

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



GREEN FLOWER FOUNDATION

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ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

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1. Editorial

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to share with you the third and final annual report of the project undertaken by the Green Flower Foundation over 3 years, from 2018 to 2021.

This project has duly come to an end, and it is with a certain sense pride and satisfaction that we share with you the latest activities realised.

2. Green Flower in a Few Words

The foundation's goal was to "Increase employment access and entrepreneurial initiatives through dual vocational training in sustainable organic agriculture in Ethiopia". In other words, to develop a project to teach and promote techniques for the development of organic horticulture in Ethiopia. To carry out this project, we worked in partnership with institutions, companies, communities, and individuals who share our passion for innovative education, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. Also, to ensure its sustainability, a partnership was established with the Bishoftu Polytechnic College, education centre in Ethiopia, which was already offering training in conventional horticulture.

Structure of the Foundation in 2021

Board

Elisabeth Assal-Bouchardy (President)
Mathieu Assal (Secretary)
Andreas Wigger (Treasurer)

Advisory board

Anne Guimond Kostecki
Ruth Avison Dang
Charles Milo
Eric Cooper

Operational team

Geneva Office

Julie Porchet – (Head of projects and operations)

Ethiopian Office

Kassahun Lemi Woyessa - (Project manager)
Getachew Abraha - (Accountant)
Esrom Tesfay - (Agronomist – Farm coordinator)
Takele Mekonnen Erko - (Project coordinator)

3. Activities carried out in 2021

The curriculum

One of the major achievements of our project was the modification of the National Ethiopian curriculum. This work started in 2018 and was finalised in 2021, when all modules were officially modified and validated by the Ministry of Education. This new curriculum is now being disseminated to all 175 TVET colleges in the country.

GFF coordinated the work of the development of this curriculum, which required the collaboration of many experts as well as the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Education.

We consider this new programme to be one of the most important realisations of our project, as the impact and access to this training will only increase over the coming years.

The garden

Since 2018 major investments have been made in the school gardens. They were, so to speak created by GFF. In 2021, the infrastructure of the garden was completed with two elements.

First, a vermicomposting area has been created. Indeed, this compost created thanks to the work of worms, allows the enrichment, and fertilisation of the humus of the earth in a very important way. It is a simple and natural method that can be developed by all farmers with notable benefits to the quality of their crops.

Secondly, an alumni garden has been created so that all the graduates of our training programme can have a place to gather within the college. This place also allows us to welcome externs who wish to visit the organic garden.

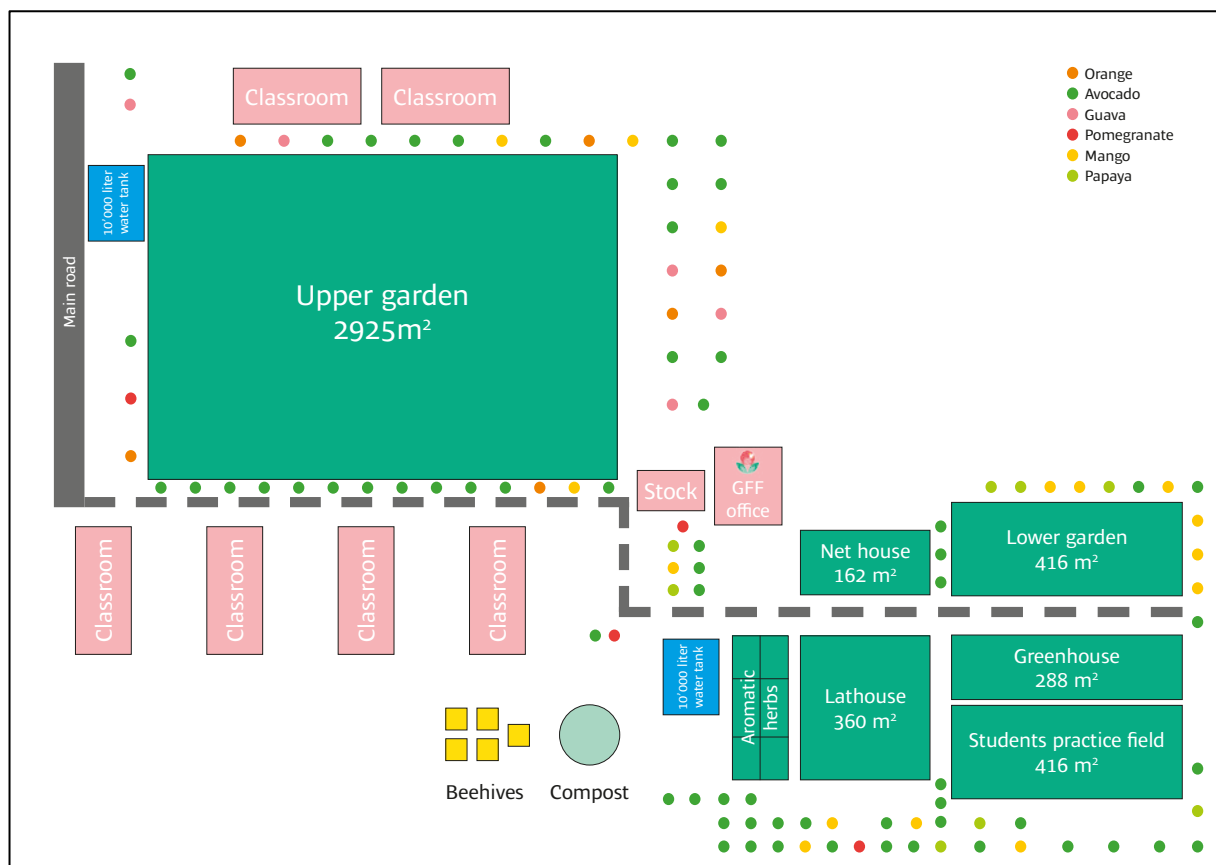
Finally, the general maintenance work of the infrastructures was realised to ensure the state of the installations at the time of the departure of the foundation.

