

ANNUAL REPORT **REPORT**

PROGRAM YEAR 2023

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

DD	Double Dugs
FFS	Farmer Field School
FO	Field Officers
POs	Program Officers
CA	Conservation Agriculture
L.F.O	Livestock Officer
ECC	Environmental Core Curriculum
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Associations
PY	Program Year

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters and Partners,

I am honoured to share the significant progress achieved by Floresta Tanzania in pursuit of our mission in 2023. FLORESTA remains firm in its dedication to uplifting rural communities facing the challenges of poverty and environmental adversity.

I am delighted to convey that success is evident across the communities we serve. Economically, these communities have witnessed growth, a clear indication of the positive influence of our programs. The propagation of environmental awareness and Spiritual renewal stands out as a notable accomplishment, fostering a deeper understanding of the delicate balance between humanity and nature. We are also observing the adoption of agroecological technologies, showcasing a commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices.

This annual report reflects the combined efforts of our devoted team, the resilience of the communities we serve, and the collaborative spirit of our esteemed partners. Together, we have reached significant milestones, yet we acknowledge the ongoing challenges that require our continued focus. As you explore the report, I invite you to contemplate the collective impact we have made and the opportunities that lie ahead.

With Gratitude,



RICHARD MHINA
COUNTRY DIRECTOR, FLORESTA TANZANIA.



“ I am honoured to share the significant progress achieved by Floresta Tanzania in pursuit of our mission in 2023.

In numerous developing nations, the ongoing intersection of poverty and environmental degradation has sparked significant worries in recent years. This twofold challenge has initiated a troubling cycle of ecological decline, putting at risk the physical security, economic stability, and overall well-being of vulnerable communities. Recognizing the severity of the situation, governments, alongside national and international organizations, have rallied their efforts to tackle poverty and counteract environmental degradation on a global scale

Flora and Fauna Restoration System Tanzania, known as "FLORESTA," is a Christian development and non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the lives of rural communities grappling with the intersection of poverty and environmental challenges. FLORESTA's mission is clear: to empower deprived farming families to transform their circumstances, provide for their children, and instil hope and dignity. The mission is accomplished through sustainable agriculture training, land restoration initiatives, saving and lending microfinance and local church and school engagement.

FLORESTA's primary focus is directed towards communities residing near natural reserve areas, those in mountainous regions, and those dependent on agriculture as their primary source of income. The efforts are centered in the Pangani Water Basin (PWB) in the Kilimanjaro region, covering the Districts of Siha, Hai, Moshi, Rombo, Mwanga, and Same.

FLORESTA's impact is demonstrated through the operation of 668 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) groups, benefitting 15,846 direct beneficiaries. Gender-neutral engagement is a key aspect, with 30% being men and 70% women, working collectively towards sustainable development. The Organization also engages with 312 churches and mosques and 272 schools, fostering collaboration and community-driven change at various levels.

This annual report outlines the activities conducted by FLORESTA during Program Year 23. (July 2022 to June 2023). Within these pages, a detailed account of the organization's efforts to address poverty and environmental challenges in various communities is presented. The report highlights the progress made and the impact observed, shedding light on the initiatives aimed at creating sustainable change in the regions served.

FLORESTA's commitment to sustainable development aligns closely with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a global framework for addressing the world's most pressing challenges. Some of the specific ways in which FLORESTA contributes to these goals includes:



NO POVERTY (SDG 1)

FLORESTA Tanzania contributes to SDG Goal 1 by promoting economic empowerment and poverty alleviation within marginalized rural communities. The organization focuses on providing farming families with essential knowledge and resources to enhance their livelihoods, resulting in significant progress towards poverty reduction and the overall improvement of beneficiary well-being.



ZERO HUNGER (SDG 2):

FLORESTA contributes significantly to supporting SDG Goal 2 by emphasizing sustainable agriculture training and land restoration. These efforts aim to enhance agricultural productivity and food security within farming communities, aligning with the goal of eradicating hunger.



