

AGROFORESTRY and CARBON FARMING

In a world committed to fighting climate change, agroforestry and carbon farming are promising solutions to help address the challenge.

- Agroforestry is a land use management system that combines trees with crops on the same plot of land. This helps to reduce the pressure on forests, improve soil fertility and promote sustainable food production.
- Carbon farming is a farming method to increase the soil's organic matter and store carbon that would otherwise end up as CO₂ in the atmosphere and worsen climate change.

Environmental benefits of agroforestry and carbon farming include climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, soil fertility improvement, and air and water quality enhancement.

EUCORD'S APPROACH TO AGROFORESTRY AND CARBON FARMING

EUCORD's agricultural experts have supported smallholder farmers in Africa since 2003. As farmers are increasingly affected by global warming and climate change, we demonstrate agroforestry and carbon farming techniques that help to improve soil fertility and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

We also implement projects that reforest land using a mix of tree species suitable for the local environment in a biodiversity conscious, climate sensitive and economically beneficial manner.”



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 60 in-country staff based in Africa.



PAST PROJECTS

EUCORD partnered with USAID's WABiCC program, the Forestry Services of Kindia, a mango exporter, and communities to create economically sustainable and environmentally friendly livelihoods. Using a participatory approach, EUCORD sensitized, trained, and involved communities in planting 50 hectares of different tree species and an additional 34 hectares of agroforestry. The project has helped to instruct 12 rural trainers, who in turn trained 122 people, while a total of 841 people were sensitized on forestry management, raising general awareness.

EUCORD currently works with USAID's WABiLED program, aiming to restore livelihoods and landscapes in forest buffer Communities in transboundary landscapes between Guinea and Sierra Leone. In partnership with local NGO partners and forestry authorities in the two countries, the project relieves the pressure on protected areas by engaging members of beneficiary communities to restore 500 hectares through (agro)- forestry as well as natural regeneration of degraded land.

"The agroforestry and restoration elements contribute to Guinea's Bonn Challenge pledge to restore two million hectares of forest by 2030."
(WABiCC annual report on EUCORD'S contribution)

WAY FORWARD

To make agroforestry attractive to farmers, EUCORD facilitates access to forest tree and fruit tree seedlings that create valuable non-timber forestry products with strong market potential.

Developing Agroforestry Value Chains

While it is important to promote biodiversity and environment friendly agricultural practices it is equally key to improve the farmers' income. EUCORD does this by involving private and public sectors in the distribution of tree seedlings, while empowering communities with skills for sustainable management of forest and agroforestry plantations and, the creation of market linkages for non-timber forestry products. We also sensitize communities on biodiversity conservation.



Forestry Enterprise Development

To reduce pressure on protected forest areas, EUCORD supports forest-buffer communities to enhance market demand and livelihood development and create conditions for the sustainable and remunerative management of forest landscapes.



Access to Finance for Reforestation

Crowdfunding campaigns effectively support reforestation initiatives led by communities. Building on its successful practice in Guinea, EUCORD is looking to expand and export this approach to projects in other countries. We plan to involve more people and raise money for the growing reforestation businesses and projects in sub-Saharan Africa through [GoFundMe](https://www.gofundme.com/).