In parallel, the production of seeds continued, and we were able to distribute seeds to the graduates of our training programme and to the partner school. This production enables them to have access to 100% organic and local seeds, which are very difficult to find in Ethiopia.



As a reminder, the total area of the garden is 4'500 m² and is equipped with the following elements:

- Water pumps with solar panel systems
- Drip irrigation systems
- Three greenhouses
- A preparation and storage area of products
- Two water tanks
- A storage area with gardening tools (shovels, picks, etc.)



Income generating Unit

The garden is not only a place of training, but also ensures the sustainability of the project once completed. Indeed, the harvested products have been sold for two years now, in the capital to create a regular income for the school. This income will enable them to maintain the infrastructure of the garden once the project has been completed.

To date, our sales and delivery system of organic produce has gained a total of over 100 customers in the capital. In addition, we regularly sell at the market organised by the Hyatt Regency in Addis Ababa. This is an excellent place to develop our clientele, making the foundation's cause visible and raising awareness about the importance of organic farming. The market is, by the same token, a good sales exercise for the students who can be in direct contact with international customers.

Thanks to the development of this sales system, we have been able to confirm the existence of a strong demand for organic products in the capital but also in rural areas.



Beekeeping

The beekeeping training programme started in 2020 is progressing well. One class, consisting of 12 students, followed our theoretical and practical training, after which they received a first basic certificate in beekeeping.

In a second phase, the students were given the opportunity to continue their learning over 12 months of additional training. The principle of this second training programme is that each student receives one to two hives, which are installed at their home, giving them the responsibility for them. At each important stage of the beekeeping year our experts visit the students and guide them.

The harvested honey is consumed or sold, to generate additional income for the students.

Finally, for your information, this particular project is supported by a single donor which remains ongoing once the organic horticulture training is completed.



Training

2021 was a year rich in skills development for the students whose federal training programme finally came to an end in July 2021. Indeed, the students benefited from training in 4 specific areas: English, computer skills, organic farming, and entrepreneurship.

English

Since the beginning of the project in 2018, English classes have been provided to students. In 2021, the English class continued at four hours per week until the end of school. Notable progress has been acknowledged by members of GFF GVA following the various presentations carried out by the students.

Computer Science

We arranged a 5-day training programme on the management of the basic computer tools: Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and the electronic mail.

Moreover, we organised a week's training around the theme of job searching, to provide opportunities to practise their new skills, as well as the creation of a complete electronic application. Thus, each student has a USB stick containing their CV and a cover letter enabling them to begin applying for jobs.

Organic Agriculture

As a continuation of the additional training programme started in 2020, we maintained weekly support from an expert in the field. This person examined the students' fields every week and advised them on the management and optimisation of their crops

Entrepreneurship

The development of the students' entrepreneurial spirit is a key element of our project. Indeed, Ethiopia is a country that offers countless opportunities for business creation, while the job market is very limited.

We carried out two training sessions based on local realities enabling the students to become aware of the entrepreneurial opportunities.

First, we organised the Business Project Challenge, a project during which students had to work on a solution related to a problem encountered by a local entrepreneur. After months of work, guided by their mentors (entrepreneurs), the students delivered their solutions in the form of a PPT presentation in English.



In addition, this first activity was complemented by two 5-day training sessions on entrepreneurship and business plan development. Afterwards, the students were able to work on the development of a business plan of their choice with the support of an expert for 4 months.

Practice in organic agriculture

Internship

As in 2019 and 2020, we organised an internship for all our students. The students had the opportunity to spend 6 days in two places: Melkassa Research Center (Adama) and Green Path Food (Butajira).



