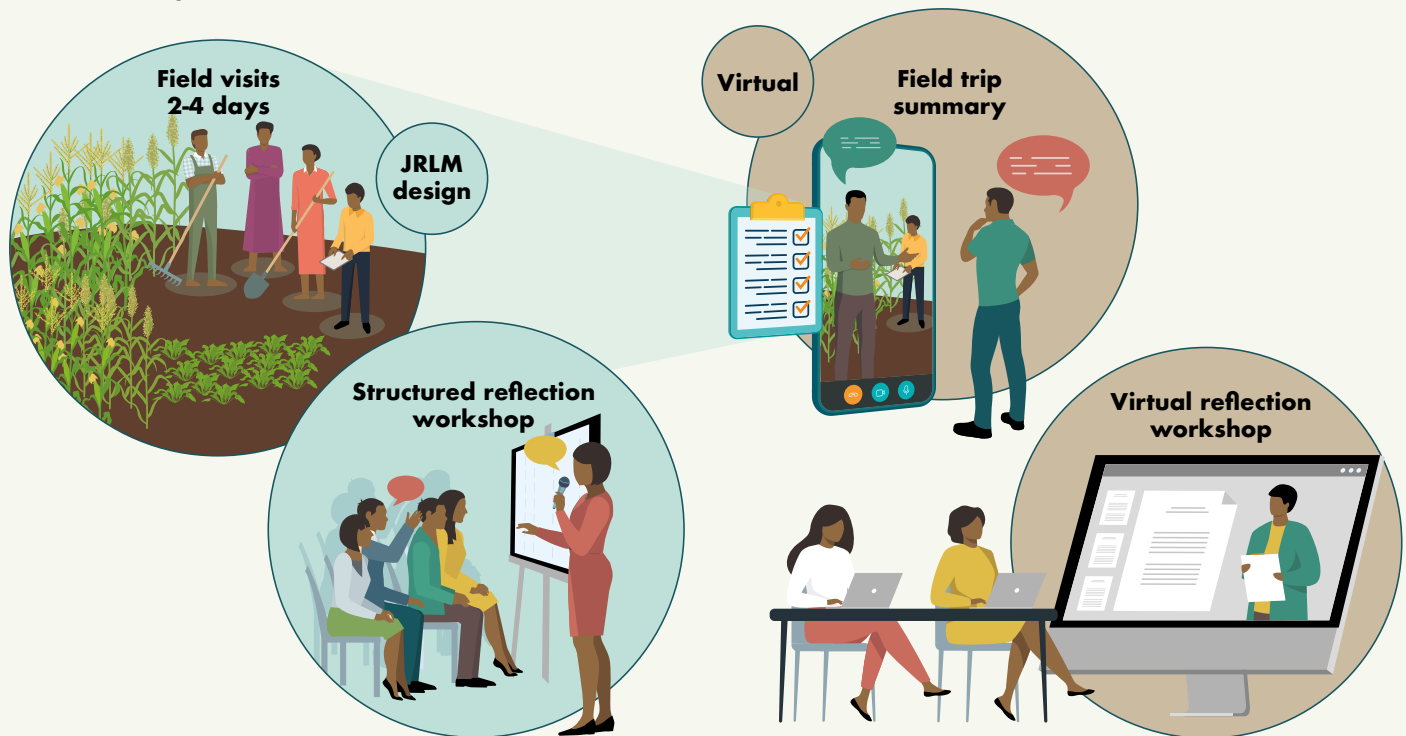
LESSON 3

Partnerships and inclusion – lessons to be learned across the organization on including and empowering youth and women.

Photo: Workshop participants in Ethiopia

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Lessons from

Regreening Africa

1 Match practices to context

2 Drivers and incentives

3 Monitor

4 Data based decisions and adaptation

5 Partnerships and inclusion

Restoration has to be incentivized, because it's the farmers whom we're relying on for it to succeed

Mieke Bourne

Regreening Africa

Workshop Opening

> **Welcome to all participants, and we have a wide range of stakeholders that have been invited to this workshop, from government, donors, farmers, NGOs, private sector, researchers, and academia."**
>
> Dr. Endalkachew Woldemeskal (ICRAF, Ethiopia)

Ato Kebede, General Director, Ethiopian Forest Development, gave a formal opening in which he highlighted the environmental challenges faced by Ethiopia and the successes in land restoration that have occurred as a result of Regreening Africa and National Government initiatives.

While Ethiopia is endowed with immense natural resources that support the livelihoods of society and contribute to national economic growth, these resources have been degrading over time due to various anthropogenic and natural factors, posing a threat to the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. Deforestation, forest degradation, biodiversity loss, sedimentation of water bodies and reservoirs, soil erosion, decline of soil fertility, flooding, and landslides all pose environmental and economic challenges - and all of which are amplified by climate change.

In addition to its strong collaboration with and contribution to the Regreening Africa Program, Ethiopia has:

- Pledged to the Bonn Challenge and New York Declaration and set ambitious targets of 22 million hectares of degraded lands and forests to be restored by 2030.

- Prepared the following related policy and legal frameworks, all of which contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national regreening strategies:

  - 10 year National Forest Sector Development plan

  - National REDD+ Strategy

  - National Restoration Mapping

  - 10 year Bamboo Strategy and Action Plan

Regreening Africa's Operations in Ethiopia

Aims, Objectives, and Goals

- Accelerate the scaling up of regreening practices, such as farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) and tree planting.
- Restore/rehabilitate degraded lands through increased vegetation cover and reduced soil erosion.
- Increase the resilience of smallholder farmers by restoring ecosystem services, enhanced food security, diversifying livelihoods, and changing farming practices/systems.

Program Regions & Districts/Woredas

- Tigray - for years 1-3 only (Degua Tembien, Enderta, Hintalo Wajirat, Gulomekada, Ganta Hafeshum, Seasie Tseadamba, Irob, Hawzen).
- Oromia (Sire, Dodota, Jeju, Ziway Dugda, Negele Arsi, Shala).
- Amhara (Ambassel).
- SNNPR (Shashogo).
- Sidama (Hula).

The program's coverage is 23 districts/woredas - direct expansion of scale has been conducted in 14 woredas and the leveraging of practices in 9.

Program Consortium Members

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) - Lead.
- World Vision Ethiopia (WVE).
- Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Coordinating Branch Office of Meki (ECC-SDCBOM).
- Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Coordinating Office of Adigrat (ECC-SDCOAdB).
- Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Coordinating Office of (ECC-SDCOAdB) – Mekele branch.
- ICRAF country Office.

PROGRAM TARGETS AND RESTORATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Regreening Africa's target for Ethiopia was to regreen **200,000 HA** of degraded land by reaching out to **120,000 HOUSEHOLDS**.

Over the years of this program, a total of **217,056 HA** has been put under restoration by reaching **156,206 HOUSEHOLDS**.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Key Messages

- The most effective regreening practice has been Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), which has been effective at the farm level and well scaled. Key reasons for the scaling success are that farmers and government supporters clearly understood the practice. The Rural Resource Centers (RRCs) and home garden agroforestry approaches are more contextually relevant in specific locations.

- Diversification of approaches to addressing land restoration is key.

- Land restoration cannot be successful at scale without integrating livelihood activities with immediate benefit for farmers and landowners. Value chains and livelihood opportunities need to be scaled up in future projects and initiatives.

- School clubs and the volunteer farmer trainer approach allowed for localized approaches to be scaled and coordinated at the grassroots level.

- The program has been community owned. To firmly embed the sustainability of the program's initiatives, there needs to be additional support within the woredas towards sustainability planning and implementation.

- The program had an immense impact and achievement, with large targets to achieve within comparatively low budgets.

- The program worked across scales from the community to the federal level.

Key Lessons and Insights

- Practices must adapt to local context.

- Integrating incentives and income generating activities motivates beneficiaries to actively engage in land restoration.

- An enabling environment is required to address drivers of degradation.

- Data should be accessible and available for adaptive management

- Science, evidence, and monitoring must be brought to the global agenda

- To reach restoration goals, strong partnerships and teamwork with all stakeholders is essential.

- Introduction of Volunteer Farmer Trainers (VFTs) approach assisted to spread regreening practices throughout communities and reached more farmers with minimum cost.

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Key Factors for Success

- Effective initial planning.
- Government engagement and relationship building.
- Integration with the sectors and synergies with other government initiatives.
- Indigenous knowledge and working with woreda level experts.
- NOCC follow up.

