



Vi Agroforestry

# **FIGHTING POVERTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

# THIS IS US

Vi Agroforestry is a Swedish development cooperation organisation, simultaneously fighting poverty and climate change. We do this through Sustainable Agricultural Land Management with agroforestry at the core, and by strengthening farmers' organisations.

We work together with over 100,000 smallholder farmer families and around 50 farmers' organisations in four countries around the Lake Victoria in East Africa:

Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. These countries are highly vulnerable to climate change, with severe effects already seen on food security and poverty rates. Vi Agroforestry supports farmers' organisations, with a special focus on women and youth.

Since the start in 1983, Vi Agroforestry has contributed to the planting of more than 120 million trees and supported over 2.5 million people to improve their livelihoods. Vi Agroforestry primarily contributes to five of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations and its 193 member states.



## VISION

Our vision is a sustainable environment that enables women and men living in poverty to improve their lives.

## MISSION

Our mission is to fight poverty and climate change – together. Through agroforestry and strengthening of farmers' organisations, to empower smallholder farmer families to reduce poverty, hunger, and deforestation, and contribute to increased biodiversity.

## CORE VALUES

Vi Agroforestry believes in everyone's equal right to a decent standard of living and a healthy environment. We believe that

people are stronger together and that sustainable development requires respect for human rights, democracy and the environment.

## OUR ADDED VALUE

Vi Agroforestry is unique in focusing on both human and environmental sustainability. We adopt a holistic approach to smallholder agriculture, enabling tangible and positive impact on both the farmers' livelihoods and on the environment. Agroforestry – where trees are grown together with crops – is at the core.

Vi Agroforestry provides outstanding expertise in sustainable agricultural land management, agroforestry, climate change adaptation and mitigation, promoting well-proven practices based on scientific research.

## OUR WORKING AREAS



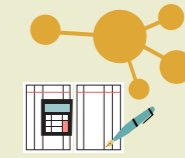
**Sustainable agriculture based on agroforestry**  
– for climate change mitigation and adaptation.



**Economic security**  
– through agricultural value chains and financial services.



**Gender equality and empowerment**  
of women, youth and children.



**Systems and governance**  
– for strong farmers' organisations.



**Lobbying and advocacy**  
– with regards to the working areas



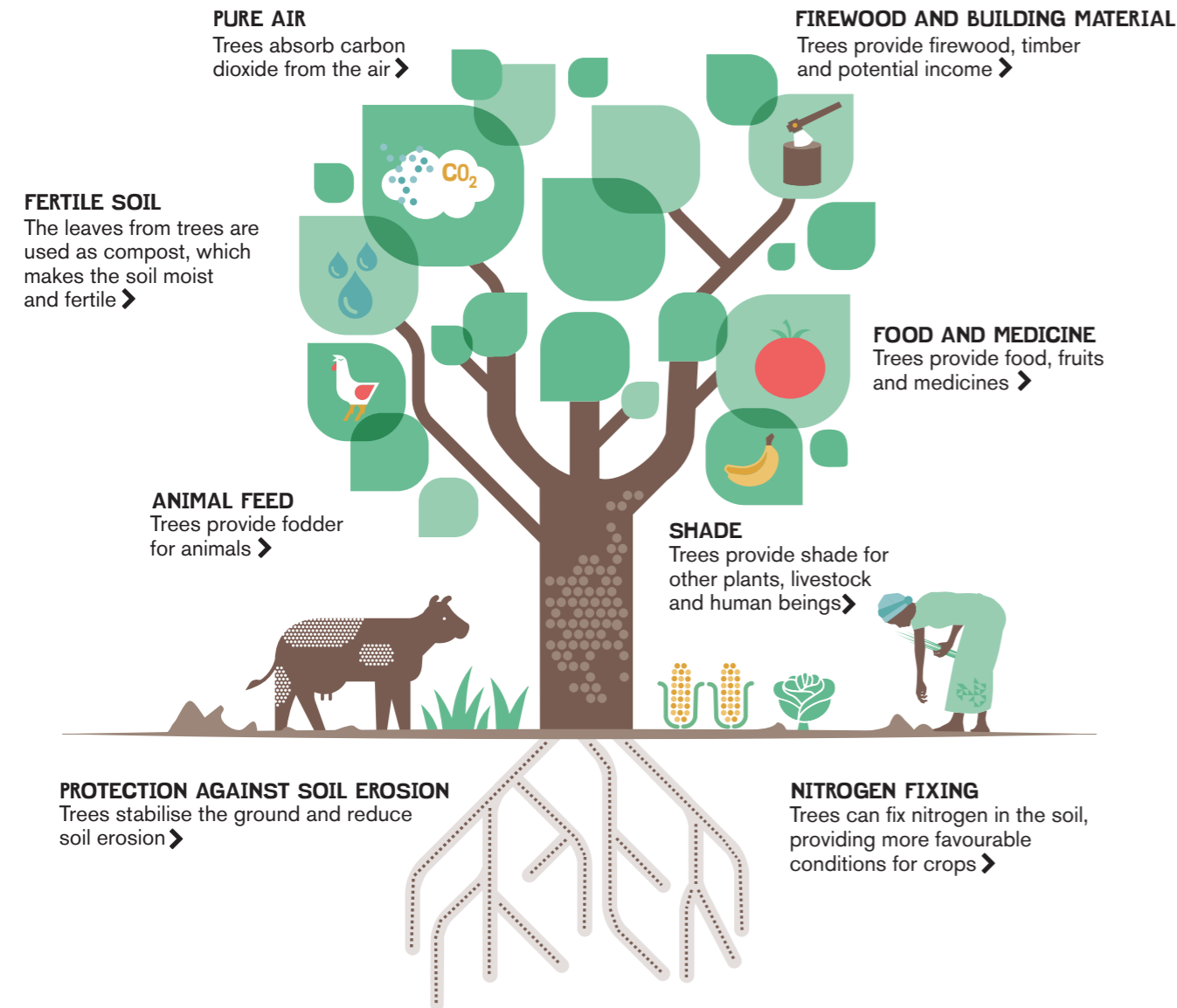
*"I have managed to change my life and now I want to show others what I have achieved. My family have enough food, we have an insurance and I dream of a new house."*

