

# African Master TreeGrower Program

Fageta, Ethiopia October 2017



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# Overview

During October 2017, Fageta was the host district for Africa's 9th Master TreeGrower program. Around 50 enthusiastic participants attended this life-changing agroforestry training, made up of predominantly farmers but also including local priests and representatives from local industry, local government and other development organisations.

The training covered a range of key topics including the role of multi-purpose trees on farms, marketing, tree management, tree measurement and soil health. Time was also spent exploring farm economics and the role of trees for conservation and agricultural improvements. Participants received presentations each morning followed by field visits during the afternoons. These visits included various local farms, plantations, nurseries and markets. Farmer exchange and group discussion was widely encouraged during the program, which ran over a five day period.

At the conclusion of the program there was a celebration dinner where each participant received a certificate. Some of the graduates were so overwhelmed they hugged trainers to express their joy. During this dinner a new organisation was formed. The Fageta Agroforestry Network appointed a board and began plans to continue agroforestry activities in the region.

All of the participants received a Master TreeGrower hat to remind them that they are leaders in their community. They each walk away charged with three key responsibilities, (i) To care for the environment; (ii) To implement what they have learned; and (iii) To share their knowledge with others. Our hope is that many more lives and landscapes will be transformed as a result.

# Outline

During the Master TreeGrower (MTG) training program a wide range of theoretical and practical activities were conducted through presentations, farm visits, demonstrations, shared experiences and group discussions. The morning sessions were predominantly devoted to theory & review, whilst the afternoon sessions were spent conducting practical demonstrations on local farms and in local communities.

## DAY 1

**Theory** - Formalities, introductions, overview of Fageta district. Presentation 1: Introduction to the MTG program. Presentation 2: Introduction to Trees on Farms

**Practical** - farm visits to a number of local farms showcasing multi-purpose trees. Examples of cypress, grevillea, eucalyptus, bamboo, fruit trees and indigenous trees and plants.

**Pictures:** Participants were exposed to the role of multi-storey trees/plants for timber production, erosion control and shelter (picture above); and learning about the profitability of fruit trees (picture below).





## DAY 2

**Theory** – Presentation 1: Nursery and seedling production. Presentation 2: Markets and market requirements

**Practical** – Visit to the Addis Kadis Market and local sawmill and furniture maker to understand markets for timber, fruit and other products from trees (e.g. honey).

**Pictures:** Inspecting wood products at the local market (left); bamboo furniture making (right); and demonstrating a portable sawmill (below)



### DAY 3

**Theory** – Presentation 1: Tree measurement.

**Practical** – Visit to local shelter belt to demonstrate tree measurement followed by a visit to local agroforestry demonstration farm owned by local forester Mark MacLachlan

**Pictures:** Agroforestry demonstration farm visit (above); and Learning to measure trees (below);





## DAY 4

**Theory** – Presentation 1: Management of trees on farms

**Practical** – Visit to local cypress shelter belt to demonstrate pruning and thinning techniques for timber plantations.

**Pictures:** Learning to prune (above); and classroom sessions (below)





## DAY 5

**Theory** – Presentation 1: Economics and Risk. Presentation 2: Trees to improve farm productivity

**Practical** – Visit to local erosion rehabilitation site to see how trees and plants can be used to protect and restore local landscapes.

**Pictures:** Before and after shots of an erosion gully rehabilitated by the 2015 MTG participants





## DAY 5 EVENING

On Friday night at the completion of the course we shared a celebratory graduation dinner with all participants and local government officials. Every participant received a badge, certificate and a tree seedling.

A new network was launched known as Fageta Agroforestry Network. There was tremendous appreciation from all involved. Thanks CIA Tax for your wonderful support!

**Pictures:** One of the participants admiring his new seedling (above); The graduating Ethiopian MTG 2017 team (below).