GENDER EQUALITY (SDG 5):

FLORESTA maintains a commitment to advancing gender equality by actively involving and empowering women in its programs. The organization's efforts aim to diminish gender disparities by ensuring women receive equal opportunities and resources, thereby contributing to the creation of a more equitable society.



CLIMATE ACTION (SDG 13):

FLORESTA demonstrates dedication to environmental sustainability and climate action principles. The organization's focus on land restoration initiatives and implementation of sustainable agriculture practices works towards enhancing climate resilience and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change, aligning with SDG Goal 13.



LIFE ON LAND (SDG 15):

FLORESTA Tanzania exhibits a strong dedication to conserving terrestrial ecosystems, aligning with SDG Goal 15. The organization's initiatives concentrate on land restoration, preservation of crucial habitats, and the promotion of biodiversity. Engaging in responsible land management practices, we empower local communities to take ownership as environmental stewards.

PROGRAM EXPANSION

Program expansion entails the strategic enlargement of the organization's reach to communities through various channels, including the establishment of Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups, collaborations with religious institutions, and engagement with schools. This expansion aims to extend the program's impact by tapping into new areas and partnerships, ultimately enabling FLORESTA to work with a more diverse set of communities and beneficiaries while aligning with the organization's mission and objectives

In the program year 2023, FLORESTA expanded its program into new areas and established numerous community groups and partnerships. Concurrent with this expansion, a series of sensitization meetings were conducted in both the newly incorporated regions and existing operational areas, resulting in formation of:



80 NEW GROUPS

These newly established groups have significantly enhanced community involvement and increase the number of groups from 588 in PY 22 to 668 groups in PY 23. The 6688 VSLA groups encompass a total of 15,864 members, 30% of the individuals being men and 70% being women.



30 NEW RELIGIOUS PARTNERSHIP

Recognizing the significant influence of faith-based organizations in the communities served, partnerships have been successfully established under the Spiritual Renewal Program, expanding the program to include 30 new Religious Institutions, encompassing churches and mosques. This has contributed to an increase in the number of religious institutions working with the organization from 282 churches and mosques in PY22 to 312 in PY 23



23 NEW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Education stands as a fundamental pillar in sustainable development. FLORESTA's engagement with local schools reflects a belief in the transformative power of education within communities. In PY 23, new partnerships were established with 23 schools in the regions served, expanding the program from 241 schools in PY 22 to 264 schools in PY 23.

TRAININGS

FLORESTA, operating under its four comprehensive programs, is dedicated to empowering communities through an extensive array of training programs. The core philosophy is rooted in the idea that community development represents a journey of empowerment. Rather than offering temporary solutions, the programs are meticulously crafted to equip communities with the skills and knowledge essential for them to independently address their challenges. In the program year 2023, training was provided in each program as follows:

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM TRAINING

The Economic Empowerment Program offers financial training to foster a culture of saving, investing, and financial responsibility. In PY 23, the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) groups underwent comprehensive training which were designed to bolster their economic resilience and capabilities as shown

3541

VSLA members received
Business Management Training

3541

VSLA members received Loan
Management Training

11,617

VSLA members received
Training on record keeping



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK TRAINING

FLORESTA provides an array of agriculture and livestock training opportunities to communities via the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA). These training programs encompass sustainable agriculture practices and essential goat-keeping skills. The Spiritual Renewal Program also extends sustainable agriculture training to Religious Institutions and educational institutions, including schools.

Sustainable Agriculture Training

These training sessions are conducted in the VSLA groups and partner institutions. Emphasis is placed on improving crop yields, optimizing soil management, and promoting responsible land stewardship, all within the framework of organic agriculture. Community members actively participate in agroecological technologies, prioritizing environmental conservation while simultaneously enhancing agricultural productivity.

In the fiscal year 2023:

75%

of all beneficiaries, received comprehensive training in ecology, agroforestry, bio-intensive agriculture, soil conservation, conservation agriculture, and soil fertilization, banana management and banana macro propagation, all under the umbrella of organic farming.



