



Vietnam Business for Environment – VB4E

Project title: Piloting biodiversity conservation in West Truong Son through the implementation of the forest garden model in coffee farming.

Project duration: 5-6 months, February 2022- July or August 2022

Project location: Huong Phung Commune, Huong Hoa District, Quang Tri province

Project idea:

1. Background

Huong Hoa, Quang Tri has a community of Van Kieu ethnic people who cultivate coffee along the West Truong Son forest area. Due to the decline in coffee quality and price, local people are abandoning their coffee gardens and continuously encroaching on the forest to plant other crops, greatly affecting the area and biodiversity of the West Truong Son forest.

The project is a pilot of a forest garden model, in which coffee trees are invested to restore the quality, combined with the restoration of indigenous flora and soil environment by natural methods. The model will demonstrate that livelihood improvement can be linked to environmental restoration and biodiversity.

This is a lesson that can be documented, propagated, or is a premise for businesses and local governments of further investment.

2. Main objective and expected outcome:

2.1 Main purpose and specific objectives:

The project's goal is to pilot reducing the impact on the forest environment from coffee farming, using a sustainable forest garden model.

Through the project activities, the group will develop a set of training and guiding documents of the forest garden model for coffee ethnic farmers in Huong Hoa, Quang Tri in particular, and the West Truong Son area in general. Detail:

- Reduce the situation of forest clearing and encroachment for coffee cultivation, through the model of forest gardens to create sustainable livelihoods.
- Improve the capacity of local people to build forest gardens with a variety of trees, including coffee trees, native plants, herbal plants, multi-layered, multi-canopy. At the same time, reuse local agricultural and herbal by-products to produce fertilizers and biological pesticides.
- Raise awareness of coffee farmers, especially ethnic minorities, about biodiversity conservation and forest environment protection.

2.2 Expected outcome:

Through the project activities, the results can be achieved are:

- By September 2022, successfully establish at least 4Ha of coffee forest garden according to the model of specialty coffee, integrated with forest conservation in Huong Phung, Huong Hoa, Quang Tri.
- The community group to draft a set of guidelines for the forest garden coffee model with specific criteria, suitable for the locality, the culture of the ethnic minority groups, and widely applicable.
- About 100 ethnic minority households were trained in the following knowledge: (1) Implementing the model of sustainable forest garden coffee, species diversity, and indigenous plant protection; (2) Production techniques of fertilizers and plant protection solutions from local agricultural by-products and local herbs; (3) Conservation of biodiversity and environment in agricultural farming.
- 10 communication products about biodiversity conservation, forest garden model, and the Vietnam Wildlife Conservation Fund on communication channels and social networks, including video clips, tutorials, articles, news, especially on special pages promoting specialty coffee on domestic and international markets.
- Organize at least 1 learning trip and share experiences for farmers from other localities about the forest garden model.

2.3 Target groups and final beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender):

Target group	Total	Male	Female
Ethnic minority farmers	160	60	100
Ethnic Kinh farmers	40	15	25
Local officials	10	6	4
Total	210	81	129

3. Indicative action plan for project implementation

Month	Description of activities	Implementing organisation
first	<p>Pilot model "Coffee forest garden with biodiversity":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the condition of productive arable land, and practice the method of restoring soil nutrients by increasing soil humus. 	Project group, Quang Tri Agricultural College Pun coffee Co., Ltd

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of the current status of coffee gardens and how to introduce crops into the implementation of a biodiversity coffee garden under the multi-layered multi-canopy model. - Implement the planting of trees suitable for each type of tree and take care of the plants. - Assessment of the effect on livelihoods and landscape for the model after 1 year of implementation 	
2	<p>Technology transfer of fertilizers and pesticides from agricultural by-products and local herbs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on the process of collecting agricultural by-products and herbs as raw materials for farmers. - Training on the production of fertilizers and biological pesticides on a small scale for farmers - Training on the use of probiotics for farmers - Evaluation of the results of using probiotics on the plant environment to the soil environment and organisms. 	Project group Quang Tri Technology Application Center & Pun coffee Co., Ltd
3	<p>Prepare documents on forest garden model and use of biological products from agricultural by-products in farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of the effectiveness in terms of livelihood and landscape when applying the model of forest gardens and probiotics in coffee cultivation. - Prepare a guidebook on forest garden model and biodiversity conservation farming suitable with the local environment and culture. 	Pun Coffee Company and the project team
4	<p>Communication work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create fanpage: Image content conveys the project message. - Create a youtube channel describing the project implementation process, project documents and promoting products and project models. - Add items and articles to communicate the content of Forest Garden Coffee on the corporate website. - Coordinating with local television to make a report on the forest garden coffee model and the Vietnam Fund for Plant and Fauna Diversity Conservation. 	Project group

	- Participating in the Vietnam Specialty Coffee Fair and Contest	
5	Deploy the transfer of biodiversity model of coffee gardens in the direction of nature to the Women's Union, Youth Union, Farmers' Union and production cooperation groups.	Project groups, cooperative groups, local associations

4. Project sustainability

4.1 Project sustainability

The project has extensive participation of local communities, businesses and is in line with the orientation of the state, thus ensuring sustainability after the end of the project.

