Guatemala

Organization: Natün Guatemala
Location: Sololá, Guatemala
Solution: This solution aims to implement a sustainable farming model that revives traditional Maya agroecological farming practices and achieves increased resilience
Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (16 months)

Community members and local leaders working in reforestation initiative @Natün Guatemala

Maya communities in Sololá, Guatemala, are facing declining agricultural productivity due to unpredictable rainfall, soil degradation and the loss of traditional farming methods; trends which are also driving severe pollution and biodiversity loss in the Lake Atitlán basin, Central America's largest drinking water source. To address this, Natün Guatemala is implementing a climate-resilient farming model that includes community and family food gardens, seed banks and the planting of 200,000 trees. In partnership with local communities and the government, the initiative aims to restore traditional Maya agroecological practices, improve agricultural resilience and protect the watershed.

Key achievements

- The gardens that are established are benefiting 888 people
- 96% of the established gardens led by women, 14 field schools established, supporting effective community-led implementation 25 female community "promotoras" (local trainers) trained in topics related to sustainable agriculture, climate change and the environment
- Four collaboration agreements established with government agencies for implementation of the solution and joint work

Social impact

- Capacity-building activities and policy-level influence have the potential to create a wider impact
- Focus on women's empowerment through training and leadership roles
- Increase Indigenous Peoples and women's participation in community decision making processes related to food and health

Adaptation benefits

- Enhanced economic resilience for farmers through increased household earnings
- Improved nutritional security for families by strengthening local food systems and reducing reliance on external sources through healthier diets
- Prevention of additional contamination to the lake Atitlán

Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US$60,000 (initial grant)

Innovation

- Supports the continuation of Indigenous knowledge and languages through Maya-led community efforts
- Revives sustainable Maya farming practices like seed banks, and organic farming
- Introduces vertical gardens in small spaces
- Enhances families income through increased production and extends climate-smart agriculture education

Replication potential

- Bridges information gaps between government and communities
- Trains local leaders on climate-smart agriculture for potential policy influence
- Collaborates with government entities and other NGOs for broader adoption
- The model is designed to scale easily, utilizing and building upon local resources and knowledge

ADAPTATION FUND

Climate Innovation Accelerator

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ADAPTATION FUND

To learn more, visit UNDP-AFCIA

To contact the organization, visit Natün Guatemala