Key Challenges

- Uncontrolled grazing affected seedling survival rate and hindered natural regeneration.
- High prices of grafted fruit seedlings.
- Farmers' concerns on the shading effects of trees on crops.
- Lack of awareness and technical skills on tree management practices in exclosures.
- Drought.
- Conflict in Tigray Region and security problems in Oromia.
- Covid-19 pandemic.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Local Level Implementation Strategy

- Awareness creation, community mobilization, and capacity building of targeted communities (woreda experts, DAs, community groups, and local institutions).
- Farmers' field days and experience sharing visits to facilitate farmer-to-farmer extension and learning.
- Training VFTs as extension agents to intensify adoption.
- Establishment of school regreening clubs to create awareness and involve youth in the regreening movement.
- Supporting nurseries and RRCs.
- Identification, documentation, and dissemination of regreening best practices via tv, radio, and posters.
- The program worked across scales from the community to the federal level.

National and Regional Level Implementation Strategy

Communicate the local level regreening successes and lessons to stakeholders at national level, including policy makers and government offices through:

- Joint Reflection and Learning Missions (JRLM).
- Bi-annual National Oversight Coordination Committee Meetings (NOCC).
- Workshops and forums.
- Participation in existing relevant platforms and networks.

Exclosures

Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) and Enrichment Planting with Water Harvesting Structures

Impacts of this include:

Areas protected from destructive human and livestock activities to restore. Some activities, such as grass collection and beekeeping, may be allowed.

Exclosures are supported with soil and water conservation, assisted natural regeneration, and enrichment planting.

Part of the area before enclosure

A year and a half after enclosure

KEY SUCCESSFUL REGREENING PRACTICES

Context specific restoration practices were prioritized based on ecological and socio-economic factors:

Communication and Visibility

Impacts of this include:

- Leaflets, posters, brochures, and newsletters were produced and disseminated.
- FMNR manuals and guidelines were developed in local languages and distributed.
- Radio programs on regreening practices and success were broadcasted in local languages.
- A documentary video was produced and disseminated on regreening best practices, using regional television channels.

Farmer Managed Natural regeneration (FMNR)

FMNR is the systematic regeneration of trees from tree stumps, seeds, and roots. It was prioritized for farmlands and area enclosures. It is a simple, low-cost, sustainable land restoration technique that communities can use to:

- Restore land cover
- Increase ecological and crop productivity
- Build resilience to climate change

Additional benefits of FMNR include:

- Flood reduction
- Increased access to fruits, fertilizers, forge, fodder, and fuel - consequently, less time is spent by women collecting firewood.

Home Garden Agroforestry

Fruit Orchards and Boundary Planting

Impacts of this include:

More than 200,000 high value fruit seedlings have been distributed as a result of the program.

- Common useful tree crop species include: papaya, mango, orange, avocado, apple, lemon, moringa, coffee, and banana.

Rural Resource Center (RRCs)

Impacts of this include:

- 16 RRCs groups with 333 members were established.
- Practical training on fruit grafting and tree management was provided by the Melkasa agricultural research center.
- RRCs served as a learning hub for farmers.
- Communities were able to access quality grafted fruits at a nearby distance at a fair price.

Tree-based Value Chains

Tree-based value chains include beekeeping, woodlot, timber, fruit, gesho, and bamboo

Impacts of this include:

22 Honey producer groups with 1,499 members were established and more than 150,000 birr was generated by selling honey.

Four bamboo furniture produzcer groups were established in Hula and bamboo producers generated 158,000 birr.

Tree planting

Tree planting is practiced in woodlots and farmlands for the production of timber, fuelwood, fodder and fencing materials

Impacts of this include:

Regreening Africa has supported the Green Legacy Initiative and government annual tree planting campaigns by:

- The provision of quality tree seeds and nursery tools.
- Training nursery operators management best practices.
- Facilitating and providing technical guidance during plantings.
- Over 25 million tree seedlings raised and planted with the support of the program.

Nurseries

Strengthening the Capacity of Tree Nurseries to Enhance the Quality of Planting Materials

Impacts of this include:

- 22 government tree nurseries were supported
- 1,206 private nurseries, 6 school nurseries, 34 group/community nurseries were established
- Nursery operators were provided technical training on quality seedling production
- Quality and quantity of seedlings increased
- In year five, 13,516,963 various tree seedlings were raised and planted plantings.
- Over 25 million tree seedlings raised and planted with the support of the program.

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Interactive Session on Evidence and Experience

An interactive and participatory gallery walk on program evidence and experience was facilitated by subject matter specialists, covering the following the key thematic areas:

COMMUNITY VOICES
From the field

> I am very happy to establish the homestead garden. When I started to plant the seedlings, I did not expect good production. But this time, I have been producing fresh fruits for home consumption and selling in the market. Moreover, when I sold the fruits it has covered my home expenses that assisted me to save my household assets from being sold."

Mrs. Mamitu Kumbi, a female farmer who received fruit seedlings from the project in Alelu Gesela kebele of Sire district

> FMNR has ensured equal benefits for men and women."

Ato Tsegay G Tekle from Enderta woreda

> Previously, my neighbors and I presumed that trees on farm, especially where crops exist, will take up all the minerals thus reducing productivity of our source of food. I am glad we were proven wrong as this notion is not true at all. My family is now assured of nutritional nourishment through the fruits, something I never envisioned as money was scarce to afford this luxury."

Alemtsahay Gebrehiwet, Farmer, Medebay Zana District, Tigray Region

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Participants from the community attending the workshop explained their experiences and challenges with respect to their community:

"Previously I used to grow only tree seedlings. After the support of the project [Regreening Africa] I grew fruits (Mango) and sold 180 of them last year at price (80 birr) each. This year I managed to sell 960,000 birr from fruit seedlings. Currently I have left 30,000 in the nursery to sustain. Regreening has supported us and supported the community".

The project is teaching us about FMNR practices to restore degraded land. Because of the training on FMNR we cascaded the training to other fellow farmers that are managing trees. FMNR is largely accepted by the community in our area. I also would like to ask the project to continue its support to reach more."

The Government is supporting the initiatives, there is a watershed committee and bylaws have also been developed."

Additionally, "Fruits that were not known before are now distributed."

The Community is now accepting the regreening efforts. This is an important development."

Question?

How many seedlings have you sold to the communities?

- "The number of fruits (Mango) we sold to the community last year was 1500 with a price of 30 and this year 2000 with price of 50. This year we also included coffee in addition to fruits."

You mentioned that farmers are converting chat plots for fruit production. How did you manage to convince those farmers?

- "We demonstrated the production from a plot of land of the same size and compared the value obtained from both chat and fruits. We try to convince the farmers that when a small plot of land can yield a considerable product, if it is extended to a large area, then it has more value when planting fruits, with that understanding the farmers accept."

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KEY INTERVENTIONS

The program has created community awareness of FMNR and tree planting, organized restoration site delineation and bylaw development and management, and added value in nurseries to grow demand driven seedlings.

FMNR contains three primary steps

STEP 1: Select What Stumps to Regenerate

STEP 2: Prune

STEP 3: Follow Up

Fodder production by FMNR is particularly important in Ethiopia as the main challenge of landscape restoration in the country is livestock roaming, free grazing, overgrazing. Therefore, any landscape restoration attempt must take fodder into consideration. Planting fodder trees for stall feeding will form a part of sustainably managing forest and landscape restoration sites.

Question?

How homogeneous or heterogeneous is the need of the farmers?

- We discuss with the communities and explore their interests which are managed at cluster level and then try to address the majority of needs and interests. We use a Community Action plan (CAP) process where the community develops their own actions and project staff provide technical support. It is a co-learning process.

Ethiopia is well suited for the promotion of value chains and there is a large opportunity for value chains to be successful.

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VALUE CHAIN AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Ethiopia is well suited for the promotion of value chains and there is a large opportunity for value chains to be successful. Value chain studies identified and documented bottle necks, including water, germplasm, and lack of tools, and worked to address them during implementation. Studies also identified local solutions such as market and technical knowledge.

- **Regreening Africa is:**

  - Supporting related value chain policies.

  - Empowering farmers and targeting women and youth in value chain development.

  - Supporting market linkages.

  - Supporting germplasm selection (in a value chain study, 46 species were documented).

Question?