82%

Of partnering Religious Institutions actively engage in specialized training sessions centered on organic agriculture techniques and environmental conservation practices

90%

Of partnering Educational Institutions actively engage in specialized training sessions centered on organic agriculture techniques and environmental conservation practices.

Livestock Training

FLORESTA's comprehensive livestock training benefits communities in all sub-watersheds where the FLORESTA goat project is active. These training sessions encompass both goat-keeping and poultry training, each serving distinct but interconnected purposes. Goat-keeping equips community members with knowledge and skills for effective animal care, nutrition, and disease management. This practice not only ensures the well-being of goats but also contributes to soil fertility and economic prosperity

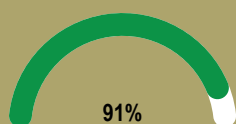
In the fiscal year 2023: 5,329 group members benefitted from these sessions. Simultaneously, poultry training, as a means to diversify income sources, provided 2,994 beneficiaries with knowledge in poultry house construction, feeds and feeding ratios, disease prevention, and various poultry-keeping methods.



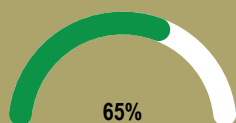
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION TRAINING

FLORESTA upholds a strong commitment to environmental preservation. Within the framework of the Environmental Restoration Program, a variety of training is offered to VSLA members, encompassing tree nursery establishment, seed and seedlings harvest, grafting, and beekeeping. These training sessions not only foster awareness about environmental conservation but also provide community members with the essential skills necessary for reforestation and sustainable resource management.

In PY 2023:



Of all VSLA members received training in tree nursery establishment, grafting, and seed and seedling harvest



Of all VSLA members received specialized beekeeping training, reinforcing the commitment to a greener and more sustainable future.



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL TRAININGS

Religious leaders, as well as members of the communities, received training on restoring the relationships between individuals, the environment and God. Floresta acknowledges the significance of religion as an instrument of change within the community and recognizes the potential link between poverty, deforestation, and spiritual issues arising from disrupted connections between individuals, the environment, and God. In PY 23:



2381 Institutional (schools and religious) leaders from different wards across all sub-watersheds underwent leadership training.



114 VSLA groups across all sub-watersheds received training on the concept of God's creation, the importance of Bible study, and redemptive agriculture.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program activities In PY 23 which includes comprehensive training sessions have produced significant results and achievements, providing valuable benefits to the communities served.



Seed and seedling harvesting and Tree nursery Establishment

As part of the environmental restoration efforts and the training received, VSLA members collectively harvested 1990.87 kilograms of various tree seeds and harvest 1,542,592 tree seedlings. These seedlings encompass a wide variety of tree species, including both native and exotic varieties, and have played a pivotal role in the establishment of tree nurseries.

Trees Planted

The environmental conservation training sessions, tree planting campaigns conducted in November and April 2023, alongside initiatives like village leaders and community tree planting sensitization meetings, have greatly motivated communities, VSLA members, and institutions across various districts (sub-watersheds). This collective effort has led to the planting of an impressive total of 1,543,588 trees on farms, institutional grounds, around water sources, and other designated areas including roadsides where 70 kilometers were conserved.

This collaborative effort not only contributes to the preservation of our environment but also plays a crucial role in ensuring cleaner air, providing essential shade, and enhancing the visual appeal of these districts.



Areas Trees were planted



229,230

Trees were planted along water sources in all districts where the organization operates



157,712

Trees were planted in different Institutions (schools & church) in all districts where the organization operates



1,156,646

Trees were planted in individual farms, along the road sides and other areas in all districts where the organization operates

Type of Trees Planted



243,963

Fruit Trees were planted



558,283

Indigenous Trees were planted



617,886

Exotic Trees were planted



123,456

Ornamental Trees were planted

Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture technologies

The Sustainable Agriculture program, conducted through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) within VSLA groups and partnering institutions, has resulted in remarkable progress in the adoption of diverse agroecological technologies by community members.



