

Integrated Landscape
Management to Enhance
Food Security and
Ecosystem Resilience

Ethiopia

Resilient Food Systems is one of the three Integrated Approach Pilots funded by the Global Environment Facility. Implementation is led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in collaboration with 12 African countries and several regional partners. The five-year programme is committed to **fostering sustainability and resilience for food security in sub-Saharan Africa**.

As an integral part of this regional initiative, the **Integrated Landscape Management project** in Ethiopia is contributing to the collective impact of the Resilient Food Systems Programme.



Context

Smallholder farming is the mainstay of Ethiopia's economy across the six regions in which this project is implemented. Farming takes place in often highly degraded and vulnerable environments where there is substantial loss of vegetation, associated erosion and declining soil fertility. Huge demand for biomass fuels exacerbates environmental degradation and affects food production. As a result of these developments, Ethiopia promotes enhancing long-term sustainability and resilience of the food production systems by addressing the environmental drivers of food insecurity.

Ethiopia is also recognised as a centre of origin (or centre of diversity) for many crops of global importance, including Arabica coffee, teff, enset, sorghum and durum wheat. Through the Resilient Food Systems (RFS) programme, six regions, Amhara, SNNP, Oromia, Tigray, Afar and Somali, which are embedded in two of the global biodiversity hotspots (Eastern Afromontane and Horn of Africa), are targeted. Support through RFS therefore promotes the adoption of production practices that increase the resilience of ecosystems (e.g., watersheds and rangelands) and their ability to function (e.g., by increasing soil carbon and carbon sequestration). Consequently their capacity to provide ecosystem goods and services is enhanced.

Objective

The project is enhancing long-term sustainability and resilience of food production systems by addressing the environmental drivers of food insecurity in Ethiopia. The overarching focus is on integrated landscape management (ILM) for achieving food production resilience in landscapes under pressure.



Project area for Ethiopia



Global Environmental Benefits

GEBs

 240,000 (ha)
land under integrated
and sustainable
management

Key components

This project is organised around three components:

1. Institutional frameworks for enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services within food production systems;
2. Scaling up the ILM approach, which achieves improved productivity of smallholder food production systems and innovative transformations to non-farm livelihoods; and
3. Knowledge management, learning, monitoring and assessment. Cross-cutting aspects that are related to value chains, capacity building and knowledge management are increasingly strengthened through direct support from the Regional Hub project.

Expected impacts



Institutional frameworks for enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services within food production systems:

- Strengthened policies and institutional arrangements allow stakeholders at national and landscape level to work together towards an INRM approach that fosters sustainability and resilience.



Scaling up the Integrated Landscape Management project:

- 240,000 farm households in 12 pilot sites using improved soil and water management practices.
- 120,000 ha under diversified food production.
- 10,000 ha of agropastoral systems under integrated management.
- 240,000 farm households with increased access to food, including through off-farm activities.



Knowledge management, learning, monitoring and assessment:

- Capacity and institutions put in place to monitor and assess resilience, food security and global environmental benefits.

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Project lead contacts

Tesfaye Haile Dargie

tesfaye.haile@undp.org

Resilient Food Systems

Programme contacts

Jonky Tenou

IFAD Task Manager for the Programme
y.tenou@ifad.org

Rodrigo Ciannella

Programme Coordination Unit - ICRAF
R.Ciannella@cgiar.org

Innovation

The project approach combines land management choices and integrated natural resource management (INRM) with water and climate-smart agriculture, value-chain support and gender empowerment. In addition, the premise of the project is based on the cost efficiency of making use of synergies across landscape management, food security and value-chain development and sustainability.

In mainstreaming integrated landscape management through markets and economic production systems (assuming rational choice approaches), the project brings together ecosystem sustainability, increased food security and financial benefits for local communities. By integrating a value-chain approach with food production to reduce post-harvest losses, the project seeks to apply a holistic and integrated approach, involving engagement with, and cooperation between, different stakeholders to unlock the constraints along value chains, leading to more efficiency for both producers and consumers.

Stakeholders engaged

- At national level, major stakeholders include:
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- Other stakeholders include:
 - Community members and groups of resource users and managers at local levels, NGOs, associations and other national and international agencies
 - Local universities in respective zones or regions related to the 12 targeted geographies
 - Local authorities of Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, Afar and Somali regional states
 - Woreda Agricultural, Water and Energy and Environment Protection and Land Use offices

Target Beneficiaries

 120,000
households

 1,400,000
people