The research center is a place specialised in the research and optimisation of certain indigenous plants. On this occasion, the students were able to learn the techniques of seed production, cuttings, etc.

Green Path Food is a company that trains local farmers in organic production in order to export the products grown. The products grown are mainly avocado, herbs, and lemongrass. More than 200 local farmers have made the transition to organic farming through this model.

Farm Tours

Two organic farm tours were also arranged so that students could learn about other models of production carried out by the local community, without needing external intervention. This is a great way to inspire students with real-life examples.

Also, a visit to the Wondo Genet research centre, which specialised in aromatic and medicinal herbs, was organised. Aromatic herbs are not produced in Ethiopia, which forces hotels and restaurants to import all these products. It is therefore a sector that could be interesting for an entrepreneur.

Teachers

The training of the teachers continued until May 2021. As travelling abroad is still very limited, we arranged the training session within the college, thanks to an expert in organic agriculture.

The teachers have now received three years of training in organic agriculture and can train the students without our outside help.

Networking

Networking is maintained throughout the year through our newsletters and events held in Ethiopia.



Furthermore, a visit to Jimma University was organised for the college to develop its network and knowledge. This university is very active in the field of agriculture in general, but also tries to develop courses in organic agriculture. It was therefore an excellent way to get inspiration from other projects and achievements based in Ethiopia.

Classroom infrastructure

Investments have been made to improve the classroom and the library of the school. Indeed, we have purchased three new computers, bookcases, worktables, and chairs as well as other basic elements necessary for the education of the students.

Graduation Ceremony

The end of the year was wrapped up with the graduation ceremony!

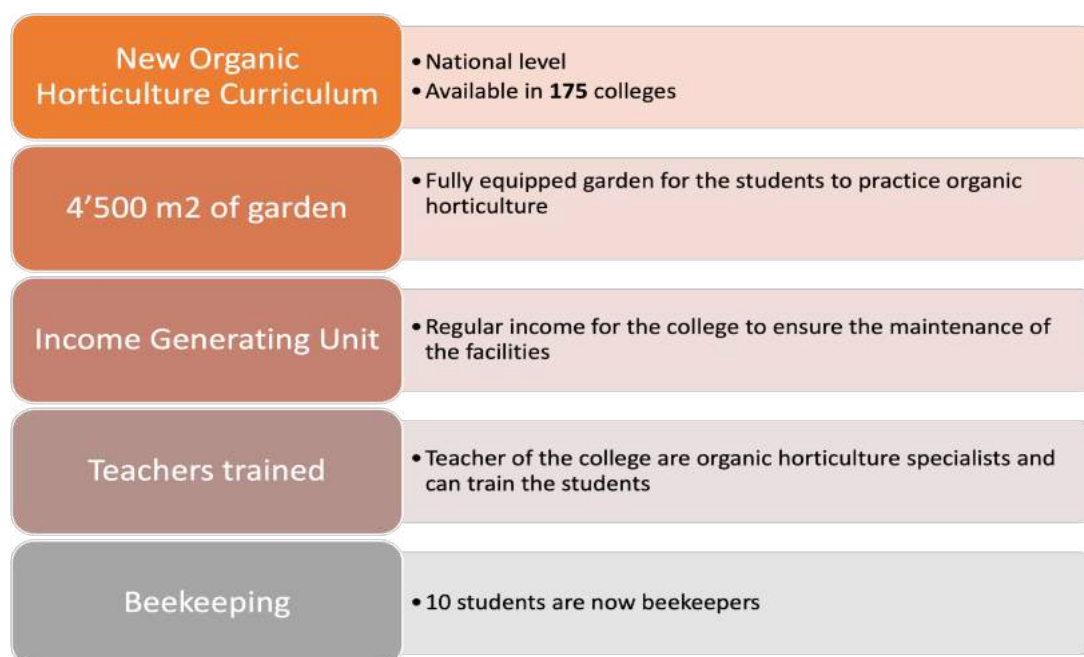
An emotional day during which the students surprised us with a play, poems, and songs. A moment shared with the students' families giving us the opportunity to thank them for the trust and support they have shown during their children's education.



Let us not forget that this sector is non-existent in Ethiopia and that it is therefore never easy to be a leader in a field.



4. Summary main achievements



5. Evaluation of objectives

You will find in the appendix an evaluation document of the objectives set: "Objectives 2021".

6. Financial report

You will find attached an evaluation document of the objectives set: " Financial Report 2021 ".