There is a bamboo strategy in Ethiopia which was recently launched. Did the program support skills transfer on value chains?

- Skills transfer were supported. In Hula woreda, one of the project implementations sites and where bamboo is abundant, groups were organized as a cooperative and were linked to training centers, trained, and supported with machinery.
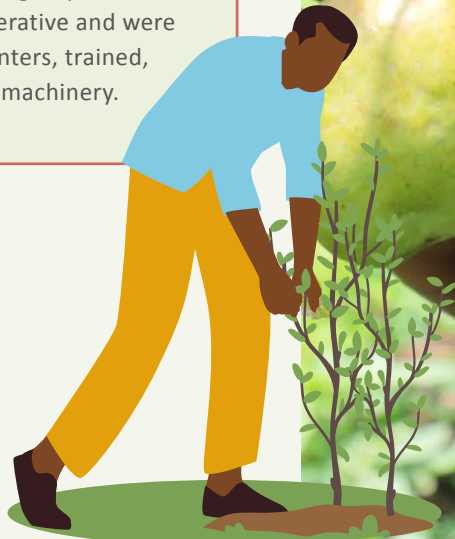
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING COMPONENT SUMMARY

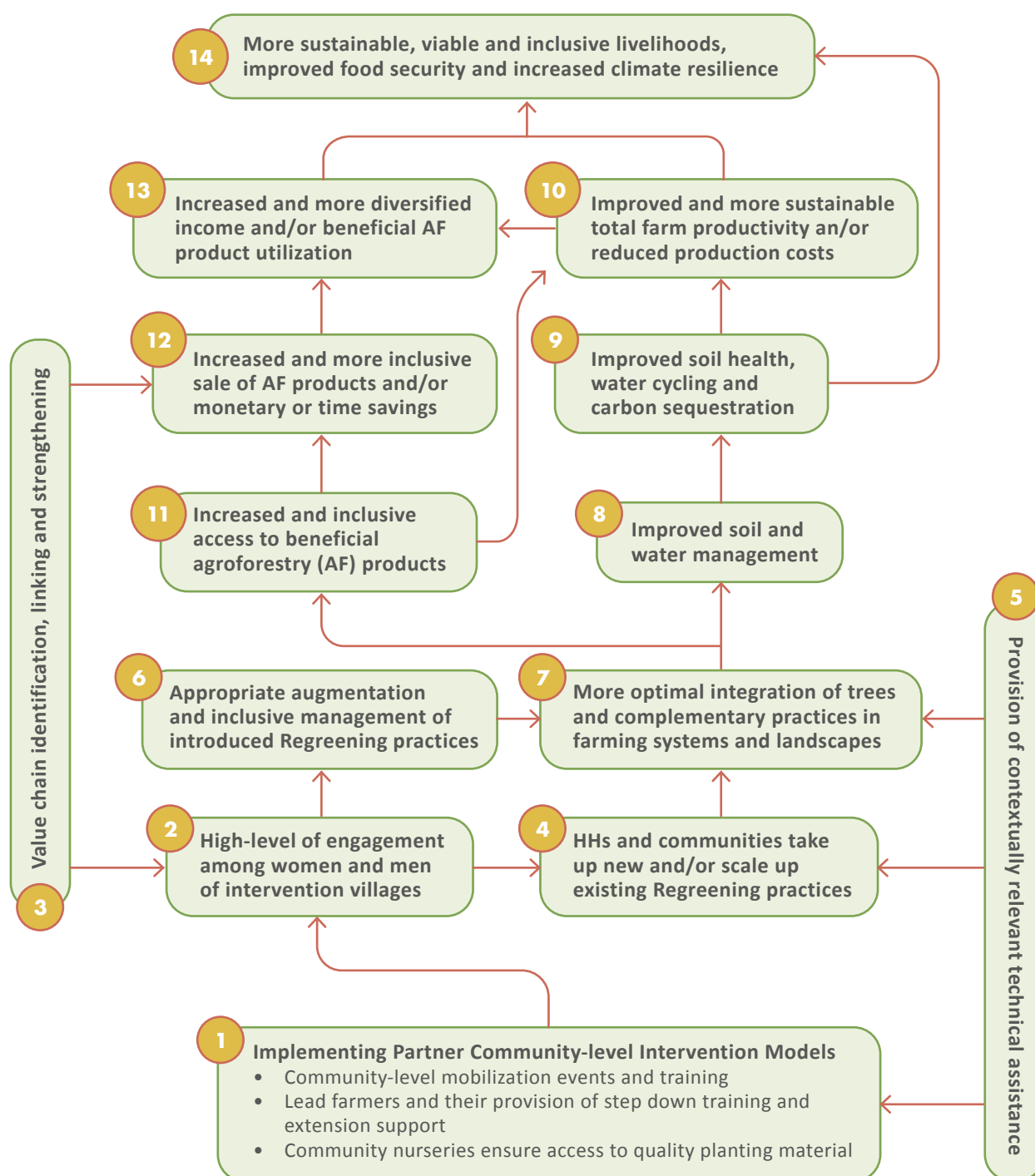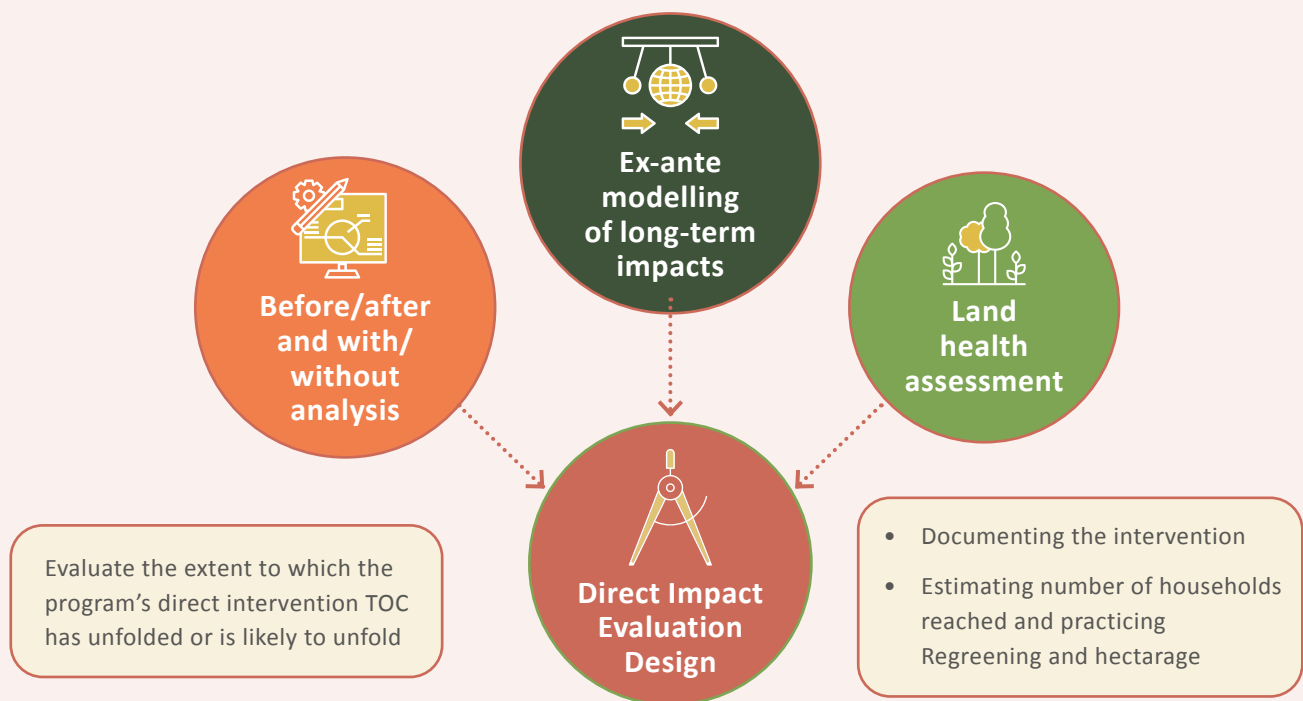## Regreening Africa Program overall Theory of Change for direct scaling sites

