



ESTABLISHING A MORINGA-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOOD OF RURAL WOMEN OF ETHIOPIA

Development of the moringa value chain to improve the nutrition and income of targeted rural communities in Ethiopia's Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR)

Context

Ethiopia's economic policy is predominantly based on agriculture, given its significant contribution to the country's GDP and that the vast majority of the population depends on it as a source of livelihoods. Moringa, which is endemic in Ethiopia, is a strategic crop to alleviate poverty and combat malnutrition. A coherent development strategy is however needed to fully exploit its potential.

Strategy

The project is developing capacities for farmers – including women and youth – to produce and process moringa leaves and seeds, taking into account health and sanitation. The leaves are processed into flax and powder to be used as food supplement to combat malnutrition in children, with an emphasis on the needs of pregnant/lactating women. Through technical entrepreneurship and infrastructural capacity development, the project is assisting the farmers to extract moringa oil in order to create product diversification for income generation.

Impact

- The project established a five-hectare demonstration plot and a pilot processing site where selected beneficiaries were trained on nursery operation, field operation and crop management, and post-harvest handling of moringa.
- The post-harvesting unit and pilot processing plant will contribute to the value addition and processing of moringa products.
- In collaboration with universities and research institutes, the project worked on the diversification of moringa use as a nutrition supplement, the development of recipes and nutrition assessment.

- National institutions including the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), Food Medicine Health Administration and Control Authority (FMHACA) were supported to develop the policy and legislative documents to establish the regulatory framework for Traditional Herbal Medicine and Supplements.

Outlook

The second phase of the project (2019-2022) will be supported by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) with funds amounting to EUR 3 million. It will aim to scale up the development of the moringa value chain by, among others, integrating the utilization of natural resources; improving value addition of moringa through processing and marketing; strengthening a nutrition-sensitive value chain through inclusive agri-food systems; promote nutritious products; and improving knowledge sharing on the project's intervention results. The project is expected to benefit around 8,600 rural farmers.

At a glance

Goal: Improve the nutrition and income of targeted rural communities in Ethiopia's SNNPR region

SDGs: SDG 1, SDG5, SDG9

Thematic areas: Agribusiness and Rural Development
Women and Youth

Donors: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

Partners: Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region State, Bureau Of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SNNPRS-BoANR), Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), Food Medicine Health Administration and Control Authority (FMHACA)

Budget: EUR 984.230,00 (one year pilot initiative)

Duration: 4 years

Status: On-going (second phase)