



Did you know?

Find out how trees can save lives with this short fact sheet



Reg charity no 299717
(England) and SC049792
(Scotland)



Why do trees benefit farmers in rural Africa?

The productivity of any farm is dependent on the soil. Trees play a crucial part in keeping soil healthy: they stand in it, hold it together, and move water through it.

If we carry on as we are, soils are heading for exhaustion and depletion. This is due to the ravages of climate change and destructive farming practices. But we know how to replenish our soils, and trees are one part of the jigsaw that can regenerate land so it's fit for generations to come.



Why do Send a Cow take a 'regenerative' approach to increasing agricultural production?

Send a Cow takes a regenerative approach to increasing agricultural production for four reasons:

- to protect the planet by making use of natural, organic processes such as composting and promoting the replenishment of natural resources
- as a pragmatic approach for smallholder farmers to make use of readily available and affordable resources
- for enhanced production as healthy soils and diverse farms result in higher yields and greater variety of crops
- and sustainability, as the use of compost fertiliser and natural resource management of water, soil, trees, land and livestock initiates a positive regenerative cycle, so that increased yields are maintained long-term.



How does Send a Cow's regenerative approach help farmers combat the effects of climate change?

Through practising regenerative agricultural techniques, our families are better equipped to combat the effects of climate change and develop greater resilience to unpredictable weather patterns. With this approach, they are less likely to return to poverty.



Why are trees life-changing?

The trees that farming families plant transform lives by helping their communities to provide nutrition and income – while protecting natural biodiversity. We always ensure that trees planted in our projects are right for the environment and local need.

Rehabilitation of degraded land will almost always include trees. Much of the land erosion in the parts of rural Africa where we work is due to fragile soils that have lost cover and been washed away. To regenerate these soils, they need to be stabilised – often by trees and grass bunds, or ditches and mounds. The trees stop further soil loss through root stabilisation, add organic matter back to the soil through leaf drop, and shade the soil from the impacts of sun and rain on unprotected land.



Implementation of regenerative agriculture
77% of farmers engaging in agroforestry (Ethiopia, 2015)



Climate resilience
96% of farming families bounce back or emerge stronger from climate shocks (across all SAC countries, 2015)



Food security
Increase in families classified as food secure or mildly food insecure from 25% to 93% (Burundi, 2018)



Dietary diversity
Families eating seven different food types a day (Kenya, 2017)

View from the field

by Birkutan, a Send a Cow Field Officer in Ethiopia

“In rural Ethiopia, malnutrition is common. The community are depending on rain-fed agriculture but this approach is faced with several limitations. It’s leading to decreased crop production and food shortage. This is negatively influencing health, education and income opportunities.

We work alongside the community to diversify their farms and to plant trees as one means of resilience against climate change. We motivate communities to protect the forests and to use energy-saving stoves so less fuel is needed. With your help, families will conserve natural resources, plant trees and harvest water. We are excited to see change in the future.”