14 More sustainable, viable and inclusive livelihoods, improved food security and increased climate resilience

13 Increased and more diversified income and/or beneficial AF product utilization

10 Improved and more sustainable total farm productivity an/or reduced production costs

12 Increased and more inclusive sale of AF products and/or monetary or time savings

9 Improved soil health, water cycling and carbon sequestration

11 Increased and inclusive access to beneficial agroforestry (AF) products

8 Improved soil and water management

6 Appropriate augmentation and inclusive management of introduced Regreening practices

7 More optimal integration of trees and complementary practices in farming systems and landscapes

5 Provision of contextually relevant technical assistance

2 High-level of engagement among women and men of intervention villages

4 HHs and communities take up new and/or scale up existing Regreening practices

3 Value chain identification, linking and strengthening

1 Implementing Partner Community-level Intervention Models
- Community-level mobilization events and training
- Lead farmers and their provision of step down training and extension support
- Community nurseries ensure access to quality planting material

Diagram 1: Theory of change direct scaling sites

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Approach

Ex-ante modelling of long-term impacts

Before/after and with/ without analysis

Land health assessment

Direct Impact Evaluation Design

Evaluate the extent to which the program's direct intervention TOC has unfolded or is likely to unfold

- Documenting the intervention
- Estimating number of households reached and practicing Regreening and hectarage

- The MEL component approach has been to evaluate the program's progress towards intended objectives and to assess whether the Theory of Change has evolved

- **Findings:** see the ***Program Targets and Restoration Achievements section*** for hectare and households reached

  - Exposure was considerably increased, and more farmers are engaged in land restoration practices compared to the baseline. Women involvement is observed. Low level of grafting practices is seen, however.

  - The uptake of regreening actions also increased by 18% relative to the baseline, at more than double the rate in Sire.

Question?

What is the level of adoption of farmers?
- Farmers are rational decision makers when it comes to income. They know the importance of what they do and how it affects their livelihood. As a result, their adoption rate of land restoration has increased.

From a policy perspective, how are these activities compatible with mechanized farming?
- The project used different approaches, for example, planting on farm boundaries and homesteads are some of the strategies apart from planting on farmland.

Trees take a long-time to grow and mature. What solutions are there for farmers to benefit from within a short period of time?
- Making sure that farmers have an income source or other means of benefits available for them, is an important point. Farmers engaged with various options (e.g. tree planting, FMNR, agroforestry, area closure, etc.) and through these practices, they also received some short term benefits like grass and fuelwood.

The government is scaling the cluster approach. How has that impacted the scaling of regreening approaches?
- The clustering approach has helped scale FMNR through the establishment of FMNR groups

Monitoring from the sky and the Regreening Africa Dashboard and App:

Monitoring from the sky uses machine learning. The parameters of the study are land degradation, floods, and trees coverage from extracting data from sites. The overlay of different parameters are used to better reflect the reality on the ground. Additionally, farmers can serve as citizen scientists and use the Regreening Africa App to upload land cover/health data. There is a new version of the interactive monitoring dashboard that now displays more information.
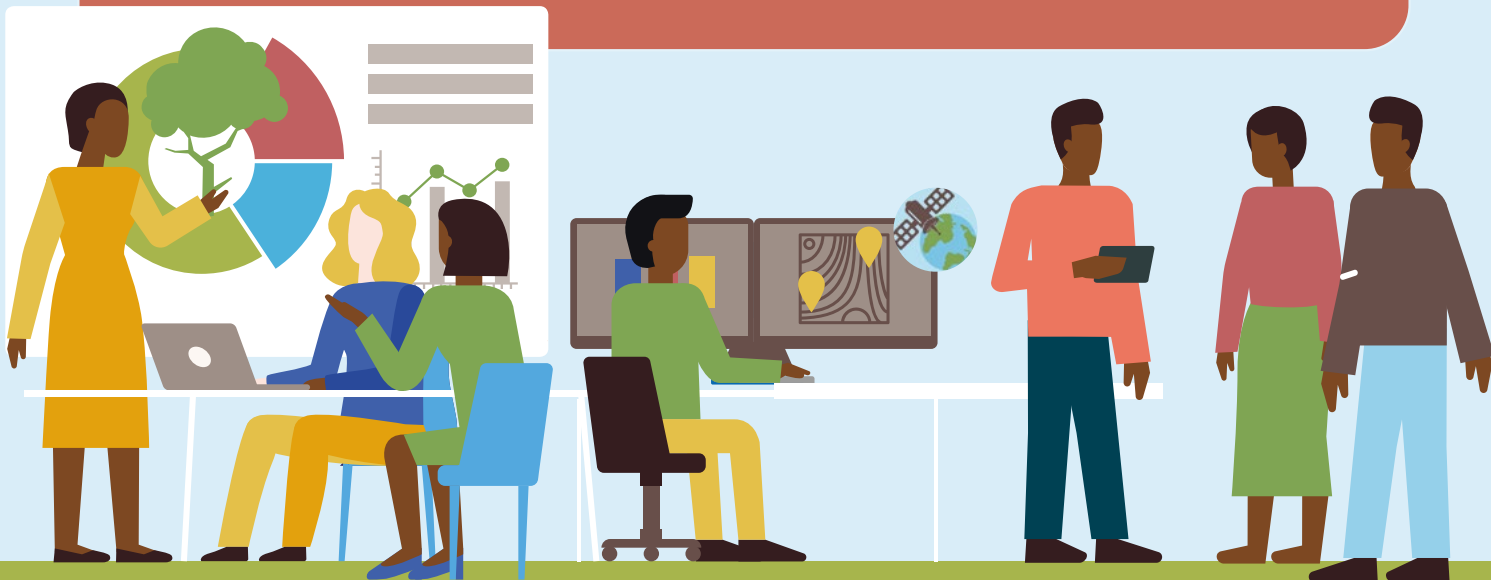
Question?

What is citizen science?

● The concept of Citizen science is that the app [Re-greening Africa app] is available for anyone including farmers and frontline implementers to collect data. So, the name citizen is given to it as every citizen can use it.

Does the Dashboard have a user manual?

● Yes, there is a user manual in English and French.

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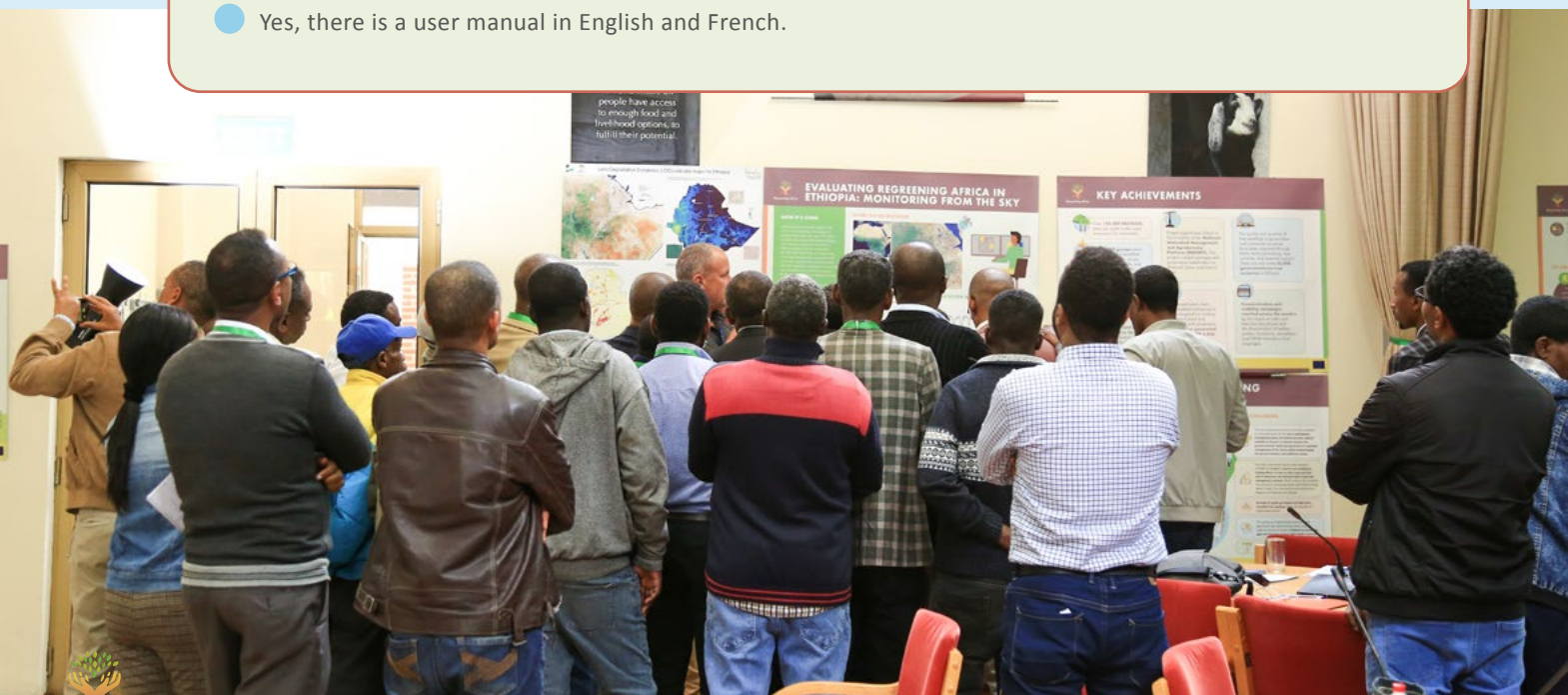
Cost-Benefit Analysis:

