

Improving Climate Change Resilience of Coffee Production in Dak Lak Province, Vietnam

THE CHALLENGE

- Wide-spread irrational input use (agro-chemicals and irrigation water) in coffee production in Vietnam, leading to increased toxic loading of the environment and depletion of ground water resources during periods of below average rainfall.
- High level of greenhouse gas emissions associated with coffee production in Vietnam due to the over-use of agro-chemicals.
- Farming systems with limited shade and intercropping, increasing evapotranspiration from coffee, consequently escalating water demand is negatively affecting water availability, especially in water scarcity hotspots.
- Climate change poses a major threat to sustainable coffee production in Vietnam where current pre-dominant sun-grown coffee production system is poorly equipped to deal with the influence of climate change.

THE RESPONSE

The project strategy is centred on participatory adult education methods applied in a Farmer Field School (FFS) setting. The project will diverge from traditional FFSs based on field observations by expanding discussions by feeding these with accurate farm agronomic and economic data obtained via the Farmer Field Book (see below). Underpinning the FFS programme is a series of capacity building events including methodological capacity building, technical capacity building, and revision of training materials based on the national sustainability curriculum.

The Farmer Field Book (FFB) is an integral part of this project. A stratified random sample of 150 farmers will keep daily records of all their activities, investments and outputs. The stratification will be such that we include four to five different types of farming systems that have varying degrees of climate change resilience.

To support farmer decision-making capacity Olam will pilot a number of innovative services that in turn will contribute to reaching the objectives of the project. Such services include: regular soil-testing, on-farm tests of new irrigation systems, random tests of fertiliser quality and collaboration with private nursery operators to ensure adequate availability of young shade trees to farmers.

To ensure the project sustainability, basic service supply shall be incorporated into the Olam's commercial operations throughout the implementation process. Some services that have a clear and direct benefit to farmers (e.g. soil sampling and fertilizer advice) will be made available at cost. Once farmers get used to paying for some services, gradual expansion of service packages will be implemented to perhaps also include FFB analysis for farmers beyond the project duration.

At a Glance

IMPLEMENTED BY: Olam

SUPPORTED BY: Lavazza, IDH

DURATION: 2016 – 2018

TARGETED FARMERS: 1,245

TARGETED AREA: 1,160 ha

PARTNERS INVOLVED:

WASI, DARD, Women's Union, Farmers' Union

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Dak Lak Province, Vietnam

NUMBER OF DEMO PLOTS: 12

IMPACT/OUTLOOK:

- Improved irrigation efficiency
- Reduction in carbon foot print of project coffee production
- Incorporation of different modalities of shading in coffee farms
- Insight into costs and benefits of different climate change proof production system by farmers and other project partners
- Insight into development of toxic loading over time including carbon foot prints from farm to port and associated farm economics

For more information, please contact

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