

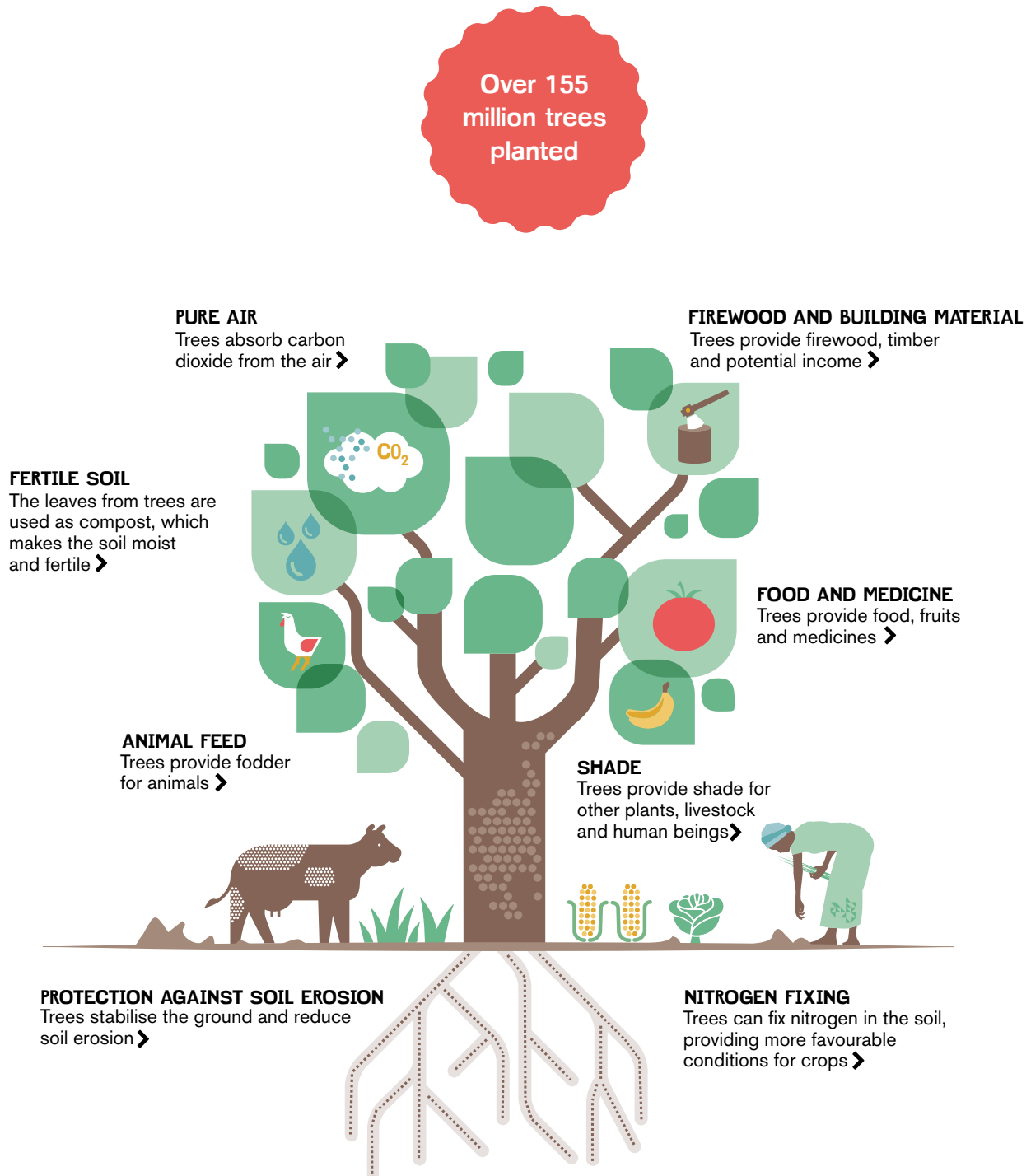


Vi Agroforestry

**VI AGROFORESTRY FIGHTS  
POVERTY AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE – TOGETHER!**

# WHO WE ARE – VI AGROFORESTRY

Vi Agroforestry is a Swedish international development organisation fighting poverty and climate change together. What started as a tree planting initiative in 1983, is today a fully-fledged development organisation, coordinating holistic agricultural development projects in East Africa and beyond. Agroforestry – where trees are grown together with crops and livestock – is at the core. From 1983 to 2022 we have contributed to the planting of over 155 million trees.



The illustration shows benefits of using agroforestry methods.