ELD conducted a cost benefit analysis in the Gedo zone. A quasi-experimental design was used, and the assessment was conducted in 4 watersheds. Key findings are:

- Soil and water conservation (SWC) generally costs approx. USD 170 per ha.
  - However, a IUFRO commissioned study found that approx. USD 320 per ha is needed to bring completely degraded land to productive use
- Cost varies by type of soil and water conservation measures
- Mean return of sustainable land management is USD 1,496/ha
- Crop productivity increased by over 28% due to SWC.

Question?

Which cost components are considered? Did the assessments consider other benefits such as environmental and ecosystem benefits?

- The assessment considered the cost of construction for SWC structures as cost and crop revenue as income. While there are many benefits from land restoration apart from land and crop productivity, the current assessment does not consider other benefits.

What cost components were considered when calculating the financial value?

- The cost benefit ratio of the intervention was calculated in comparison to the business-as-usual scenario using labor cost for the cost and crop yield/ha for the benefit.

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REGREENING AFRICA APP

The Regreening Africa App is a mobile-based android application that allows users to collect data at farm level on a range of land restoration practices that allows for robust landscape level monitoring.
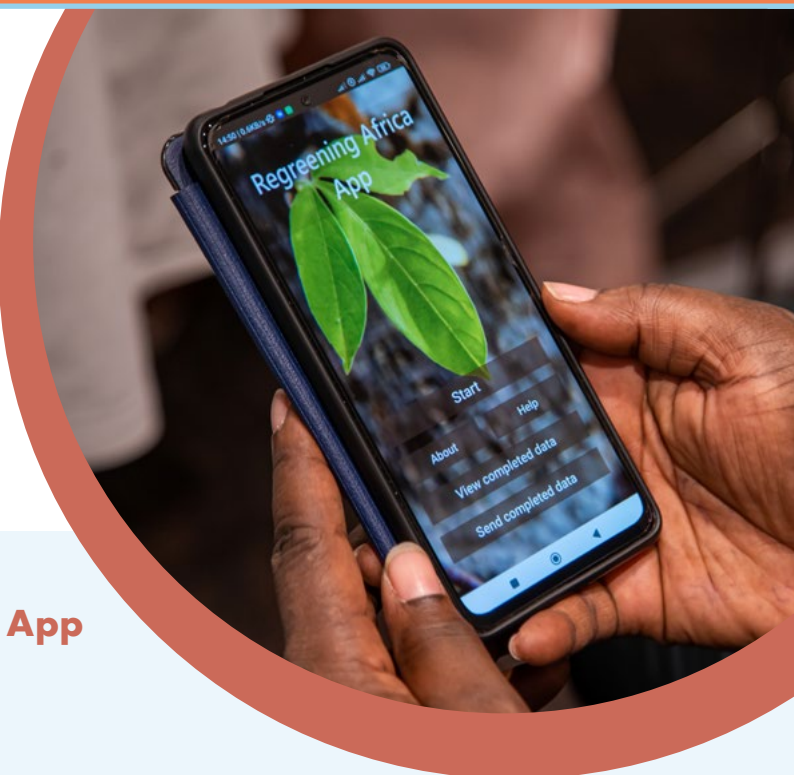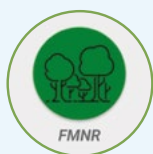
Features of the Regreening Africa App

TREE PLANTING MODULE

- Record the targeted households having adopted tree planting practices
- Record the number of hectares regreened by tree planting
- Mapping tree planting plots
- Identify the agroforestry systems established (objectives, disposition of the trees, density, tree species)
- Recording and analyzing management practices
- Evaluate the performances of the planting practices
- Tracking growth of trees by making references and management practices assessments
- Geotagging selected trees

FARMER MANAGED NATURAL REGENERATION (FMNR) MODULE

- Record the targeted households having adopted FMNR practices
- Record the number of hectares regreened through FMNR
- Mapping the FMNR plots
- Recording tree species composition of the FMNR plot
- Recording management practices
- Tracking growth of trees by making references and management practices assessments
- Geotagging selected trees

NURSERY MODULE

- Record nurseries supported by the Regreening Africa Project
- Record seedlings production (species composition, production capacity, seedlings quality)
- Recording and assessment of the seedling production practices
- Geotagging nurseries

TRAINING MODULE

- Documenting the trainings carried out: the number, location, topic, e.t.c.
- Connect the topic of the trainings carried out in a given location to the practices and issues identified that will guide the training schedule(s)
- Documenting participation in the trainings in terms of number and gender
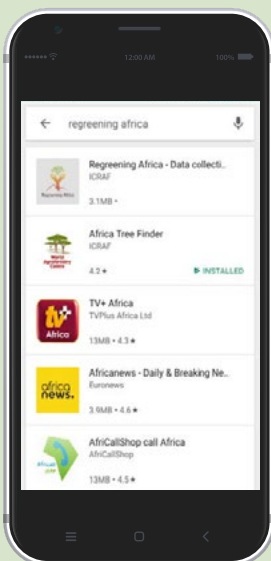
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Why do we need it?

The Regreening Africa app links land restoration activities implemented by farmers and pastoralists to large global initiatives, providing evidence that can positively inform these efforts, whilst simultaneously assessing their effectiveness on the ground.

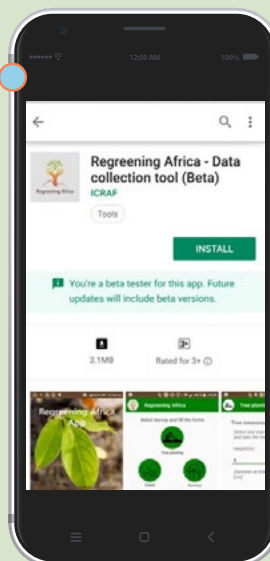## Downloading and accessing the Regreening Africa app on Google Play Store.

Connect your phone to Wi-Fi or to mobile network
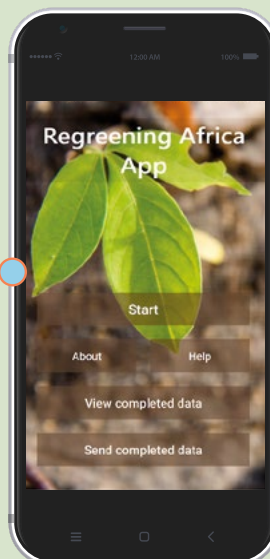
Locate app
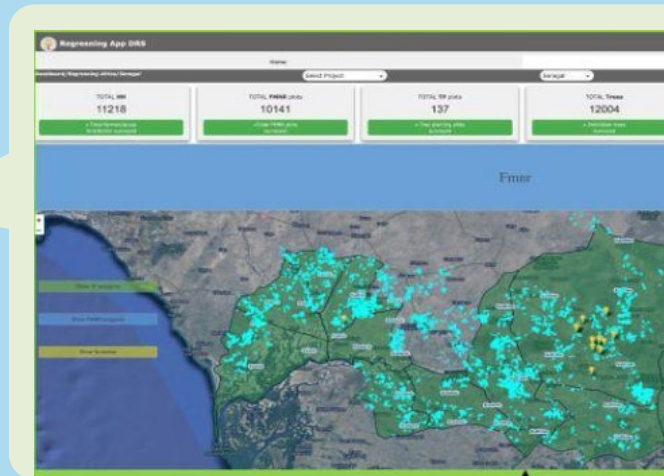
Install app

Google Play

Start up app

Open survey forms

Regreening Africa App Process

The data that is uploaded by the app users, can then be reviewed by project managers on the Data Reporting System developed as part of Regreening Africa. Project managers can download and review the raw data in real time.

