

## Annual report 2016

In 2016, the Green Flower Foundation (GFF) has explored the feasibility of a project in Ethiopia, in the domain of Technical and vocational Education and Training (TVET) for young female professionals in organic horticulture and floriculture.

While the administrative procedures is done in Switzerland to get accredited as a Swiss foundation, surveys have been made in Ethiopia regarding the following aspects:

- Education for girls in the field of horticulture and floriculture
- Market analysis have been carried out in order to understand the national markets for flowers (Flower shops owners, nurseries, flower farms.)
- Access to land for expatriate
- Political situation has been studied (instability?)
- Organic agriculture legislation

In September (19-30), the three committee members have flown to Addis Abeba, to meet different stakeholders.

The education system in Ethiopia specifies that Boys and Girls should have the same access to education. Gender issue may not be an issue in Ethiopia, or at least cannot be presented as such.

Visits to flower farm made us realise the grim side of it. Lots of chemical is used to produce flowers. The flower farms are subject to severe critics as they use cheap labour, don't train the labour forces, pay very low salary, pollute the ground and the wells, etc.

Regarding the flower arrangements skills. They are not taught, but rather copied from internet pictures. Flowers are little used in Ethiopia. Only few Ethiopian use them for present.

Nurseries have been visited too. Gardeners have very little training (on the spot training)

A visit to the Swiss embassy made us realize that land is a problem. Some uprising occurred this year because of this issue.

By the end of 2016, the board has decided to adjust the project to the current Ethiopian reality, focusing it more on the organic horticulture (fruits and vegetables) rather than floriculture. The gender issue may not be that important for this context and may be dropped as well.

The board decided to further study the feasibility of the project by broadening its network of institution or people active in Addis Abeba and surroundings. Another mission is planned for the beginning of the year 2017.