



FARM AFRICA

Vita  
Fighting hunger and climate change in Africa

SOS SAHEL INTERNATIONAL UK

Self Help Africa

## Climate-Smart Agriculture

2015-2017 | Southern, Nations, Nationalities, and People's (SNNP) and Oromia Regions, Ethiopia

### The three-year Improving Smallholder Livelihoods through Climate-Smart Agricultural Economic Development project aims to alleviate poverty and build resilient, sustainable livelihoods.

The project will encourage 7,500 households (750 of which are female-headed households and 110 are landless youths) to adopt Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) approaches, which will contribute to increased production while also focus on environmental sustainability.

CSA contributes to food security by addressing different aspects of current and projected climate change impacts through adaptation and mitigation actions. CSA is based on three pillars:

- **Adaptation** - including introducing new varieties of drought-tolerant, early-maturing and high-yielding crops
- **Mitigation** - addressing the root causes of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- **Livelihood improvement** - enhancing the resilience of people's livelihoods and the ecosystem

#### Implementing agencies:

Farm Africa, SOS Sahel Ethiopia, Self Help Africa, Vita

#### KEY EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT:

#### Aregash tending to her crops

Photo: Farm Africa / Medhanit Gebremichael

*"Farm Africa is supporting us through production training, seed provision and post-harvest handling training. I have now started to produce onions. Before I was producing maize and the profit was very low. Thank you Farm Africa for your dedicated support."*

Aregash Isaias, 32 years old



The project is being delivered in Walyita, Kembata Tambaro, Halaba Special, Guraghe, Sidama, West Arisi and Gamo Gofu zones in the Oromia and SNNP regions.



- Increased adoption of Climate-Smart Agricultural practices and technologies
- Poverty reduction and increased food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable rural households
- Sustainably scaled up and diversified livelihoods for male and female farmers
- Increased knowledge and learning generated through action research, monitoring and documentation of project interventions, and sharing and dissemination of experience



Farmers learn new techniques for producing vegetables, legumes and spices at Farmer Training Centres. They are also able to access market information there, which helps them decide where and when to sell their produce to maximise their income, and in turn improves their food security.



### CSA APPROACHES AND PRACTICES:

CSA helps to increase production while also focusing on environmental sustainability. Our project approaches are tailored to the needs of local farming communities but include:

- CSA practices for field crops, including minimum tillage, using crop residue to improve soil fertility, mulching, applying bio-fertiliser, applying lime for acid soil management, physical soil and water conservation, planting hedges with forage grasses and multi-purpose trees, farm land agro-forestry, crop rotation, intercropping, planting with space, alternative crop irrigation system, using tractors for ploughing, integrated pest management, crop diversification, using improved seeds, integrated weed management, preservation of genetic materials of crops and alley cropping
- integrated nutrient and soil management
- grasslands management
- CSA practices for livestock production, home gardening and forest / bush-land management
- conservation agriculture



### FARMER TRAINING CENTRES (FTCs):

To encourage the adoption of CSA practices, Farm Africa is conducting capacity building activities at existing farmer training centres (FTCs) in intervention areas. This enables us to reach a large number of farmers at a low cost and share knowledge with them about technologies and techniques. We research crops and trial new ideas at the FTCs and assess their effectiveness before rolling them out on individual farmers' land, thereby minimising losses.



### MAJOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 2,395 (including 824 female-headed (F)) households practising CSA
- 100 women have benefitted from fuel-efficient stoves
- 2,107 (537 F) households engaged in high-value crop production (turmeric, hot pepper, haricot beans)
- 241 (18 F) households engaged in vegetable production using small-scale irrigation
- Jobs created for 134 (18 F) landless youth engaged in seedling production
- 53.11 hectare of land rehabilitated
- Nine multi-purpose cooperatives created
- 186 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) set up with 2,439 (1,162 F) members
- 540 female beneficiaries benefiting from goat and sheep rearing
- Dietary diversity improved for 782 (193 F) families producing orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, mung beans and high-quality protein maize



### FARM AFRICA

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