



**GREEN
FLOWER**
FOUNDATION

- Go Organic - 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 the first annual report of the project, Go Organic. This project carried out by the Green Flower Foundation, covers the period from November 2021 until June 2024.

As the project started on the 1st of November 2021, this report is an overview of the period of November 2021 until December 2021.

2. Green Flower in a few words

From 2018 until 2021 the Green Flower Foundation (GFF), in collaboration with the Bishoftu Polytechnic College (BPC), has successfully developed and implemented a new organic horticulture training program, "Organic Farming", which is now available in all Ethiopian's TVET's Colleges (Technical and Vocational Education and Training).

This first project aimed at building new and specific tools for the teaching staff, the establishment of a large organic garden and the organization of short internships for the students in organic farms. At the same time, the project also aimed at improving the graduates' chances of securing employment or enhancing their skills to help them launch independent businesses in this sector.

In November 2021, GFF launched a new project named Go Organic. This project aims to provide support to those graduates of the Organic Farming training who are willing to develop businesses within the organic horticulture value chain. We hope that the graduate students will have success in their startups and this, in turn, will inspire other young people to join the training program (at BPC) or inspire farmers to adopt organic farming techniques.

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

3. General information

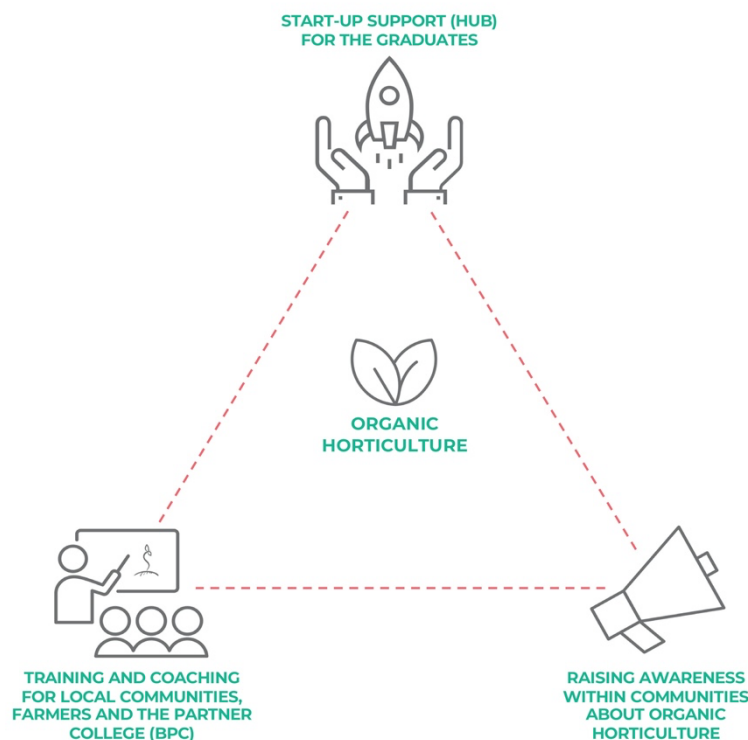
The goal of Go Organic is to “Facilitate access to market opportunities in the emerging organic food sector”.

To reach this goal GFF offers training and advice to young entrepreneurs willing to start a business in the organic field. Since this second project is a direct follow-up to the first one, the beneficiaries are the graduates of our first organic class in BPC. Since we offer our assistance to them from a central location in Bishoftu, we call them the “HUB members”. They are aged between 20 and 25 years old and come from the countryside around Bishoftu. We have in total 34 entrepreneurs (14 men & 20 women).

Besides providing support to help these HUB members to become successful, we aim to inspire others from the community to join this promising sector. Therefore, GFF is also providing training in organic agriculture to local farmers and the local communities.

Furthermore, we continue to provide support to the Bishoftu Polytechnical College for some specific activities.

The Go Organic project has 3 components:



4. Activities carried out in 2021 (oct-dec 2021)

During the period under review, the Ethiopian government declared a state of emergency for the whole country. As a matter of fact, the security situation had been deteriorating steadily since the outbreak of a conflict in the northern part of the country in November 2020 and its subsequent spreading into other provinces. In addition, the economic situation became difficult and inflation was

important. As a result, our project was affected by this overall situation and advanced at a much slower pace. Today, the situation is back to normal in Bishoftu.

Start-up support

HUB members

GFF is providing training and advice to the HUB members. The training components are the following: English classes, business administration, accounting, business management, and marketing. Additionally, in order to complete their diploma in organic horticulture, GFF decided to continue to train them in organic horticulture techniques.

As access to finance (loans) is very limited in Ethiopia and especially for young entrepreneurs, GFF decided to offer financial support in the form of a grant for each business. With this grant, the HUB members can rent land, purchase the necessary equipment and launch their business.



Ethio Organic Farming visiting a land.

Financial support is provided to the HUB members under 3 conditions:

- 1) They contribute 10% of the required amount.
- 2) They have a bank account.
- 3) Their business is officially registered

Due to the conflict, the public administration office suspended some processes, which slowed down the progress of registration. As a result, GFF was not able to transfer the first grant in 2021.

Seeds

As we faced a serious issue, lacking access to organic seeds in Ethiopia, we decided at the beginning of 2021, to establish our own bank of seeds.



The seeds production site of GFF

The seeds produced are distributed to local farmers, the Bishoftu Polytechnical College and the HUB members.

So far, we have produced the following:

Variety	Production – Kg
Snap Beans	39.17
Okra	3.41
Tomato	2.05
Summer Squash	5.41
Pepper	5.15
Garlic	30.45
Chinese Cabbage	23.36



Training and coaching

Local communities & farmers

With the aim to raise awareness and knowledge of the benefits of organic horticulture in the local communities, the Go Organic project has planned to organize training for the local community.

In December 2021, GFF trained 15 farmers on organic horticulture principles for 3 days. The training covered the following subjects: compost preparation, irrigation techniques and crop rotation.

The farmers were interested and eager to find out more about organic horticulture. They shared with us their difficulties regarding the depletion of their soil quality and the costs of chemical products.

Bishoftu Polytechnical College

In 2019, GFF developed a 4'500 m² garden with all the necessary facilities for the students of BPC to practice organic horticulture during their studies. The vegetables produced in the garden are sold to allow BPC to generate revenues to maintain the garden facilities.

GFF decided to extend its support to the college with a contribution to the garden management and the organization of the sales. All the activities will be taken over by BPC by 2024.



Raising awareness

GFF believes that a successful practice of organic farming requires real understanding of the matter and the participation of local community members in its development. Today however, few people



actually know about organic agriculture and its benefits.

Thus, GFF intends to organize conferences and events to sensitize the population on this subject.

However, due to the state of emergency, events had to be postponed to 2022.

5. Conclusion

Despite duly postponing some activities, GFF has been able to continue the project achieving 90% of the plans established at the outset. The HUB members have moreover maintained their motivation and worked hard to overcome the obstacles.

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