

EC Partners

FARM Africa

Tanzania Natural Resources Forum

Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: €1,2 million (80% of the total)
- Duration: 2009-2012
- Area covered: 10 villages in Manyara region, Babati district (Tanzania)



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Forestry

Building incomes while preserving forest in Tanzania

"With the support of the project, I have been trained in modern beekeeping techniques. The beekeeping group in Endaw village collected money to purchase modern beehives, which substantially increased our honey production and revenues. We now better understand the importance of forest conservation."

Martin Erro, Secretary of Endaw beekeeping group



Context

Forests are becoming increasingly important in terms of rural and urban livelihoods, as there is an established cause-and-effect relationship between forest degradation and poverty. The Government of Tanzania is attempting to curb the problem of deforestation by promoting village and community forestry aimed at producing a sufficient amount of forest products and services to meet local demand and to promote forests as a contribution to global environmental conservation.

Objectives

- To promote sustainable forest management and profitable forest-based livelihood activities.

Impact

- Forest management plans and laws have been developed and adopted in the 10 targeted villages.
- Training and demonstration of livelihood activities (beekeeping, mushrooms farming,...) have been implemented for 585 beneficiaries where 50% are women.
- Project results have been disseminated to influence policy and decision-making at the national level.

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Blandina's story

Blandina is married, has five children and lives in Long village. Her only source of income is farming and she struggles to pay for her children's school fees.

The community members of Long village opted to try mushroom farming. Blandina was chosen in a village meeting to become one of the 16 members (8 men and 8 women) of the mushroom farmers' group.

Blandina and the other mushroom farmers have learnt how to collect and dry growing material for mushrooms such as charcoal dusts, plant residues of maize and beans, and dry wood.

Part of the mushroom farming trial consists of identifying the most suitable growing material. FARM-Africa and the group members will work together to test three different mushroom varieties and after the trials will select the one which performs best in the project environment.

Furthermore the mushroom farmers will receive training on how to build a dark room in their home, how to produce spores from mushrooms, how to harvest them, and how to cook mushrooms.

Blandina is looking forward to earning extra income from selling mushrooms which will enable her to buy food, clothes and pay for her children's school fees. The group will open a bank account and establish a savings and credits scheme in order to expand the project.

Only a small quantity of mushrooms are currently produced in Tanzania but the local demand is growing (supermarkets, hotels and restaurants) so there is a high potential to develop mushroom farming as a viable activity, relying on a protected and healthy forest environment.



Blandina from Long village is a member of the mushroom farmers group