



Amhara Ethiopia

Mid-year report 2021

A community-based approach to restore degraded lands

In collaboration with The Hunger Project, our focus here is to reforest the landscape and stabilise soil by growing native trees in gullies and on community land, river banks and farmland.

In our agroforestry programme, farmers are growing fruit trees on their farms, and dairy production and beekeeping offer additional income streams that prevent the need to cut trees and can ease pressure on the surrounding forest.

In 2021 we obtained community approval for the restoration of a further 96.62 ha in 7 villages in the Machakel district (East Gojjam zone), exceeding our target to restore 90 ha of degraded communal lands.

Owing to its success, the project is set to enter phase two and expand to ten times its current size into neighbouring West Gojjam (Jabi-Tehnan district).

Our goals for the Amhara project:

2021 is the end of phase 1.

This year, we'll restore

96.62 ha

to reach phase 1's final goal of

1 149 ha

1 958 000 trees

2 nurseries are raising

294 575

seedlings

Restoration techniques:

**Framework planting
and agroforestry**



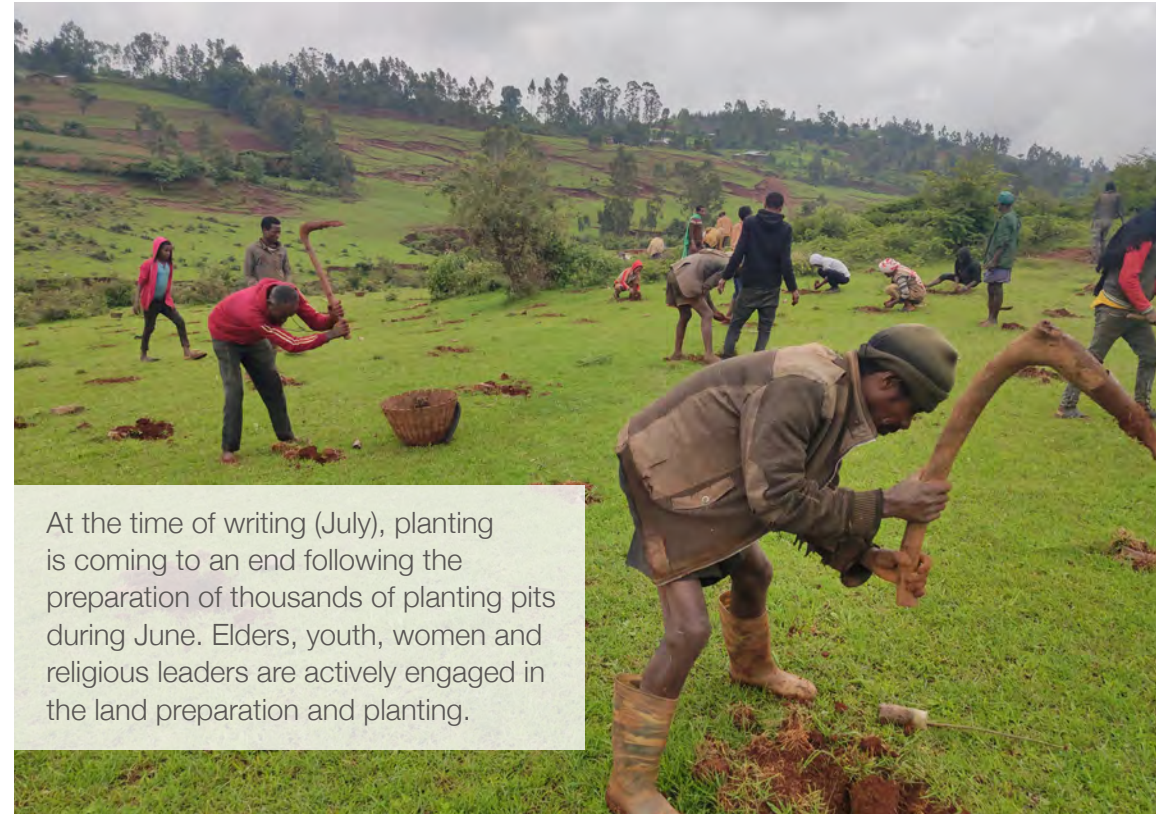
What's new in Amhara?

Recent highlights from the field

So far this year, 12 degraded communal land areas in the Machakel district covering 96.62 ha have received community agreement for restoration. To monitor how the trees grow, 29 permanent monitoring plots have been set up across the 12 new sites.