Data displayed on data reporting system

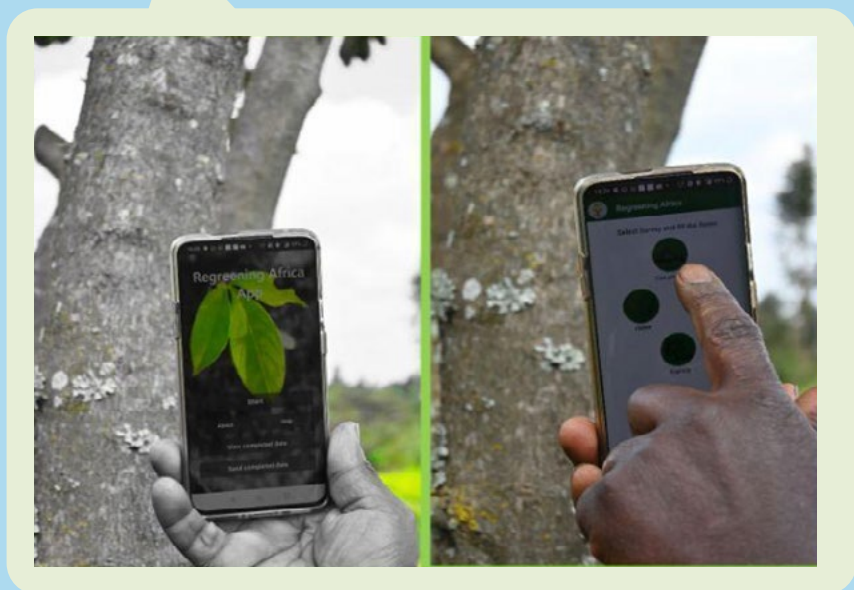Data reviewed by users or project managers

Data uploaded to Regreening app database

Regreening app used in the field

Regreening app database connected to Data Lake Engine for advanced queries and processing of data, including normalisation of species names

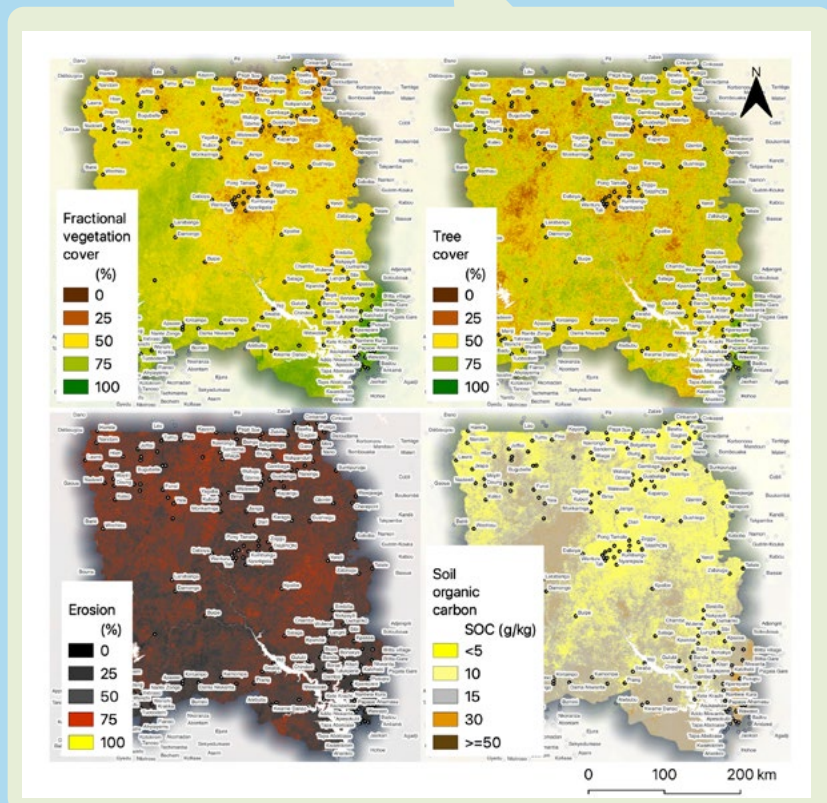Regreening Africa

Regreening Africa
Dashboard

Users have access to data
visualisations, results of analysis,
interactive tools and maps
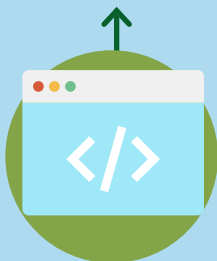
Normalisation of species
names, consistency checks
and modelling of data

Examples of indicator maps for
northern Ghana. The maps are
generated for each country
at 30 m spatial resolution to
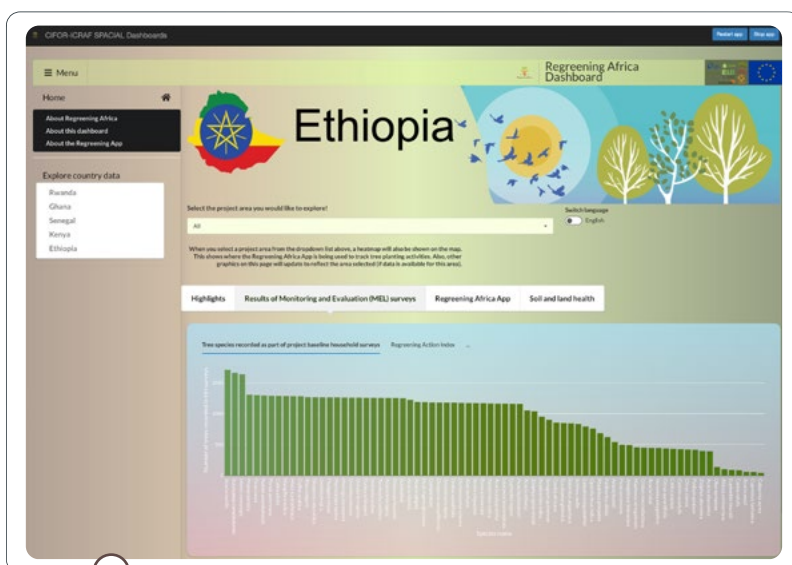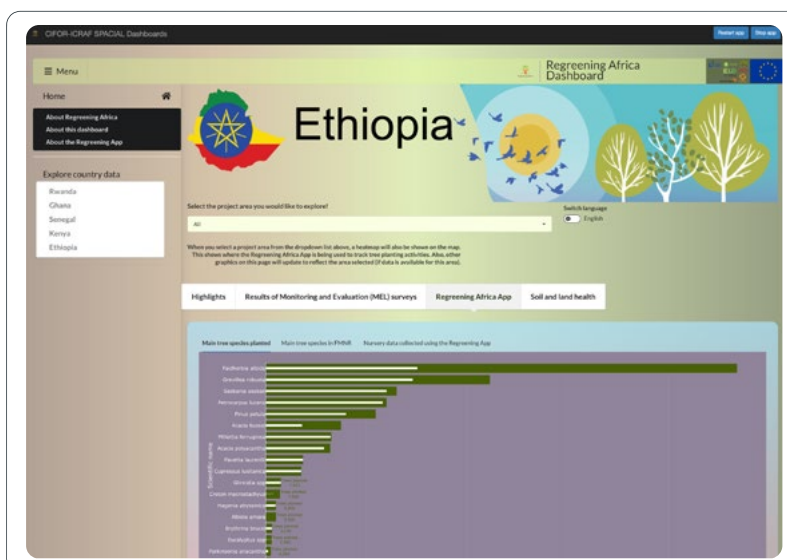assess spatial variations and
changes over time

