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Establishing Transformative Learning, Research and Community Outreach and Capacities in Agroecology at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia | LINK

A partnership between Ethiopia and Austria

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COORDINATING INSTITUTION:

Bahir Dar University

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:

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PARTNER COUNTRY:

Ethiopia

PROJECT DURATION:

1 May 2024 – 30 April 2027
(36 months)

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The project is funded by the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development – APPEAR. APPEAR is a programme of the Austrian Development Cooperation and is implemented by the OeAD.

The Lake Tana Basin in northern Ethiopia is the second largest sub-basin of the Blue Nile and the most important regional source of freshwater providing economic, social, political, environmental, ecological and religious benefits to the people living around it. However, there are tremendous environmental challenges accompanied with poverty and food insecurity. Current modes of research and higher education have been criticised for not providing adequate responses to solve these actual problems. Bahir Dar University (BDU) offers with its MSc curriculum in Agroforestry (AF) a basis to train graduates capable of addressing these current challenges, although there are gaps to engage and improve performance: Applied Agroecology (AE) components are missing, and there is a lack of epistemic pluralism and localised research capacity. As a result, there is insufficiently trained staff to address the multifaceted challenges, and graduates are not adequately equipped to engage with complex real-world issues in the Ethiopian context.

The LINK project therefore is designed to implement activities building capacities and leading to following outcomes:

Staff training in transformative learning (teaching) and participatory research, including the Green Pedagogy approach

Evaluation of the existing curriculum in AF and development of additional modules in AE

Establishment of a stakeholder platform facilitating transformative learning and research to enable the inclusion of local epistemology for inclusive and legitimate approaches to existing challenges and policy influence

Establishment of an AE demonstration site and lead farmers to act as a mutual learning laboratory linking staff, students and farmers

With funding from

 Austrian
Development
Cooperation



Acknowledgements | Editor and Publisher:
OeAD-GmbH, Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Vienna
Headquarters: Vienna | FN 320219 k |
Commercial Court Vienna | ATU 64808925
Managing director: Jakob Calice, PhD

Editor: APPEAR – Austrian Partnership Programme in
Higher Education and Research for Development |
appear@oead.at | www.appear.at | **Design:** Birgit Preiner
Photos: Tamirat Atalay, Getasew Moges, | **Printed by:**
Print Alliance HAV Produktions GmbH, 2540 Bad Vöslau |
Vienna, December 2024