The seedlings for the 2021 planting season have come from the two THP-WeForest 'Love Nature' nurseries. You can see their locations on our new-look interactive map [here](#). In the two nurseries, 294 575 seedlings – 229 079 (78%) of them native and 65 496 (22%) exotic species – have been produced this year, exceeding our planned target of 262 500. The exotic species are mainly for fuelwood, timber and fodder for livestock which are critical in reducing pressure on the forests.

More than 120 000 of these seedlings are being planted



At the time of writing (July), planting is coming to an end following the preparation of thousands of planting pits during June. Elders, youth, women and religious leaders are actively engaged in the land preparation and planting.

January

February

March

April

May

June

Community mobilisation and site selection

Seedling production

Gullies identified

Mapping of selected communal lands

Check dams constructed where necessary

Cut-off drain and other soil and water management practices employed

Households selected for agroforestry practices

Planting

Key

Tree planting and ANR on communal and farmlands

Livelihood activities

Soil and water conservation activities

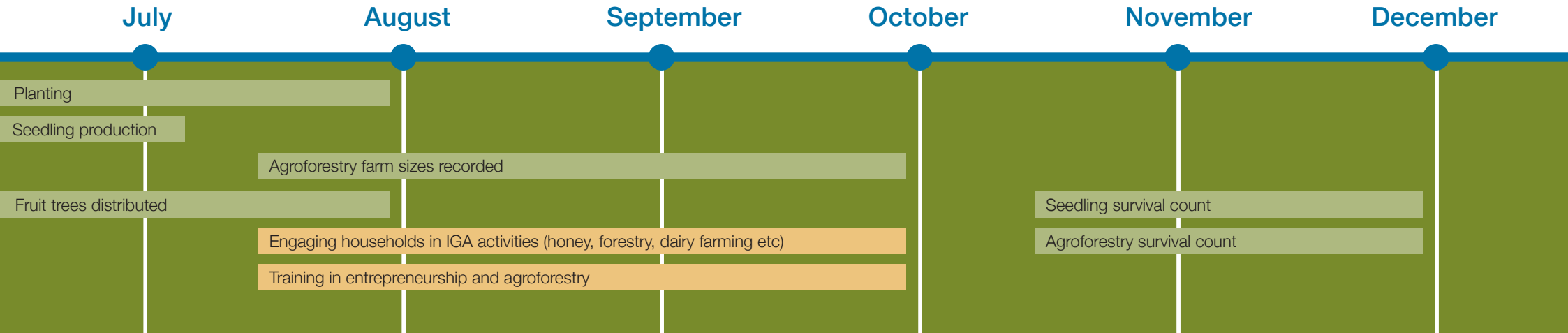


The landscape here is now a network of gullies – some of them very deep! – that have been formed as soil is washed away during the heavy rainy season. Soil and water conservation structures (such as check dams, see right) are built to reduce runoff and soil erosion.

on the 96.62 ha of communal lands, and 150 000 of the native species are destined for the agroforestry programme on villagers’ homesteads, which aims to diversify agricultural production and boost local incomes.

We’re expecting 440 families to be engaged in the agroforestry programme by the end of 2021, covering 60 ha of homesteads in 7 villages. To date, the project has identified 675 interested farmers, 51 of them women, in the villages around the 12 new planting sites. All agroforestry farmers also participate in the planting and maintenance of the communal restoration sites, and are trained in high-value seedling planting and post-plantation management.

110m³ of check dams – which lower the speed of rainwater flowing over the land and reduce erosion – have been built in four gullies. 279 people, 8 of them women, participated in the construction. The amount of soil saved will be estimated after a few months of their operation.



What's next?

- The scaling up of the Amhara project to 10 000 ha begins in the last quarter of this year.
- Planting of communal lands finished in July.
- Selection of the new farmers for the agroforestry programme will be finalized in the coming weeks.
- The next grass harvest from restoration sites will take place in October and November 2021. The grass is food for the livestock and reduces overgrazing in the recovering forest.
- A vegetation survey will be carried out to measure the project's impact on the regeneration of native woody species, tree cover and diversity of species.
- The two nurseries will be handed over to the community and local government.



How do we know our restored forests are growing and making an impact?

Hectares and sites under restoration are mapped with GPS points to generate polygons or sites on a map that are assigned to sponsors. Permanent monitoring plots are established in our sites and our forestry and science teams conduct surveys to monitor progress of biomass growth, tree density, survival rate and species diversity, among other indicators. Where social impacts are also critical, we measure socio-economic indicators such as the number of beneficiaries, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

Please visit our [Why and How](#) webpage for more information.

Stay up-to-date with our new-look interactive [Amhara map](#), and check out the great new photos on [Flickr!](#)