Laurence Mukandama, farmer, Rwanda. Photo: Elin Larsson

# HOW WE WORK

**Agroforestry** is a land management system where trees are grown together with agricultural crops, and often integrated with animals. Agroforestry is an approach with proven benefits, that helps address many of the challenges that smallholder farmers are facing. The agroforestry approach mitigates

climate change, helps farmers adapt to extreme weather, increases tree-related ecosystem services (such as biodiversity, increased soil fertility, soil erosion control, flood control and pest control), and at the same time it increases farm produce at a low cost.

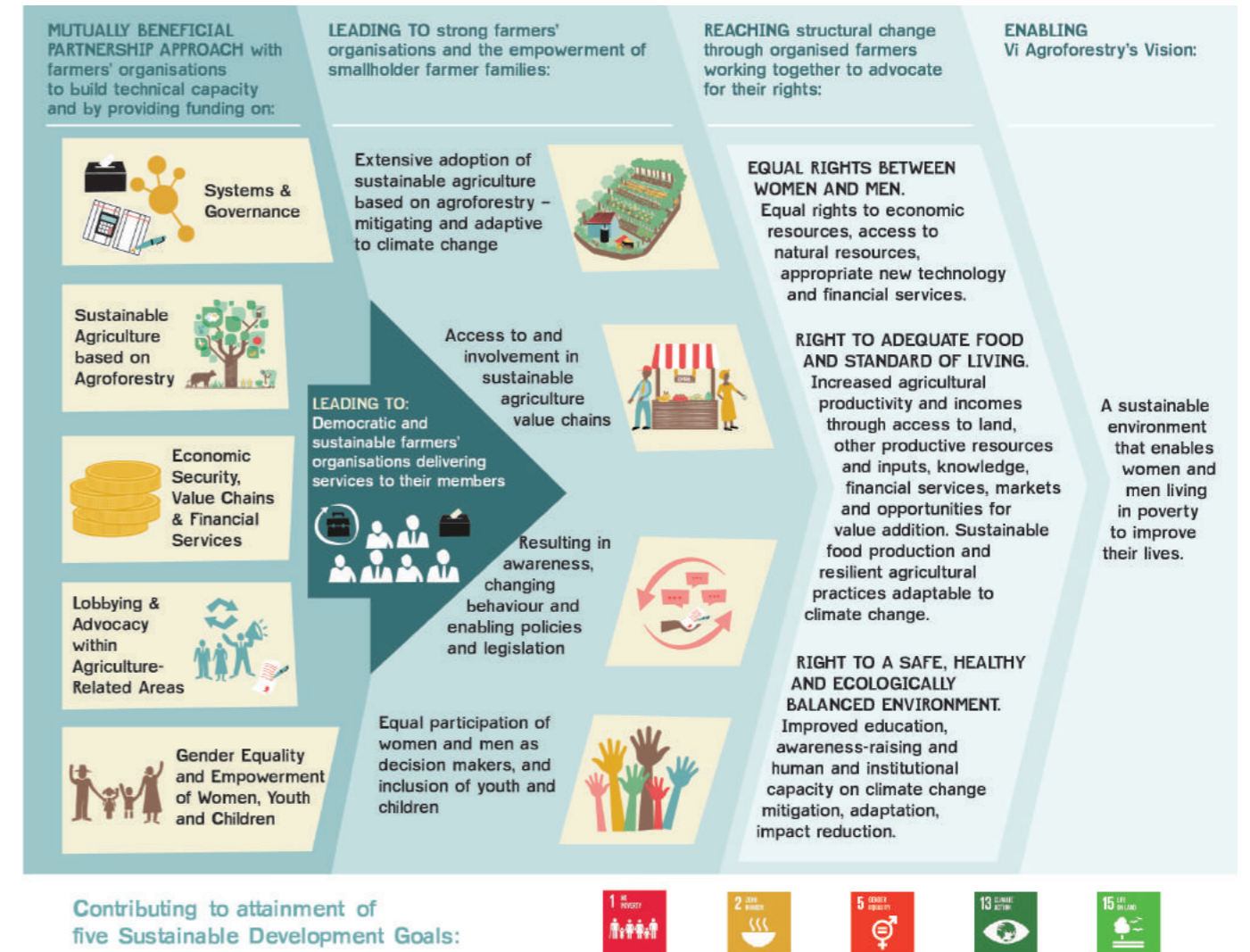


**Sustainable Agriculture Land Management (SALM)** is a methodology used by farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change, reduce vulnerability, enhance resilience, and to increase yields and income. SALM includes practices such as: agroforestry, nutrient management, soil and water conservation, tillage and residue management, restoration and rehabilitation, integrated livestock management, sustainable energy, and integrated pest management.

Vi Agroforestry also develops sustainable carbon offsetting projects that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to smallholder farmers. The key approach for carbon sequestration is SALM, where several of the practices also increase the carbon stocks in the agricultural landscape, both in soil and trees. Our carbon offsetting projects are certified by Verra, Plan Vivo and Gold Standard.

