

MARKET-DRIVEN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

2017 - 2021 | SOUTHERN NATIONS, NATIONALITIES,
AND PEOPLES' REGION, ETHIOPIA

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Ethiopian economy, yet the sector is marked by low levels of productivity and increasing climate vulnerability. This project aims to build rural communities' resilience to volatile weather events, in preparation for shifting climate patterns, all while strengthening the productivity and profitability of local farms.

With 90% of Ethiopia's agricultural output produced by smallholders and the majority of the population working in farming, the agricultural sector plays a vital role in the livelihoods of most Ethiopians. Yet, increasing climate uncertainty and variability is undermining agricultural development.

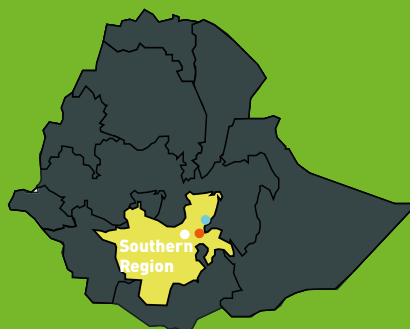
This project is based in Halaba Special, Hadaro Tunto and Damot Gale woredas in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), where the agricultural sector is dominated by small-scale production systems. The majority of

farmers in SNNPR are still reliant on low-input, low-output agriculture, making them particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Farm Africa will increase farmers' incomes by helping them grow and sell high-value crops. By strengthening the capacity of local agribusinesses and cooperatives that supply farmers with inputs and buy farmers' produce, this project will improve the business environment smallholders operate in. We will also work with community and government organisations to help women participate in agri-food value chains and benefit equally from the fruits of agricultural development.

This project is funded by SIDA. Farm Africa is working with local government agencies, research centres, higher education institutions and the private sector.

Ethiopia



Halaba Special
woreda
Hadaro Tunto
woreda
Damot Gale
woreda



PROJECT OVERVIEW:



Providing 5,439 farmers with training in climate-smart methods for producing chickpeas, haricot beans and peppers.



Establishing and strengthening 14 community-based cooperatives that buy farmers' produce and supply them with inputs and services.



Building resilience against climate shocks and stresses amongst vulnerable sections of society.



Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources.



PHOTO: FARM AFRICA /
MEDHANIT GEBREMICHAEL



FARMING IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Climate-smart agriculture builds communities' resilience to climate shocks and strengthens production systems, while minimising farming's environmental impact. Farm Africa's interventions are tailored to the needs of the local community but include promoting and distributing drought-resistant seeds and irrigation systems and introducing crop and weather insurance. Farm Africa will conduct climate-smart agriculture training sessions on demonstration plots in intervention areas.



BUILDING WOMEN'S RESILIENCE

Climate change magnifies existing patterns of socio-economic inequality. Women tend to be disproportionately affected by climate change. Women's overall experiences of poverty and low access to assets, such as land, credit and technology, make them more exposed to the effects of climate change. This project will place emphasis on ensuring that agricultural development meets women's needs. Farm Africa will ensure women are well represented within value chains and community organisations, and take part in initiatives, such as village savings and loan associations that enable them to invest in their businesses.



CONNECTING FARMERS TO MARKETS

A lack of market links and infrastructure has meant that most of SNNPR's smallholders have been unable to make the step change from subsistence to commercial agriculture. This project will help set up sustainable agricultural value chains that open up access to wider markets for farmers. Farm Africa will help set up agricultural cooperatives that will deliver vital market services, such as supplying farmers with seeds and fertilisers, and enabling smallholders to aggregate their produce, so that they get the best price for their crops.



POLICY AND PRACTICE

As part of their "Growth and Transformation Plan II", the Ethiopian Government is focusing on increasing both agricultural productivity and exports. This project will produce a range of knowledge products that will shed light on the role climate-smart agriculture plays in meeting these objectives in poor communities.