

Sustainable Coffee Landscape in DakLak

THE CHALLENGE

Overuse and/or improper applications of inputs, specifically of fertilizers, water and biocides result in emissions of chemicals to the environment, reduced availability and quality of natural resources, particularly ground water. Regrettably, the magnitude of the emissions and use of water, and the effects that creates in the environment, are not very well known. Such lack of information makes it difficult to convince farmers to change their crop management practices, where now overuse of inputs is seen as insurance for high yields.

Climate change is expected to have a huge impact on Vietnamese agriculture. Most farmers are already experiencing some of these effects, but do not have a clear view on how much climate change may affect their crops, nor on how they could adapt their current crop management to more resilient forms of agriculture.

THE RESPONSE

The project will focus on raising awareness and understanding of coffee farmers on (1) Climate change effects on agricultural production, and possibilities for adaptation, specifically through the use of tree crops / shade trees (2) Need to reduce water use for irrigation, among others through more efficient irrigation technologies (3) Need to improve input use to reduce emissions of unwanted substances (e.g. nutrients, pesticides, GHG) to the environment, e.g. by selecting less hazardous pesticides and by using fertilizers more efficiently (4) The advantages of working together in community groups to define group policies on water use, to jointly buy better quality inputs with less negative impacts on the environment.

Hand in hand with training activities, the project will also develop demo plots with water saving technology, which will be used as training grounds for Farmer Field Schools. Farm management data (through the adoption of Farmer Field Book) will be collected during the project duration of input use and output produced by famers to enable a quantitative estimation of the emissions of fertilizers, energy and pesticides. Results of farm data analysis will be used to inform farmers about their environmental and financial performance, and to stimulate better agriculture practices, especially on water, fertilizers and pesticides. Particular emphasis will also be put on the involvement of youth in coffee farming.

At a Glance

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: SIMEXCO

STATUS: Contracting

DURATION: 2016 – 2018

TARGETED FARMERS: 5,362

TARGETED AREA: 7,604 ha

PARTNERS INVOLVED:
JDE, UTZ, EDE, WASI, Farm Tree Services

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Dak Lak

NUMBER OF DEMO PLOTS: 130

IMPACT/OUTLOOK:

- Reduced pollution of water and soil and emission of GHG
- Long term farmer income and productivity safeguarded
- Sufficient water availability for production and consumption in the landscape
- Improved policies and enforcement creating an enabling environment for social and environmental impact

For more information, please contact

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