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REGREENING AFRICA DASHBOARD

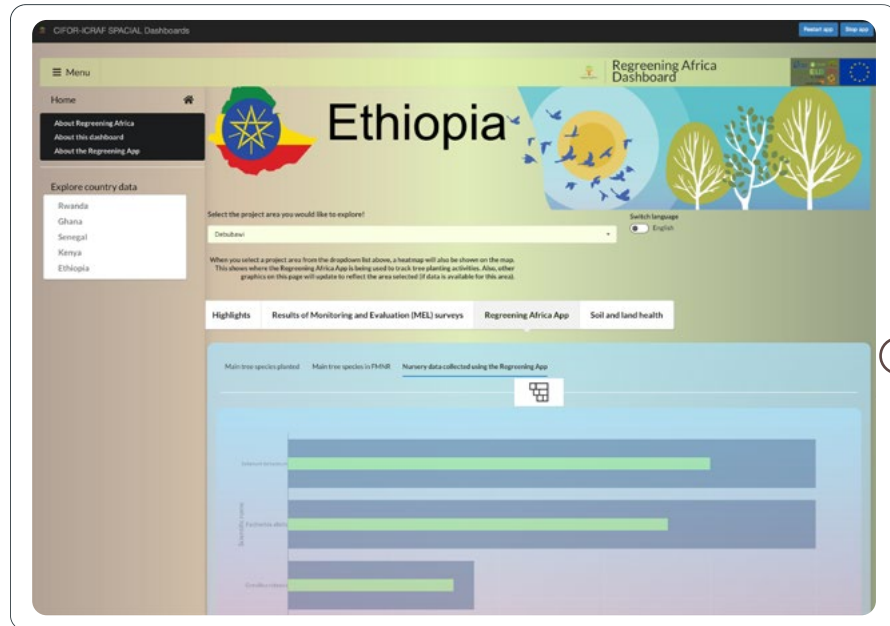**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

RESULTS OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION (MEL) SURVEYS
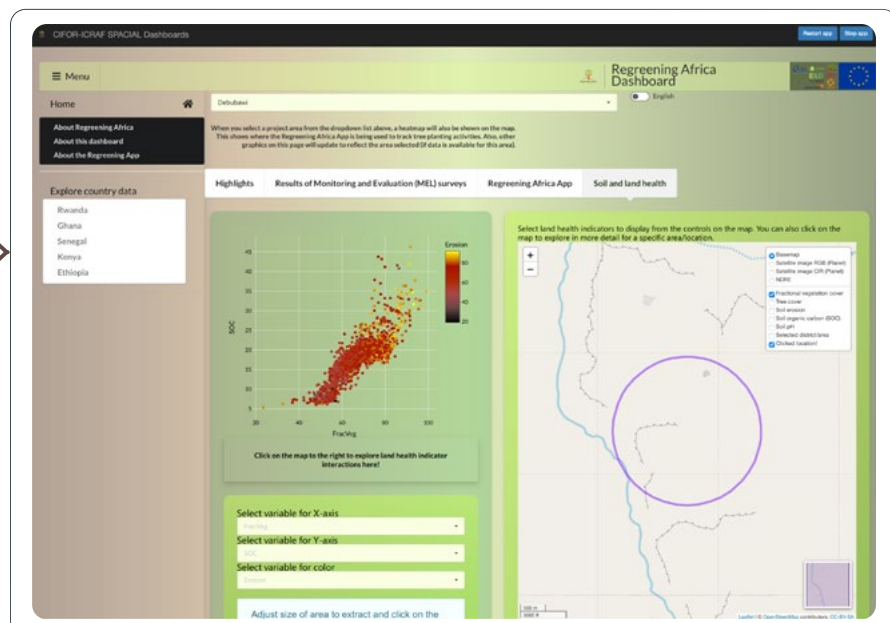

REGREENING AFRICA APP

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REGREENING AFRICA APP

REGREENING AFRICA APP
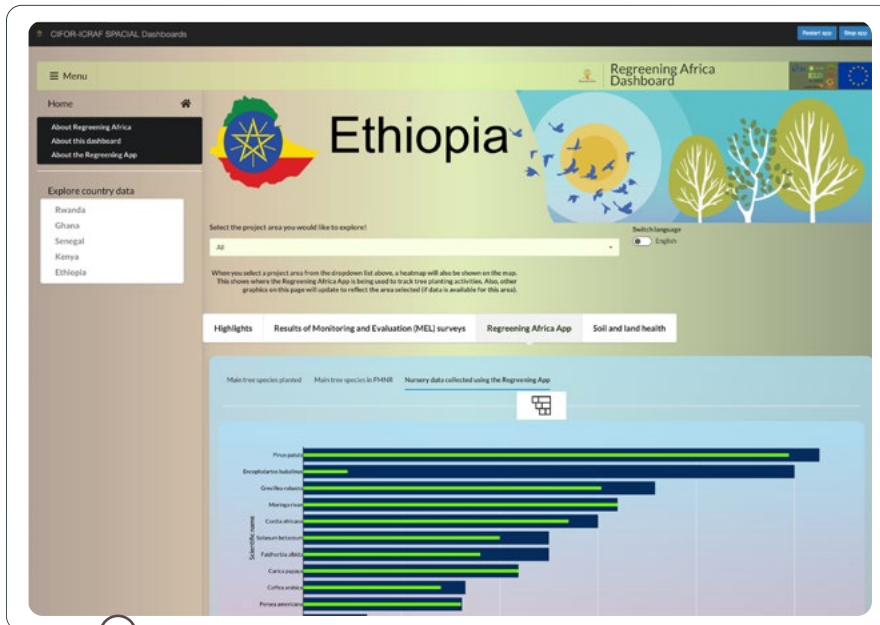
SOIL AND LAND HEALTH

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Policy Setting and Visioning the Scaling of Land Restoration

Tefera Tedese

(Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources Directorate Director) presented on national actions and aspirations regarding land restoration and addressing climate change.

> **Our farmers know the work and have experience. What is needed is how we can act on the linkage element as needed.**
>
> Tefera Tedese

The government has a number of policies: CRGE, PIF, National Agroforestry strategy, National REDD+ strategy (2016-2030), and community watershed management plans.

CRGE-2030 policy is in place to mitigate climate change by increasing forest coverage by 20% by 2030, thereby reducing greenhouse Gas emissions by 147 million metric tons.

The government is working towards a code-map database information system.

POLICY GROUP WORK

Group activities identified the following policy gaps/challenge areas:

- Land use, grazing management, and family planning policies and a stronger role of the Government in coordinating and implementing policies.
- Weak land tenure security on rehabilitated communal areas.
- Delay in policy implementation and limited implementation follow up
- Lack of enforcement of policies and strategies
- Stronger policy evaluation needed
- Need for better coordination and linkage between stakeholders to eliminate misunderstandings.

- Need for more future planning and projection activities.
- Lack of capital at grassroot level to execute the strategies.
- Need for better community incentives.
- Existing and emerging platforms on natural resource management, restoration and agroforestry should be strengthened.
- Conservation strategies must take into account mechanized agriculture.
- Joint LRP.
- LUP.

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INSIGHTS FROM POLICY GROUP WORK

Participants were divided in 3 groups (Government Agencies, NGOs, Implementers, and Researchers, and Farmers/Woredas) and were asked to answer the following questions:

Farmer/Woreda Group
What are the incentives and disincentives to achieving our desired outcomes of land restoration?

Incentives

- Acceptance of the community towards land restoration.
- Government and NGO support.
- Training on land restoration
- Presence of prior successful interventions.
- Existence of regulations and strategies for watershed users.
- Existence of degraded land for restoration.
- Availability of ample human power to implement restoration activities.

Disincentives

- Livestock and carrying capacity of the land for livestock.
- Free grazing especially during dry season when animal feed is limited.
- Weak implementation and enforcement of policies and regulations.
- Mechanization and cluster farming.
- Deforestation.
- Drought prevalence.
- Lack of availability of seedling and poor quality of tree seedlings.

Main challenge(s)

- Free grazing due to lack of animal feed and absence of regulation and laws.

Government Agencies
What are the incentives and disincentives regarding mobilizing Policies and investment to support restoration?

Incentives

- National and international commitments.
- Financial resources: bilateral and multilaterals.
- Community initiatives.
- Land productivity enhancement.

Disincentives

- Tied aid approach by donors.
- Limited capital for investment.
- Long gestation period (long term returns).

NGO, Implementer, and Researcher Group
What are the incentives and disincentives regarding promoting restoration practices?

Incentives

- Enabling environment, policies, and strategies on land restoration.
- Economic benefits from land restoration.
- Global commitments, e.g SDGs.
- Donor interests/funding opportunities.
- Land degradation by itself is one driving force to take appropriate action.
- Poverty.
- Institutional mandate.
- Community willingness.
- Climate change.