**Farm Enterprise Development (FED)**, is an approach to enable smallholder farmers to transition from subsistence farming to farming as a business enterprise. FED assists farmers with the knowledge, attitude and skills needed to sustainably evolve and grow their businesses to successful agro-enterprises.

The farmers learn basic concepts of entrepreneurship, core value chain principles, key business development services, financial management, and how to successfully engage in markets.



## BUILDING ON PARTNERSHIPS

Vi Agroforestry engages in long-term collaboration with local partners, the majority being member-based farmers' organisations. We implement projects in partnership with these local civil society organisations.

Vi Agroforestry works with the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), which is a prerequisite for sustainable results. All development activities are founded on the principles of account-

ability, transparency, non-discrimination and meaningful participation. In line with the rights-based approach, we firmly believe that women and men living in poverty are active holders of rights, not passive recipients in need of help.

Vi Agroforestry believes that empowerment is vital in bringing about change and attaining inclusive and sustainable rural livelihoods.



Winnie Nakavuma with baby Calton Mawanda. Photo: Elin Larsson

**Today I save both money and time**

Winnie Nakavuma is a farmer, living in the village of Kikalala in Masaka District, Central Uganda. Through Vi Agroforestry and Masaka District Farmers' Association she has received training on sustainable agriculture practices, such as tree planting and on how to create ditches to lead rainwater into her field. The trees do not only contribute to improved crop yield but also provide fodder for the animals.

