



CC DARE: Climate Change and Development – Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability

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NEWSFLASH

CC DARE Spurs Bee Farming in Ethiopia

Charting Local solutions to addressing Food Crisis and unemployment

The UNEP report on March 12, 2011 indicated Bee deaths may signal wider pollination threat to human food supplies. Of the 100 crop species that provide 90 per cent of the world's food, over 70 are pollinated by bees. The current food crisis in the Horn of Africa is a reminder of the importance of bee farming.

In an effort to minimize climate change risks and address food insecurity in Ethiopia, CC DARE assisted the country with a timely-targeted Bee Farming project titled "Local Solutions for the Challenge of Unemployment and Food-Insecurity based on Adaptation to Climate Change". The project focused on bee-keeping and multipurpose trees and shrubs as a means to combine the conservation and sustainable use of rehabilitated hills sides and agroforestry by farmers and landless unemployed youth.

As a result of this project 600 unemployed youths have been trained in CCA activities; and 400 Farmer Training Centres strengthened for provision of services to farmers, with main outcome being increased capacity and opportunities for rural communities in dealing with climate change and food security issues. The project outputs have resulted in:

- Creating sustainability by interconnecting land rehabilitation, agro-forestry, Farmers Training Centres (FTCs) and beekeeping
- Enhancing their livelihood capacity and reducing negative environmental and social impacts

- Reducing migration of unemployed and landless youth into western Tigray to be employed
- Improving relations between farmers and experts e.g. bee keeping manual in the local language was prepared.
- Increasing the income of family members as they are occupied by the beekeeping in their origin instead of moving into the seasonal migration area.

This project swiftly and timely implemented over six months period have paved the way to bigger actions by guiding the Ethiopian EPA for up scaling using their own funds for the expansion of the actions into other provinces and sectors of the country. Also to ensure economic sustainability, farmers and youths are currently been supported to form cooperatives and develop value-added market chain for their honey and bees wax.

Given the unfortunate occurrence of droughts in the Horn of Africa, practical actions like this are ever more critical to ensure achieving food security in this region. Up-scaling of lessons learnt requires programmes with flexible approaches of funding like the CC DARE to help prevent crises like this from happening again. The benefits of understanding what has previously worked can provide a guiding vision as we proactively address the current crisis.

This success story from Ethiopia is just one amongst many under the CC DARE programme that has helped removed barriers for the implementation of climate change adaptation actions in addressing food insecurity in Sub Saharan Africa.

For more information visit: www.ccdare.org

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Produced honey for food



Produced honey for local beer