



SODDO REFORESTATION PROJECT ETHIOPIA



**Protecting the Ethiopian highlands from
droughts and floodings**

The Soddo reforestation project is located near Mount Damota in the southern highlands of Ethiopia. Once covered in thick forest, Mount Damota is an essential part of the local water cycle and ecology for the surrounding districts. But in recent decades, in a drive to obtain more arable land in this particularly poor region, its slopes have been deforested and degraded to a large extent. The lack of forest cover caused both an increase in the occurrence of droughts and increased damage to farm land during flooding events.



The project explores new ways to increase food security and improve the life of community members.

Since 2006, five nursery sites have been established and more than 750,000 trees have been planted to restore the ecosystem functions of Mount Damota. The Soddo project has promoted the restoration of natural ecosystems while strengthening food security and resilience against extreme weather events. It can serve as a role model for the whole of Ethiopia, where population pressure has reduced forest cover from more than 30% to less than 3% within a century, thus resulting in the deforestation of lands equivalent to the entire area of Italy.

In close cooperation with five local cooperatives, rural communities explore new ways to increase food security and to contribute to the improvement in the livelihoods of the most vulnerable community members. As an example, the cooperative provides families with an ox or sheep for fattening. The profit from selling the animal after repaying the cooperative can easily exceed the local per capita income in a year. The production of apple tree seedlings in the nurseries used for the afforestation measures diversifies food production and generates new income streams from agroforestry.

Gold Standard
CCB Standards
The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance


EDUCATION

Regional programmes on education, health and environmental protection



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New and permanent jobs created in tree nurseries



CLIMATE

Improved soil for agricultural production



NATURE

Restoration provides a natural habitat for indigenous plants and animals

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>