

SAPHE – Strengthening Agroforestry Programmes in higher Education for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa



Shepherd from Ethiopian highlands.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

October 2013 – July 2017

CONSORTIUM

- Universidad de Valladolid, Spain
- Hawassa University, Ethiopia
- Arba Minch University, Ethiopia
- Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée, Mali
- Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi, Niger

Associated partners:

- Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute, Ethiopia
- Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA), Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad, Spain
- Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragón (CITA), Spain

PROJECT CONTACT

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PROJECT WEBSITE

www.sapheafrica.com,
www.agroforestryafrica.com

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Designed and delivered quality study programmes: MSc in Agroforestry and Master in Geo-Information technology, in high level skills required by the national and regional labour markets.

Upgraded qualifications of academic and library and information science staff of four African universities through training programmes on Agroforestry, Geo-Information Technology, Agroforestry and HIV/AIDS, Agroforestry and Gender Issues, and Information Literacy for Agri-Food.

Improved institutional frameworks through academic internationalisation.

BACKGROUND

Student enrolment in agriculture in Ethiopia, Mali and Niger is low considering the large rural population dependent on agrarian activities. Capacities exist at the BSc level but the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are unable to translate this to higher academic levels due to the lack of qualified lecturers, up-to-date teaching resources and adequate facilities.

Improving these capacities would enable the progression of BSc students to MSc level and beyond, preparing postgraduates with the knowledge and skills to contribute to their national and regional development goals that are relevant to the horn of Africa and Sahel regions.

The SAPHE proposal has responded with the design and implementation of the MSc programmes in Agroforestry and in Geo-Information Technology along with the three short-courses on Information Literacy, Agroforestry and HIV/AIDS and Agroforestry and Gender. The aim was to enhance the skills of the academic and library and information science (LIS) staff and students and strengthen the institutional capacities of the HEIs to deliver MSc-level education focused on Agroforestry and Geo-Information Technology.

METHODOLOGY

Thematic interinstitutional working groups (partners and associates) were established to develop templates and didactic materials for the various foreseen courses and to review the specialised training materials developed under consultancies (Master in Geo-Information Technology).

Specialist short courses in agroforestry and cross-training programmes, including: Geo-Information Technology, Information Literacy, Agroforestry and HIV/AIDS, and Agroforestry and Gender were designed and delivered by experts to the academic staff of the HEIs.

Library resources and equipment were procured for both laboratories (Agroforestry and Remote Sensing & Geographic Information System - GIS) including forest inventory equipment, software, and spectrophotometry and microscopy equipment.

The visibility of the EU contribution was ensured through the implementation of the Communication and Visibility Plan; including project brochures and leaflets, news published in the press, radio and television, website, etc.

RESULTS

→ Outputs

Capacity building

- 40 academic and research and LIS staff from the 4 HEIs trained in agroforestry and cross-training programmes, including: Geo-Information Technology, Information Literacy, Agroforestry and HIV/AIDS, and Agroforestry and Gender.
- 4 prospective trainers from the 4 HEIs attended and successfully passed the international Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management (MEDFOR) at the University of Valladolid (October 2015 / February 2016).

Networks

- More than 80 academic, research and LIS staff from the 5 HEIs collaborating in preparing and reviewing didactic materials for 31 advanced courses (MSc in Agroforestry - 16 courses, Master in Geo-Information Technology - 12 courses, Information Literacy, Agroforestry and HIV/AIDS, and Agroforestry and Gender).

Laboratories

- 4 laboratories for Agroforestry and GIS & Remote Sensing equipped with library resources and forest inventory equipment, software, and spectrophotometry and microscopy equipment.

Documents

- Study guides for the 16 courses of the MSc in Agroforestry, and cross-cutting short courses on 'Information Literacy for Agri-Food', 'Agroforestry and HIV/AIDS' and 'Agroforestry and Gender issues' and 12 courses of the Master in Geo-Information Technology.
- Specialist short courses in agroforestry and cross-training programmes' didactic materials and presentations.

Visibility

- Outreach activities, briefings, project brochures and leaflets, press conferences.
- Web portal.

↑ Outcomes

- MSc in Agroforestry (including cross-cutting short courses) and Master in Geo-Information Technology launched at partner HEIs.
- Staff competent in delivering MSc-level programmes in Agroforestry (including cross-cutting short courses) and Geo-Information Technology.
- Improved institutional frameworks through academic networking and internationalisation.

🎯 Impacts

Usage

- The 4 HEIs are using the didactic materials generated (courses of the MSc in Agroforestry, courses of the Master in Geo-Information Technology, and the Short Courses on 'Information literacy in university environments with Open Source tools for Agri-Food', 'Agroforestry and HIV/AIDS' and 'Agroforestry and Gender issues', and the Specialist Short Courses) and have launched their own programmes.

Policy implications

- HEIs have strengthened their capacities to prepare postgraduates with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to their national and regional development goals that are relevant to the horn of Africa and Sahel regions.

Sustainability

- Ensured through the programmes' implementation at the universities, delivered by trained academic/research and LIS staff

from the 4 sub-Saharan universities.

- The improved institutional frameworks through academic networking and internationalisation will also help with the sustainability of the programmes.

TESTIMONIAL



**Taffa Soumanou,
Abdouramane,
Demele, Bakary
Desire and Bekele,
Daba Misgana**

"In the framework of SAPHE we had the opportunity to attend the specialised module: 'Adaptive forestry strategies to provide good and services while coping with global change challenge' at the University of Valladolid. After completing this training, we are able to disseminate the acquired knowledge at home in our ongoing academic tasks."



Market, Ethiopia.



Working session on Agroforestry and Gender Issues, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ACP-EU Co-Operation Programmes in the fields of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Research

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