

Shea Nut Tree Program, northern Togo

Stop desertification and support women's financial empowerment in Kemerida area, Togo.



Stichting Togo Tourism & Development

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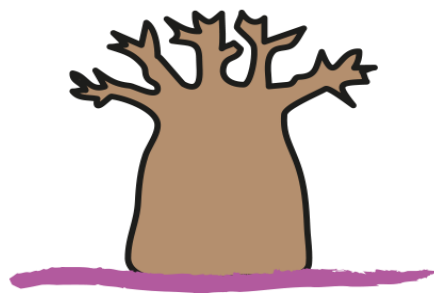
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Togo Tourism & Development Foundation

In collaboration with local partner NGO ASEDA



Togo tourism &
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Project Background

The area is in the Northern part of Togo, which is faced with drought and desertification is the targeted regional area. Due to climate change effect, there is acceleration of desertification and poverty. Many trees can not grow in the area, but shea trees are adapted tot he area and many women live already from shea nuts. This project will women to generate better income. Because shea trees need 7 – 10 years to produce, people don’t plant them, the project is also to help people in this area to engage themself fort he future.

Togo Tourism & Development foundation collaborated with Ecofamr ACEDA to change the situation. Since 2016 we support ACEDA to plant trees and to train orpaned youth to produce tree nurseries so that their communities can plant trees and they can earn an income. Ecofarm ACEDA plants fruit and wood trees throughout the year. On an area of 100 hectare tree nurseries are created to replant in the environment and surrounding villages of the farm.

Target Group

On the request of the population in Kemerida, at the border with Benin, approximately 1000 farmers will be supported through setting up three nurseries, giving each farmes 100 shea trees seedlings and assistance in the first 3 years.

The shea tree

A shea tree takes approximately 7 to 10 years before the first harvest, thus farmers are not immediately interested to plant them. However the shea tree has several advantages::

- Good against erosion and desertification, due to his roots.
- Earning income through selling shea nuts and shea butter. The demand on the market for quality sheabutter is high (see next page)

- Supply chain from shea nuts to shea butter is in the hand of women in Togo, and supports women in their autonomy

Shea in food

Shea is ethnic and high value added to many food industries. Shea butter in the food industry is widely used because its fat composition is very similar to the fat composition of cocoa butter which makes it uniquely placed to become a Cocoa Butter Equivalent (CBE) or Cocoa Butter Improver (CBI) for use in ice-creams, chocolates and biscuits. The natural shortage of cocoa through plantation degradation, plant disease and climate change; combined with heavy market demand for chocolate from developing countries has led to increased pressure on the use of cocoa as a fat, and the search for alternatives. Which is why in June 2000, as part of directive 2000/36/EC, the European Union authorized the use of shea butter in the chocolate industry as a substitute for cocoa butter (with a maximum of 5% of vegetable fat in the chocolate). The substitution was already authorized in various regions of the world such as the United States (with a maximum of 5%), Japan (between 5% and 8%) and Eastern Europe (up to 15%).

Shea in chocolate

The fat percentage of a typical chocolate filling contains approximately 30% fat, so the choice and combination of fats is essential to provide a great customer taste and texture experience. The unique properties of edible Shea fat, adds significant versatility to your product development including coatings and finished goods. Using shea delivers the following beneficial properties:

- improved shelf life
- better heat stability
- increased melting point
- reduced 'bloom' formation

Shea butter – an ethical replacement for Palm Oil

We are not just avoiding negative impact but creating real positive social and environmental change. Palm oil is the most commonly used vegetable oil globally. Its use within personal care and food products is popular due to its cost, high melting point (providing a replacement for trans-fats (banned recently by US FDA). The Palm Oil industry has made strides towards more sustainable practices, but the harsh truth is that palm oil production has historically resulted in significant deforestation with serious environmental impact.

Shea Butter – a healthy alternative to hydrogenated fats

Unrefined shea butter is a traditional cooking fat, that when heated melts to an oil with a characteristically smoky nutty aroma. It has been used for generations in the Savannah Shea Belt as a healthy fat. Unrefined Shea Butter is an all natural, vegan-friendly alternative to other lards and butters. Shea butter is also a healthier alternative to transfat-rich, hydrogenated oils often used in the confectionery and baked goods manufacturers. Shea Butter is also a valuable CBR or Cocoa Butter Replacement.

Sustainable Shea Butter –for the Chocolate & Confectionery Industry

Sustainable shea enables you to update your product offering in line with growing consumer demands and awareness to purchase products which demonstrate an ethical sourcing policy. We help you deliver on your commitment to take real sustainable action in measurable ways, whilst being commercially sound and inclusive.

Main Goals

Stop desertification and empower women economically.

Operational plan

Togo Tourism & Development based in The Netherlands worked already with farmers cooperatives. We have already registered famers database and has a good relationship with them. We will work together, with ASEDA Ecofarm who will develop the nurseries and will distribute them tot he farmers. Each farmer will received 100 shea trees. Project will plant in total 100.000 trees in 3 years.

Outcome/Impact

Impact of this project will be first environmental, stop the sahara and reduced the poverty in Kemerida area. Shea trees roots are adapted to stop soil erosion. The shea will be property of Kemerida women cooperatives, man will use the land to grow soybeans. Women will later havest the shea nuts.