Reforestation in Yemen:
Combating Climate
Change and Enhancing
Food Security
Yemen

Ongoing since 1975

Nutrition, Climate & Food Systems Transformation

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FAO emergencies and resilience

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What is it about?

In Yemen, reforestation is more than planting trees - it's a lifeline for communities. Since 1975, Yemen has been reshaping its landscapes to combat climate change, restore ecosystems and strengthen food security. This story highlights the innovative and community-driven efforts that have not only revitalized agriculture but also promoted long-term sustainability. Reforestation is a critical tool to restore degraded land, prevent soil erosion and shield food crops from wind, sandstorms and other environmental threats, ensuring environmental resilience and improved nutrition.

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What are the objectives of the success story?

- Revitalize agriculture: Demonstrate how reforestation combats climate change and enhances food production and consumption.
- Empower communities: Showcase how local engagement in tree planting can drive agricultural resilience.
- **Strengthen sustainability:** Highlight effective strategies for government and community collaboration in environmental stewardship.









How did it happen?

Initial phase



Milestone



Citizen involvement



Seedling production



Adapted Seedlings for Farmers

Creation of reforestation committee to coordinate stakeholders – including ministries, the private sector, civil society organizations and subnational governmental entities – on the planning and financing of these reforestation activities.

Government
promotion of public
awareness on the
vital role trees play
in food security and
climate change
mitigation. The
designation of a
National
Reforestation Day
is one key
milestone.

Incentivization of schools, universities and orphanages to conduct planting activities to increase citizen involvement. The seedlings used are grown by the private sector and in public nurseries, then sold at a subsidized price to governmental entities.

Improved seedlings adapted to Yemeni climate conditions are sold to farmers to increase food availability. To optimize returns, the type of seedling distributed depends on the environmental features of each region.





Stakeholders

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Fisheries

Spearheaded planning and funding





Media

Amplified the message and engaged the public



Supplied and distributed seedlings



FAO

Provided financial support and technical assistance





What is the outcome of the success story?

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The reforestation initiative has led to a surge in coffee, almond and Sidr honey production, enhancing food availability and affordability.



Farmers' incomes have risen, and the country has reduced its reliance on imports.



The nutritional status of both farmers and their communities have likely improved, as part of the harvest is used for personal consumption.



Improved irrigation patterns and environmental protection have safeguarded water resources and boosted Yemen's agricultural yields.



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Challenges and solutions

- →Challenges included inadequate public nursery infrastructure and inconsistent domestic and external funding.
- →Solutions involved allocating ministry funding and strengthening partnerships with international and local stakeholders to support agricultural cooperatives, bolster seedling production, and secure required operational costs.

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Recommendations

- Secure funding: Allocate dedicated budget lines for reforestation.
- Collaborate globally: Partner with international organizations for support.
- Adapt locally: Customize seedling types based on regional environmental condition.
- Provide technical training to extension officers on climate change and sustainable forest management.
- Boost awareness: Launch media campaigns to galvanize public support.





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MORE INFORMATION

This is a country-led submission, not originally drafted by the SUN Movement Secretariat. For more information please contact:

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