- Ensure the local community has the capacity to maintain and develop the model after the project ends by demonstrating how the model can improve the livelihoods of local communities and ethnic minorities.
- Ensure technical capacity and skills of local cooperative groups and social organizations to continue to support local communities in maintaining and expanding the model.
- Closely associated with business partners to ensure forest products are sold at good prices. At the same time, when the model is proven to bring economic and environmental benefits, businesses can continue to invest in expanding the model.
- With the priority policy of developing coffee trees and specialty coffee brands of Quang Tri, the project can form a pilot model to incorporate into the local coffee replanting strategy.

4.2 Risks

Some risks may be encountered when implementing the project:

- Risks on the coffee market: The coffee market is greatly affected by world coffee prices. In the 2000s, when coffee prices fell, people abandoned coffee trees and encroached on forests for other agricultural crops. If the price of coffee drops, there is a risk that people are not interested in developing forest gardens. To mitigate this risk, the project will focus on the specialty coffee segment, which is less affected by commercial coffee prices, and consumers tend to be more concerned about nature and the environment.
- Disease risk: This risk is not large, because farming to maintain biodiversity will contribute to protecting crops against diseases by wild plants themselves.
- Risks of Covid 19: Currently, this is one of the major factors affecting the cultivation and consumption of products from forest gardens: (1) Coffee cannot be harvested due to restrictions on movement. lack of labor for harvesting and processing; (2) Transportation

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and trade are difficult due to reduced demand and high freight rates. These factors will affect people's livelihood and commitment to the model.

- Risks of natural disasters: Quang Tri is one of the provinces frequently affected by natural disasters. Rainstorms can:
 - + Reduces crop yields, leading to a decrease in livelihoods. Intercropping coffee trees with native plants will reduce the impact of storms and strong winds.
 - + Floods and landslides cause complete damage. This risk will be assessed in detail when selecting the pilot model deployment area, ensuring that the risk of heavy damage is minimized.

5. Contribution to thematic areas of VB4E:

The project focuses on ethnic minorities to help them develop their livelihoods from coffee. Especially for women who are weak in the family. Creating equality for women through stable livelihood is our goal.

- The project aims at a sustainable farming community through the restoration of biodiversity, both restoring the value of native plants, and contributing to the protection of the natural ecological environment.
- Since the 2010s, with the sharp drop in coffee prices, people have not taken care of their farms, but have continuously destroyed forests and expanded agricultural land. The project will promote the participation of farmer collaboration groups in Huong Phung, Huong Hoa, encouraging the local women and ethnic groups in creating sustainable livelihoods, contributing to solving pressure on the forest area and biodiversity.
- The implementation of sustainable livelihood models and forest conservation has long faced many difficulties. The groups do not have an appropriate model to propagate and mobilize people to reduce deforestation and forest exploitation. Documents on nature conservation and forest environment protection are not prepared according to the culture and context of ethnic minorities in the region, making it difficult to access. The project will document lessons learned from the forest garden model and develop a set of documents suitable for the locality. Through the development of documents and exchange of experiences, local women's groups and cooperatives will have the capacity to effectively promote biodiversity protection.

6. Project budget:

4973 EUR

Implementing partner: The project will cooperate with Pun coffee Co., Ltd., with the role of:

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- Carry out project communication, invite experts to train, pilot applications to replicate the model.
- Sponsor the purchase of products from the biodiversity coffee garden.
- Practice producing microbial fertilizers and biological products at the company's production facilities. Transferring the production process of fertilizers and microbial pesticides.
- Practice logging biodiversity forest gardens to build a transparent system of product traceability from the farm to the end user.

Please contact the coordinator via VB4EAlliance@gmail.com for more information if you are interested in project ideas.

About the applicant:

Name:	Xary Coffee Group 2
Address, phone number, email, website, contact person:	Luong Ngoc Tram Phone number: 0901751875 Email: luongngoctram83@gmail.com
Legal registration information:	The group has been established under the decision of Huong Phung Commune since October 2019
Projects done:	<p>The group of clean coffee farming and trading groups was established in 2019.</p> <p>In 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating in the EMEE – World Vision project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training, cooperation in care and collection of high quality coffee. ● Participating in supervision of farmer households collecting and preliminarily processing clean and safe coffee ● Support management and financial allocation for households participating from the project capital. <p>In 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating in the project of producing microbial fertilizers from agricultural by-products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PUN Vietnam Coffee Company ● Participating in purchasing agricultural by-products and reselling them to businesses



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participating in the distribution of finished products to members of the cooperative group. <p>Continuously cooperate with farmers to improve the technique of taking care of coffee harvesting.</p>
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