Disincentives

- Drought.
- Free grazing
- **Coordination challenges.**
- Lack of ownership.
- **Limited investment.**
- Weak governance.
- **Limited stakeholder commitment.**

Main challenge(s)

- Not politically palatable.
- Slow returns.
- Major investments required.
- Needs a clear land ownership regime.

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Mapping our Impacts

Work Area(s), Region

Ministry of Agriculture

- Watershed development (physical and biological) across country

SOS Sahel International and SOS Sahel Ethiopia

- Land restoration projects (Oromia Region, Borena zone)
- Tree planting (Sidama Region, Lake Hawassa)

Arsi Zone T. Guracho Kebola

- Farmer and homestead reach
- FMNR practice

Individual Farmers from Sidama Regional State, Hula Woreda

- Seedling raising
- Tree planting
- FMNR practice
- SWC

World Vision

- FMNR
- Agroforestry
- Restoration
- Soil and water conservation
- Tree planting
- Capacity building
- Stakeholder engagement
- Scaling production

Tree Aid Ethiopia

- Land restoration
- Forest restoration
- Food production
- Enterprise development

ELD Initiative

- SLM cost benefit study

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

- Integrated landscape management project
- Integrated water resource management
- Reach in Amhara Region and Oromia

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World Vision Ethiopia

Restoration activities in:
- Shashogo, Hula (SNPRS)
- Jejo-Oromia
- Amboseli- Amhara

ECC-SDCB-OM

Nursery and value chain development

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

- Tree planting (Amhara, N. Shewa zone)
- Area enclosure (Amhara, Oromia)
- SWC (Amhara, Oromia SW-Region)
- PFM (SW Ethiopia)
- Addition reach in SNNPR

CARE International

- Selam I and II
- Watershed and nursery management (Tigray, Amhara, Afar)

Holeta Bee Research center

Beekeeping and natural resource conservation training (Oromia)

ECC-SDCBOM

- Seedling plantation and enclosures enrichment (Oromia)
- FMNR, agroforestry, tree planting, and area enclosure in Oromia region (Arsi and West Arsi)

EFD/AFP/ MOF, MOA

Vegetation production, fruit production, FMNR practice, and SWC (Oromia, Amhara, Sidama, Harare)

Catholic Relief Service

- Land restoration work, including FMNR, tree planting, agroforestry, and nursery management, in Oromia (Sire dodota shala, Vasele-Arsi)
- REFSA (East Hararghe zone)

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National Agroforestry Strategy & NWAMP National Watershed and Agroforestry Multi-Stakeholders Platform (NWAMP)

Presented by Endalkachew Woldemeskel and Niguse Hagazi, CIFOR-ICRAF, Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Agroforestry development strategy and action plan was created with the goal to improve the sustainability and productivity of natural resources that bring change to the livelihoods of the community through a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and participatory approach.

The National Watershed and Agroforestry Multi-Stakeholders' Platform (NWAMP), which is housed in

the ministry of Agriculture (MOA), contains several different task forces and delineates stakeholder roles.

The National Agroforestry Strategy (not yet approved, used as a working document) also delineates key roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders

To make a difference, it's important to invite other sectors, not just the area ministries associated with agroforestry, to policy planning. Agroforestry is a cross cutting issue and this makes it hard to identify where the strategy should be institutionalized.

Science, Community, Practice, Policy and Investment Dialogue

Several panelists spoke on the key actions and current active roles of institutions in relation to land restoration:

Dr. Agena Anjulo

Ethiopian Forest and Environment Research Institute - Senior Researcher in Agroforestry

Spoke on an assessment that was conducted to determine native species appropriate for the program sites. An assessment report was created with this information and it has been used by regions/zones and woredas and other actors involved in land restoration to make informed choices.

Mr. Muhammad Seid

CARE Ethiopia. Manager, Natural Resource Management

Spoke on addressing coordination gaps to ensure better programing and understanding among all stakeholders and stated the need for more workshops.

Dr. Teshome Tamirat

National Focal Point, UNCCD/LDN, MoA

Highlighted additional restoration efforts, such as the BONN Challenges and the REDD+ program, and demonstrated the need to develop a future guiding strategy.

Mr. Melaku Tadesse

GIZ, Component Manager

Spoke on the studies being conducted to measure the impact of problematic free grazing and the need for stock grazing management.

Obbo Gutema Aliyi

FMNR practitioner, Nagele-Arsi Woreda, Gubeta Arjo Kebele

Spoke on the awareness raising work done through the program and thanked those that trained them on natural resource restoration and management.

Opportunities for Scaling and Sustainability

Sustainability planning

Sustainability planning with the community and local stakeholders is important to ensure that the promoted land restoration practices being implemented are continued after the Regreening Africa Program transitions out in 2022. This is part of the program's exit strategy.

Objectives of community sustainability planning

- Identify key interventions in the final years of the project to support sustained efforts after closure

- Identify how various partners, including communities, can develop a joint long-term vision and sustainable pathways towards achieving this vision

6 steps of Sustainability Planning

- **Identify and Define Community:** Sustainability planning was conducted at 5 selected woredas (Ambassel, Hula, Jeju, Sire and Dodota) woredas in 9 kebeles. A total of 224 participants took part from three groups (Women, Male, and Youths) on sustainability planning.

- **Community Vision Mapping:** Each group, separately, set their visions for restoring degraded landscapes in the next 10 years.

- **Causal Analysis/Problem Listing, Cause and Effect Analysis:** Problem listing by analyzing cause and effect was done. The major listed problems were deforestation, soil erosion, water shortage, erratic rainfall, free grazing, and livestock expansion.

- **Asset Mapping:** Community groups explored their assets in natural, physical, human, social, and institutional capital.

- **Community Action Plan:** Community groups prepared an action plan per the identified cause and effects of environmental problems to restore degraded lands in their respective kebeles.

- **Supporting the Action Plan Implementation:** The community sorted their needs from the Government and locally available NGOs on capacity building training, nursery and agricultural tools/inputs, improved livestock, and seed varieties needed.
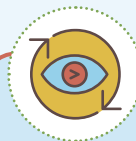
Observations

- Sustainability plans shared to relevant woreda sectorial offices and kebele administrations.

- Regreening Africa support to select activities of sustainability plans.

- Regreening Africa project is supporting on some of the sustainability plans.

- Exploration of how other actors could support the sustainability plans.

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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

How can the community be empowered to manage the resources by themselves?

Encouraging and guiding the community to prepare their sustainability plan is one option. The other is training them.

How interested are private sectors in sustainability planning initiatives?

- The business case should be presented to private sectors to gain their support. Carbon finance might be a good next step for Regreening Africa.

- Engagement with the private sector requires more lobbying and advocacy.

Do you think engaging in planning can create sustainability?

Engaging the community on planning (bottom-up approach) is obviously important. It is also equally important to follow up and implement as per the plan.

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Collaborative Planning for the Future

The 3 participant groups (Government Agencies, NGOs, Implementers, and Researchers and Farmers/Woredas) **brainstormed key future options across five main topics.**

PARTICIPANT GROUPS

Topic Area	Government Agencies	NGOs, Implementers, and Researchers	Farmers/ Woredas
Big Opportunities	Watershed and Forest Proclamation	Funding availability and community willingness	Previous successful activities and government strategies
Science, evidence, and information	Restoration Map	Digital technologies, LED-cost benefit-analysis	GPS and the Regreening App
Partnership and platform	REDD+, NWAMP	NWAMP and FMNR Alliance	Watershed groups
Scaling practices	FMNR, ANR, Agroforestry	FMNR, ANR, Area exclosure, RRCs	Incorporate practices in annual plans
Enabling policies	All platforms at national level	All platforms at national level Government guidelines and proclamation	Land use policy

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Celebration of Co-Creation and Commitment

The workshop concluded with participants making commitments to restoration.

Just a few of these commitments are highlighted below:

- Promote and support regreening /land restoration using nature-based solutions.

- To share knowledge with other farmers on FMNR.

- To ensure the sustainability of the existing regreening Africa project within project sites.

- To support local communities for restoration of degraded land across Ethiopia.

- To participate in existing platforms and share experience.

- To share knowledge on tree germplasm use and tree-based value chain development.

- To offer training on how to integrate beekeeping in natural resources, restoration and conservation.

- To support tracking using the regreening app.

- To research evidence on market opportunities to ensure the sustainability of restoration activities.

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