Cameroon

Funded by the European Union

Technical Assistance: Promoting Synecoculture Techniques to Build Climate Resilience and Improve Food Security in Northern Cameroon
Location: Garoua and Figuil, North Region, Cameroon
Solution: Synecoculture Techniques for Sustainable Agriculture
UNEP CTCN grant: USD 175,000

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Northern Cameroon, particularly in Garoua and Figuil, faces significant challenges due to climate change, including increased droughts, unpredictable rainfall, and land degradation. These factors negatively impact agricultural productivity and food security. This project introduces synecoculture, a regenerative agricultural method that enhances soil health, restores ecosystems, and improves food security. It engages local communities, particularly women and youth, in sustainable farming practices that mitigate climate risks and reduce reliance on chemical inputs.

Objectives

The project aims to build climate resilience in rural communities through the introduction of synecoculture, an innovative agricultural method. It focuses on training farmers in sustainable farming practices and improving local food systems. The project directly benefits 500 farmers, with a special emphasis on women and youth.

- **Enhancing agricultural resilience**: Introduce synecoculture to enhance ecosystem restoration and improve soil fertility.
- **Capacity building**: Train 500 farmers and 24 local school representatives in synecoculture techniques to boost local food security.
- **Promotion of women's empowerment**: Encourage the active participation of women and youth in sustainable agriculture.

Climate Impact

- **Ecosystem restoration**: Synecoculture promotes biodiversity, enhancing the resilience of ecosystems to climate variability.
- **Reduced climate vulnerability:** By adopting synecoculture, farmers reduce their exposure to climate risks such as droughts and floods.
- **Sustainable agriculture**: Synecoculture reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, promoting environmentally friendly farming practices.

Security Benefits

- **Conflict prevention**: By improving agricultural productivity and food security, the project reduces tensions over scarce resources, such as water and land.
- **Reduced rural-urban migration**: With improved food security and livelihoods, the project helps stabilize rural communities, reducing migration to urban centers.
- **Community stability**: The project promotes social cohesion by involving community members in shared agricultural practices.

Social Impact

- The project will directly benefit 500 **farmers**, with a strong focus on **women** (203 women in both Garoua and Figuil) and **youth**, empowering them to adopt sustainable farming methods.
- The project includes training and capacity building in synecoculture, promoting self-sufficiency in food production and reducing dependency on external agricultural inputs.
- It also engages schools, fostering environmental education among students.

Food Security

- **Increased crop yields**: Synecoculture techniques enhance food production, contributing to better food availability and diversity.
- **Improved nutrition**: The project increases access to diverse, nutritious food by promoting biodiversity in farming systems.
- **Sustainable livelihoods**: By reducing input costs and increasing productivity, the project improves the economic resilience of rural farmers.

CS Climate Technology

- The project implements synecoculture, a method of ecological farming that restores ecosystems, increases biodiversity, and ensures sustainable water usage, making it ideal for regions facing climatic challenges.

Replication Potential

- The synecoculture model can be replicated in other arid and semi-arid regions of Cameroon and neighboring countries facing similar environmental challenges.
- The project builds local capacity for sustainable agriculture, ensuring that the knowledge can be transferred to other communities.

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