6,120

Farmers incorporated the use of organic pesticides within their home gardens and farms



6,495

Farmers integrated compost manure into their farming techniques, contributing to improved soil health and productivity



6,302

Farmers effectively implemented contour technologies, promoting responsible land management and soil erosion prevention.



Economic Growth

Instruction in economic has resulted in notable economic growth within the community In PY 23. 70% of the group members reinvested their shares as capital. This empowers them to access larger loans for substantial investments in their economic projects. Moreover:



2,382

Group members have successfully initiated new businesses. This achievement is particularly significant as these members initially lacked any source of income.



2,000

Group members have diversified their income sources, indicating a positive trend towards financial resilience and stability within the community.



Community members extending helping hand to the needy

The spiritual renewal training provided to VSLA members have not only instilled values of compassion and community engagement but have also prompted action. VSLA members participated in community outreach initiatives, extending a helping hand to those in-need within their communities

388



VSLA groups from all sub-watersheds participated in community outreach initiatives, extending a helping hand to those in need within their communities

OTHER ACTIVITIES

VISION TRIP

In PY 2023, FLORESTA Tanzania warmly welcomed a diverse array of visitors, including donors from Plant with Purpose, individuals from various global regions, guests from other countries, and local organizations within Tanzania. The purpose of these visits was to assess the progress of ongoing programs and gather insights into the organization's initiatives.

Program Implementation Visits

A group of donors from Plant with Purpose and various global regions visited significant areas in Shengena West, Sanya River, Wona Watershed, and the Organization's headquarters with Floresta Tanzania. This visit aimed to observe the practical implementation of programs.

Their visit included the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups, Religious Institutions collaborating with the Organization, Schools partnered with FLORESTA Tanzania, Lead farmers proficient in implementing the organization's technologies, and VSLA members benefitting from the Organization's Goat project. Additionally, program coordinators provided presentations to familiarize the guests with the organization's structure and activities, offering a comprehensive understanding of its initiatives. This immersive experience provided firsthand insights into the tangible application and positive impacts of the programs within the community, highlighting collaborative efforts with educational institutions and other key partners.

Visits for Learning Purpose

Concurrently, several visitors arrived to learn from the implementation of programs. In PY 23, guests from FLORESTA Ethiopia and the Swiss Aid organization in Tanzania visited Sanya River and Shengena East watersheds. Their visits focused on engaging with Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups to understand their operational procedures, specifically their savings activities. Additionally, they actively participated in environmental and agricultural initiatives, such as establishing tree nurseries, preparing organic pesticides, and learning about various technologies.

Throughout their visits, these guests interacted closely with group members, exchanging insights and posing questions. This hands-on engagement facilitated a valuable learning experience, allowing them to grasp the grassroots operations of our community initiatives, despite their visits to separate locations.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



1,543,588

Trees were planted



1990.87 KG

Of Tree seeds were harvested



6,302

Farmers implement contour technology



6,495

Farmers integrated compost manure into their farming techniques



6,120

Farmers adopted the use of Organic pesticides



30

New Religious Partnerships Formed



57

Goats were distributed to new beneficiaries



23

New School Partnerships Formed



2,382

Group members have successfully initiated new businesses



80

New groups have been established

CONCLUSION

FLORESTA acknowledges significant achievements in community development and environmental stewardship, as evident from key metrics. The commitment to environmental sustainability, demonstrated through initiatives such as tree planting, reflects dedication to fostering a greener future. The focus on economic growth opportunities signifies not just numerical growth, but a collective understanding of sustainable development within the community.

Looking ahead, the emphasis on sensitization, increased support, and comprehensive supervision emphasizes dedication to continuous improvement. FLORESTA aims to raise awareness and understanding within the community about environmental issues and the importance of sustainable practices.

While challenges such as climate change and land shortages persist, they present opportunities for refinement and improvement. These challenges compel innovation and the search for sustainable solutions that not only address immediate concerns but also contribute to long-term resilience and growth.



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