

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION and ADAPTATION IN AGRICULTURE



Since its creation in 2003, EUCORD has focused on disseminating good agriculture practices, with an emphasis on long-term sustainability, through trainings and demonstrations for smallholder farmers, EUCORD has promoted climate smart agriculture, including the use of drought tolerant crops, and the application of soil and water conservation techniques such as agroforestry and conservation tillage.

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Cognizant of the negative impact climate change has on farmers, EUCORD intensified its efforts to develop specific climate smart agriculture projects. Two examples of such initiatives are the “Irrigate to Win” and “Growing with Change” projects in Rwanda, funded by the Achmea Foundation and the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) respectively. Through these projects, EUCORD is introducing new green irrigation technologies, including 24 solar pumps and a hydro-powered pump, to sustainably improve the production of fruits and vegetables for the local and export markets. In addition, between 2019 and 2020, EUCORD developed and implemented a biodiversity conservation project to support the livelihoods of forest buffer communities in Guinea.



Who we are

EUCORD is a non-profit organization registered as a cooperative in the Netherlands, whose mission is to increase farmers' capacity to sustainably grow quality crops matched to the commercial needs of the agribusiness sector and in doing so, increase food security, develop the private sector and improve the livelihoods of rural communities. Working since 2003, EUCORD has four fulltime staff in Brussels and over 50 in-country staff based in Africa. Currently, projects are underway in DRC, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal, while we have project implementation experience in Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda.



EUCORD has partnered with USAID's WABiCC program, the Forestry Services of Kindia, a mango producer, and forest buffer communities to create economically sustainable and environmentally friendly livelihoods. EUCORD used a participatory approach to sensitize, train, and involve communities in the planting of 50 ha of diversified tree species and an additional 34 ha of agroforestry, while additionally setting up a drip-irrigated tree nursery. EUCORD also sensitized communities to maintain tree diversity through agroforestry. The project has helped to instruct 12 rural trainers, who have in turn trained 122 people, while a total of 841 people were sensitized on forestry management.

WAY FORWARD

Concerned about the harmful effects of climate change on farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa, EUCORD is building on its experience of climate smart agriculture, agroforestry and biodiversity conservation projects, with the following strategy:



Identifying the **market** to ensure that farmers produce crops that have a guaranteed market and that generate sustainable benefits in terms of food and nutrition security, income generation, and land restoration.

Promoting the most-impactful practices that help to make farming systems more productive and climate resilient; this is done mostly through a combination of in-field coaching, on-farm demonstrations, field days and use of local media, in addition to the facilitation of linkages to research institutes, agro-dealers and (digital) service providers to ensure that farmers have access to climate smart technologies.



Disseminating good agricultural practices and sensitizing communities on the benefits of agroforestry and biodiversity conservation, while strengthened by a strong partnership with local NGOs and/or public extension agencies to scale up and sustain extension support to farmers.

Supporting reforestation initiatives, which promote forest tree species with economic value and guaranteed markets, as well as engaging with the private sector to improve their carbon footprint, particularly along agro-enterprises' supply chains in Sub Saharan Africa.



"The expenses made it hard to grow crops especially when fuel costs increase and become a challenge in the country. Now the issue is solved because we have enough sunlight in Rwanda"

