


QAT-TO-COFFEE


FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND HUMAN SECURITY IN YEMEN


KEY CHALLENGES:

Increasing poverty, lack of employment opportunities, inequalities, lack of justice and political participation and competition over scarce natural resources, especially water, have been among the key triggers for the social and political unrest that erupted in Yemen in 2011. Climate change has placed increased pressures on already scarce water resources in the country. Common factors among several climate change impact predictions for Yemen include:

 Between 1 and 4.5 degrees Celsius rise in temperatures towards the end of century.

 Variability of rainfall patterns within years.

 Increased frequency of intense rainfall events therefore an increased risk of floods and drought.

 Reduced agricultural productivity.

THE ISSUE:

Over the past 5-10 years the production of Qat has increased in Yemen and has estimated to consume one-third of the abstract groundwater. While Qat production generates income to farmers, it uses up finite groundwater resources and most of the arable land in Yemen.

COFFEE PLANTATION FACTS:

1. Helps reduce soil erosion.
2. Maintains biodiversity.
3. Useful carbon sink.
4. Aids good watershed management.
4. Provides a good habitat for many migrant birds.
5. Creates livelihoods for farming families.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

Alternative crop cultivation such as coffee needs to be promoted to tackle gender inequality, eradicate poverty, provide sustainable sources of income to locals, promote a sustainable and resilient post-war economy, and sustainable water management.

28 MILLION
POPULATION

74%
IN RURAL AREAS

70%
OF FRESHWATER DERIVED FROM
GROUNDWATER

3.4 BILLION M³
PER YEAR WATER DEMAND



PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The project aims to promote sustainable coffee production and value chains in Yemen as a high-value alternative crop to reduce groundwater exploitation, enhance livelihood opportunities, and empower women.

OUR WORK:

1. Carry out a value chain analysis of Qat production in Yemen, with a focus on the financial income benefits and livelihood opportunities offered by Qat production, to develop recommendations to promote the coffee value chain as an alternative.
2. On the basis of the analysis, pilot climate-resilient Yemeni coffee varieties including sustainable water resources management practices as an alternative to unsustainable Qat production to enhance climate security in select communities.
3. Support outreach and communication of the results of the value chain analysis to relevant key stakeholders at the national and international level to enable scaling up of results.

QUICK INFORMATION:

Project timeframe: 24 months

Grant: USD 262,000

TARGETED SDGS:



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