We support smallholder farmer families in shifting to sustainable agricultural land management (SALM), including agroforestry. These practices increase farmers' yields and help them be more resilient to the impacts of climate change. As a result, they improve their livelihoods and safeguard their right to food. At the same time, SALM methods help bind carbon dioxide, halt deforestation, improve soil quality and increase biodiversity. Over the last 10 years, we have supported 2.4 million people to improve their livelihoods.

Vi Agroforestry coordinates projects which are co-created with, and carried out by, local partner organisations in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Most of them are member-based farmer organisations. To partner with us means engaging in a mutually beneficial, long-term relationship. Our partners prioritise actions based on their context with an aim for positive long-term impacts. We strengthen their organisational development and capacity to deliver services to their members.

We offer our partners expertise in sustainable land management, agroforestry and climate change resilience. The methods we promote are well-proven practices based on scientific research. What sets Vi Agroforestry apart is our dual commitment to both human and environmental sustainability. Our holistic approach to smallholder agriculture not only enhances farmers' livelihoods, but also contributes positively to biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation and mitigation.


Over the years, we have developed an extensive network on global and regional levels. Vi Agroforestry is the founder of Agroforestry Network, a Sweden-based international platform for agroforestry with members from academia, civil society and the private sector. In East Africa, we work together with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF).

Our funding comes from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida Civsam), own fundraising, and donors such as the EU and the Swedish Postcode Lottery, among others. We are keen to collaborate with more donors who share our values. Feel free to connect with us via:

[info@viagroforestry.org](mailto:info@viagroforestry.org)

## Our vision – sustainability

A sustainable environment that enables women and men living in poverty to improve their lives.



Envisioning a world without poverty

## Our mission – fight poverty and climate change

To fight poverty and climate change – together. Empowering smallholder farmer families socially and economically, building their resilience while enhancing biodiversity and climate change mitigation through sustainable agricultural land management, including agroforestry.

## Our values – human rights

Vi Agroforestry is a human rights-based organisation. Our core values of non-discrimination, meaningful participation, accountability, transparency, empowerment and continued learning guide everything we do.

## Our target group – farmer families

We target smallholder farmer families, with a special focus on women, youth and children living in a situation of poverty. These families are likely to have limited access to productive resources and opportunities, and experience food insecurity and the effects of climate change.

## Our objective and results areas

During 2023-2027, our objective is to sustainably improve smallholder farmer families' livelihoods with a focus in Sub-Saharan Africa, but also beyond, through increased food and nutrition security, enhanced climate change resilience, improved incomes, biodiversity conservation and greater enjoyment of human rights – most notably the right to food, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and equal rights between women and men.

Our project work from 2023 until 2027 is carried out under a strategy we call *Agroforestry for Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity (ASILL-B)*. We focus on five areas where we set out to reach concrete results on:

- Stronger farmer organisations
- Enhanced biodiversity and climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience
- Increased food and nutrition security
- Sustainable and resilient livelihoods
- Advocacy



Improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods



All our current and future interventions are purposely designed to contribute to the results areas. Within the areas, we work actively to stop discrimination and empower women and girls. Ultimately, all we do contributes to our vision and to five of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**Our theory of change  
– a strong civil society**

Vi Agroforestry works through local partners to build a strong civil society that enables enjoyment of rights and improvement of livelihoods. We believe that by organizing in democratic, member-based organisations, people have the means to claim their human rights and protect and care for nature and climate to benefit themselves, the planet and future generations.

**Where we work – Africa**

Projects and partnerships are managed by our country offices in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The regional office in Nairobi, Kenya coordinates operations, advocacy and expertise, while the head office in Stockholm, Sweden focuses on fundraising, method development and advocacy.

In the coming years, we look to expand our geographical coverage, both within the current countries in East Africa, and into new countries. Criteria such as an area’s vulnerability to climate change, the value we can contribute, and what resources we have available will steer our course. We will in particular explore dry areas where agroforestry has great potential to add value to the ecosystem and people.



Mashaka Charles and his wife Agnes Joseph, Tanzania. Photo: Mark Njoroge.

# SOME OF OUR CURRENT PROJECTS

## STRONGER FARMER ORGANISATIONS:

Under the **Agroforestry for Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity (ASILI-B)** programme, we capacitate farmer organisations holistically in everything from farming methods, to how to form a board of directors, to gender equal participation and governance. Strong, democratic organizations can serve their members better. They become platforms through which farmers can influence decision-making and hold duty-bearers accountable.

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## RESTORATION

In the **Restore4More project**, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) does research to fill knowledge gaps on how best to restore rangelands in dry areas of East Africa. We help share that knowledge with country/district level officials, extension workers, NGOs and community-based organisations in Kenya through trainings for herder groups, demonstration sites, and Livestock Cafés – social hubs to meet and learn. The project is funded by the Swedish research council Formas.

