

Annual report 2017

In 2017, the Green Flower Foundation (GFF) has continued to explore the feasibility of a project in Ethiopia, in the domain of Technical and vocational Education and Training (TVET) for young professionals in organic horticulture and floriculture.

The exploration was successful and GFF could finalize a concrete proposal for a project that is planned to take place within the Poly-technique college in Bishoftou.

At the end of the year, the project proposal was ready to be submitted to the concerned Ethiopian authorities. GFF plans to get the necessary approvals for the project in the course of the first semester of 2018 and gets ready to start the project in September or October 2018.

GFF did focus its resources on the following main fields of activities in Ethiopia:

- Establish a network with the Institutions, organisations, companies and individuals that are active in vocational training on the one hand and organic horticulture on the other hand: Greenpath enterprise in Addis Ababa; Terra Farm, located at Debre Berhan; Institute for Sustainable Development that focuses on rural farming communities, environmental clubs in schools and youth capacity development; International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology in Addis Ababa; Ecological Products of Ethiopia that provides training for rural farmers on organic farming; Ethiopian Association for Organic Agriculture that unites producers, processors, marketers, consumers and trainers.

- Connect to farmers and companies that practice organic farming and do business with organic vegetables, herbs and flowers:

Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporter Association (EHPEA) that is the union of commercial horticulture producers and exporters of Ethiopia; Ethiopian Horticulture Development Agency (EHDA) that is a governmental agency which supports the exporting farmers.

- Get a good understanding of the market situation, both for internal consumption and for export.

- Carry out a survey on fruits and vegetables demand and supply gap in Addis Ababa.

- Carry out an assessment on market needs for organic horticulture and floriculture farms and companies.

- Connect to pertinent universities, such as the Jimma University College of Agriculture and veterinary Medicine and the Holeta TVET College.
- Discuss the project with the concerned government agencies, such as Federal TVET agency in Addis Ababa and the Oromia TVET agency.
- Establish a partnership agreement with a TVET College, ie. with Bishoftou Poly-technique college (BPC).
- Carry out a survey on possible trainees' needs in the area of Galan (next to Bishoftou)

The work in Ethiopia was carried out mainly by one local person, working with GFF on an ad hoc basis and temporary basis. Three one-week-long missions (January, May and November) by members of the Board allowed to deepen the various contacts and to progress on the finalisation of the project proposal for BPC. In November, GFF identified and worked with an expert in organic agriculture and vocational training, who contributed to the finalization of the proposed partnership agreement with BPC.

As a matter of fact, the two local human resources have been vital for achieving the objectives, ie. the submission of a project proposal that meets the ambitions of GFF, takes into account the local reality with regard to organic horticulture and respects the requirements and standards of Ethiopian TVETs.

With regard to Geneva, GFF focused on the following priorities:

- Identify - within Europe – the leading Institutions, organisations and individuals in the domains of organic farming on the one hand and vocational training on the other hand.
- Establish an advisory group that accompanies GFF in its projects with different expert views on the matters.
- Establish a website that serves as the main tool for communicating with interested individuals and groups and attracts potential donors.