After constructing a wood-saving stove, Winnie saves a lot of time which previously was used for cooking and collection of firewood.

*"I had a dream when we moved here, that the farm would be green and filled with people and animals. This dream has become a reality today. Today I save both money and time. I no longer rush through life", says Winnie Nakavuma.*

**REGIONAL PROGRAMME, ALIVE**

Vi Agroforestry's work is guided by its global strategy 2017–2021 and is operationalised through the regional programme Agroforestry for Livelihood Empowerment (ALIVE). ALIVE contributes to a sustainable environment that enables women and men living in poverty to improve their lives. The programme runs 2018–2021 and involves smallholder farmer families and partner organisations across Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

All projects in the region contribute towards the objectives of ALIVE and new projects and partnerships are added continuously. The programme is financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), own fundraising, and other institutional donors such as the EU, Swedish Postcode Lottery, and the Livelihoods Funds among others.

**PROJECTS**

**KENYA:**

**Kenya Agriculture Carbon Project (KACP)**

The KACP project has proven that implementation of sustainable agricultural land management effectively contributes to reduction of greenhouse gases, increases small-holder farmers agricultural productivity, and strengthens farmer communities capacity to adapt to climate change. Carbon credits are certified by Verified Carbon Standard (Verra). The project is funded by buyers of carbon offsetting.

**Livelihoods Mount Elgon Project**

The project aims at improving the livelihoods of 30,000 smallholder farmers by empowerment through sustainable farming and milk-water-carbon value creation, as well as establishing connections to markets through dairy cooperatives. The project is a partnership between the Livelihoods Funds, Brookside Dairy, Vi Agroforestry, and 15 local farmer cooperatives. Carbon credits are certified by Gold Standard. The project is funded by the Livelihoods Funds.

**KENYA & TANZANIA:**

**Initiative for Conservation of Mara-Serengeti Transboundary Eco-System (SEMA)**

The SEMA project contributes to the conservation of Serengeti-Mara transboundary ecosystems, through empowering local communities to adopt to sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing regional cooperation. The project is funded by the European Union.

**TANZANIA**

**Trees Sustain Life (Emiti Nibwo Bolura)**

This carbon finance project promotes agroforestry practices to increase productivity, regenerate degraded lands, and strengthen farmers capacity to adapt to climate change, while mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon credits are certified by Plan Vivo. The project is funded by buyers of carbon offsetting.

**RWANDA:**

**Market Oriented Agroforestry for Livelihood Improvement**

This project aims to increase the income of over 1 000 smallholder rice farmers, through enterprise development such as grinding flour, honey and mushroom production. The project is funded by Sida and individual donors in Sweden.

**UGANDA:**

**Growing Resilient Agricultural Enterprises (GREAN)**

The GREAN project is a collaboration between Vi Agroforestry, Fairtrade Africa, and three coffee cooperatives in Western Uganda. The project contributes to improved sustainable livelihoods, green growth and job creation for small-holder coffee producers in Uganda. The project is funded by the Nordic Climate Facility (NCF).

**Women Empowerment in Sustainable Land Management (WESLAM)**

The WESLAM project focuses on natural forest rehabilitation in Eastern Uganda, by engaging women and youth in collaborative forest management. It also contributes to improved livelihood for smallholder farmers living around the forests by developing forest-based businesses such as bee-keeping. The project is funded by the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

**Project for resilience and empowerment of refugees and their host communities (PREP)**

This project is implemented together with the Red Cross and focuses on providing inclusive and sustainable solutions to build resilience and selfreliance of refugee and host communities in Northern Uganda. This includes access to water, sanitation, increased capacity in agroforestry and sustainable agricultural land management practices – to improve living conditions and increased livelihood options, as well as promoting integration and non-conflict between the groups. The project is funded by the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

## ALLIANCES AND NETWORKS

Vi Agroforestry works together with partner organisations and other civil society actors to influence duty-bearers, as well as to share knowledge and technical expertise. We engage in networks and form alliances to create a stronger voice. Over the years, we have developed an extensive network with various alliances on both global and regional levels. Vi Agroforestry is the founder of the Agroforestry Network, a platform based in

Sweden for international agroforestry practice with partners from academia, civil society and private sector. Regionally, we work together with Africa Forum on Forests (AFF), Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and World Agroforestry (ICRAF).

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