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## VALUE CHAINS

The **Smallholder Coffee Development Project (CODE-P)** in Tanzania's southern highlands seeks to empower 24 000 farmers, enhance coffee quality and quantity, increase incomes, and attract youth and women to engage in coffee farming. Farmers learn sustainable land management and get greater access to farm inputs. They set up savings and loans groups so they can access capital, and they get support to access markets that pay a fair price for their coffee. The project is a partnership with another international development organisation, a national agricultural non-state actor forum, a research institute and a coffee sector interest organisation. It is funded by the European Union.

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## CARBON OFFSETTING

The **Kenya Agriculture Carbon Project (KACP)** shows that using sustainable farming methods reduces greenhouse gases, boosts small farmers' productivity, and helps communities adapt to climate change. 29 000 farmers benefit. Carbon credits are certified by Verified Carbon Standard (Verra). The project is funded by individuals and companies buying carbon offsetting.

The **Livelihoods Mount Elgon project** seeks to improve the livelihoods of 15 000 smallholder farmers in Kenya – most of them dairy farmers. This is done through sustainable farming, increased milk production and carbon sequestration. Carbon credits are certified by Verified Carbon Standard (Verra). The project is funded by the Livelihoods Funds.

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## ADVOCACY

During this strategy period, we aim to find win-win solutions where all actors see the gains from addressing the needs and rights of smallholder farmers. We, together with our partners, initiate and engage in multi-stakeholder dialogues and events to promote policy coherence.

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## MOBILISING ACTORS IN AGROFORESTRY

**Agroforestry Network**, founded by Vi Agroforestry, promotes policy coherence and helps ensure research is applied in policy and practice. The network brings together agroforestry experts from different organisations and institutions in Sweden and abroad.

The **Annual Agroforestry symposiums** in Tanzania bring together smallholder farmers, representatives from civil society, students, researchers, local and national authorities, the private sector, international organisations and donors to share experiences.

The **Annual open learning weeks** in Kenya demonstrate agroforestry and Sustainable Agricultural Land Management (SALM) best practices to smallholder farmers, agricultural organisations, research institutes and other players across the country.



*Photo: Mark Njoroge.*

## VOICES FROM PROJECT PARTICIPANTS



Mega Nansubuga. Photo: Vi Agroforestry.

### Mega Nansubuga

When Mega Nansubuga talks about her turnaround in life, she can't help but smile. She is one of the women in the Businda village, Mayuge district, Uganda who have recently learned to grow trees, vegetables and mushrooms, and keep bees.

*"After receiving lessons on beekeeping, we managed to get six 20-liter jerry cans of honey in just six months"* she says, beaming.

The mushroom growing has been an equal success. After three months of carefully watering and caring for her first batch of mushrooms, she harvested no less than 30kg, and earned over 50 USD from selling them. Using her new incomes, Mega has managed to open a small retail shop.



Emmanuel Wilson shows his schedule for caring for coffee crops – a good advice he picked up from the training. Photo: Katherine O'Sullivan.

### Emmanuel Wilson

Emmanuel Wilson from Shongo, Mbeya Region, Tanzania, initially pursued coffee farming like his parents. Devastatingly, his coffee plants fell prey to a disease. He found solace by switching to farming beans and maize instead. It helped him earn some much-needed money fast. But his faith in growing coffee was restored after attending field school trainings on how to farm smarter. He embraced disease-resistant coffee seedlings and mastered agroforestry.

After two years, he could harvest an impressive 80kg of coffee. This remarkable harvest has filled Emmanuel with optimism. He now seeks to inspire youth, including his own children, to engage in coffee farming.



Beatrice Wamalwa's maize fields are producing bigger harvests than ever. Photo: Onyango Ayany.

### Beatrice Wamalwa

In Siaya, Kisumu and Bungoma in western Kenya, Vi Agroforestry has worked with partner organisations to teach new, sustainable farming methods that produce bigger harvests and boost farmers' resilience to the impacts of climate change. The project is a collaboration with 30,000 smallholder farmers, to promote sustainable farming methods on 54,000 acres (22,000 hectares) of land.

Mother of six Beatrice Wamalwa has been a housewife since 1981. Her now-retired husband used to be the main provider. In the past, they harvested about five sacks of maize per acre of farmland. But seven years into the project, Beatrice harvests up to 60 sacks per acre!

Today, she can pay for both upper secondary and college education for her children. She has food on the table and money in her pocket.

*"My husband sounds different these days when he calls me his wife. I'm the one looking after him,"* says Beatrice proudly.

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