7. What is next?

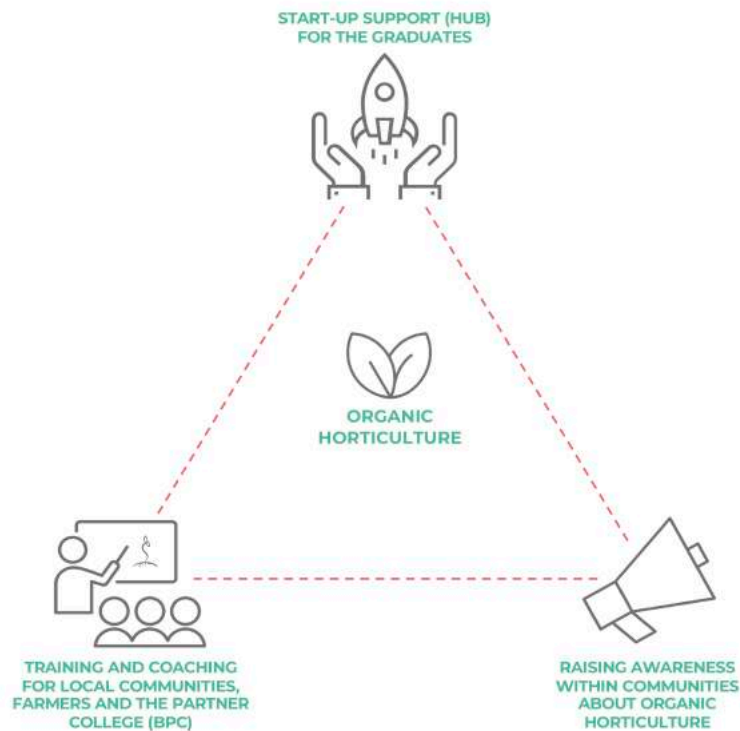
After the success of this first project, GFF is willing to pursue its activity to ensure the sustainable development of the organic horticulture sector in Ethiopia.

Having developed the access to the knowledge, we now want to focus on showing the opportunity to sector has. To do so, we decided to support to the graduates, of our training, willing to develop businesses within the organic horticulture value chain. We hope that the success of the future entrepreneurs may inspire other young people to join the training (Organic-Farming) at BPC or inspire farmers to adopt organic farming techniques.

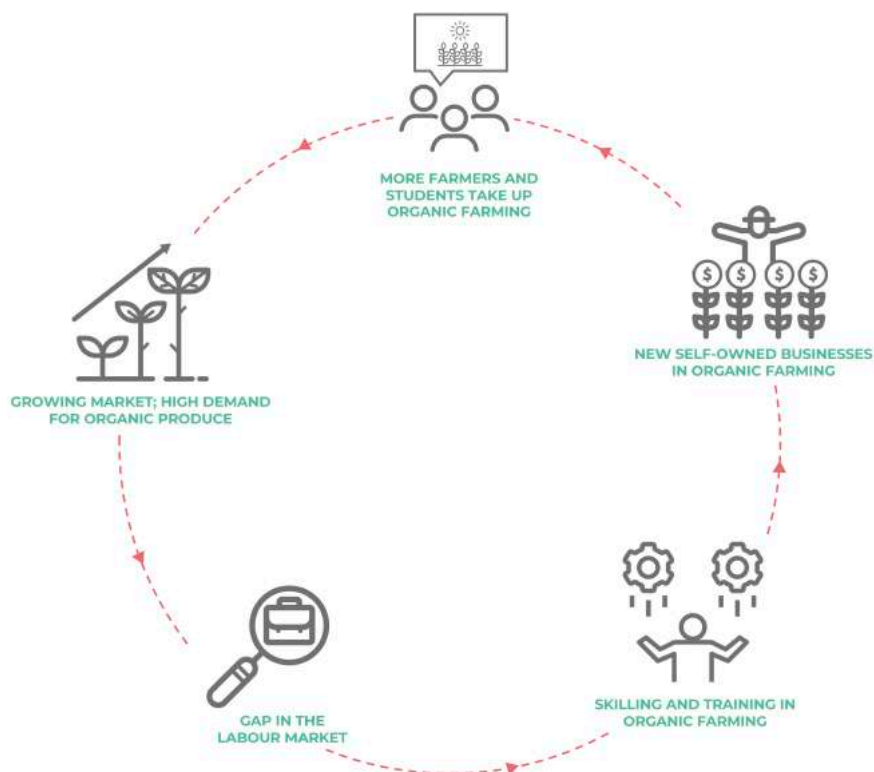
In parallel to the support given to the graduates, and based upon the excellent relationship we have with BPC, we wish to continue our collaboration and support them for the coming years, to make BPC a center of excellence specializing in organic farming training.

Also, we begin to offer trainings to established farmers and the local community.

The second project, **Go Organic**, will comprise of three main components:



By developing this project, we aim to **facilitate access to market opportunities** in the emerging organic farming sector.



For additional information on the Go Organic project, do not hesitate to contact us.

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