

What is FMNR and how does it work?

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is a low-cost, transformational and sustainable land restoration technique used to combat poverty and hunger, and increase the quality of life for farmers in developing countries. FMNR is currently practiced across more than 25 countries, ranging from Senegal to Timor-Leste.

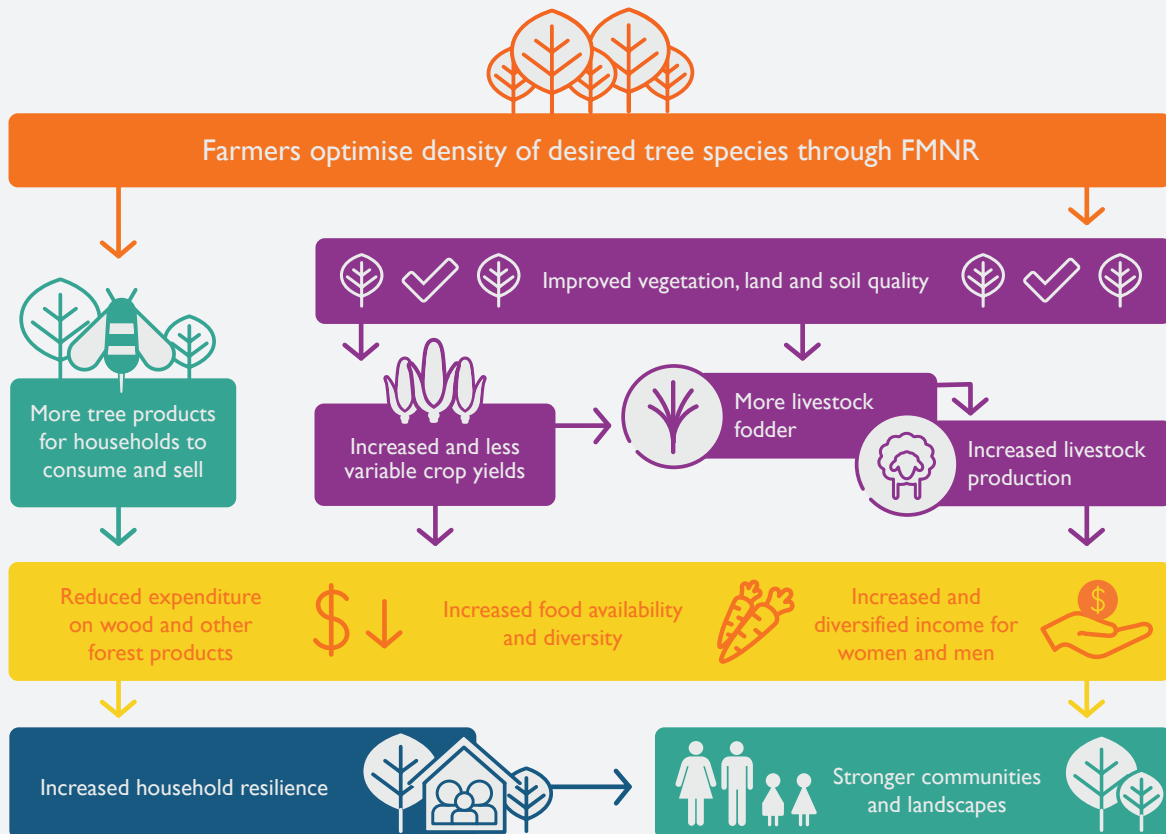
Throughout the developing world, huge tracts of farmland, grazing lands and forests have become degraded to the point they are barely productive. When trees and land are overused, soil loses its fertility and ability to sustain life, leading to erosion, destructive winds, droughts, flooding and a loss of biodiversity and consequently, suffering for the world's poorest people.

The FMNR approach involves systematic regeneration, management and regrowth of trees and shrubs from felled tree stumps, roots and seedlings. Communities discover how the simple act of pruning can release the untapped energy of deep, underground root systems. Shrubs and stumps can rapidly turn into mature trees and forests in a matter of years, completely transforming the world around them.

FMNR costs are significantly cheaper than tree-planting schemes and have a 100 percent survival rate compared to variable rates for planted trees, making the technique a valuable investment. Farmers can use implements already in their possession, such as harvesting knives and machetes. The method is a catalyst for sustainable development, impacting the next generations to come.

The tangible outcomes benefit not just the environment, but the communities who rely on it for survival. Farmers can increase their food and timber production and resilience to climate extremes, put more food on the table, earn and save more income, build better homes and focus on providing a brighter future for their children – helping to break the cycle of poverty.

When the environment thrives, the community can thrive



30,000

hectares

land managed
using FMNR¹

82

districts

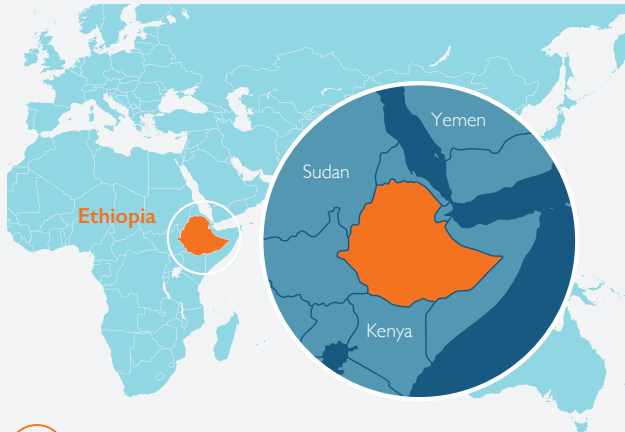
in 4 regional states are
practicing FMNR

US\$20

per hectare

is the low cost
of FMNR

FMNR in Ethiopia



Case study

Communities in Humbo, Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region had been dependent on food aid since 1984. Open-grazing of nearby hills had caused a massive loss in vegetation and rainfall had created deep gorges, leading to flooding in nearby farmland. Many people avoided investing in their farms, fearing floods and land devastation. In 2006, World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) developed two 150,000 liter water tanks at the Likemse spring. Communities had planned to plant trees to help keep the spring alive, but in the past, they hadn't had much success.

Through the introduction of FMNR, WVE helped communities, organized in seven cooperatives, work collaboratively to protect the 2,728 hectares of upper-catchment land by regenerating trees and reducing flooding and erosion.

By registering the project under the UN's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), carbon credits could be sold to the World Bank, providing a regular supplementary income stream to the seven

FMNR is one of the key pillars of the Drylands Development Programme's (DryDev) integrated approach to landscape restoration. FMNR is a low-cost technology, complementary to rainwater harvesting, and offers significant promise for land rehabilitation. DryDev in Ethiopia has put over 13,000 hectares of land under FMNR in Tigray and Oromia regions as part of its integrated sub-watershed management approach.

cooperatives through carbon stocks generated by FMNR. Humbo was the first CDM project in Ethiopia and the largest in Africa at the time it pioneered in 2009. As of 2018, the project has already earned US\$550,000 in carbon revenue. Flooding has stopped and biodiversity has improved – with over 40 native bird and a number of tree species reappearing.

Grass for livestock is now available in abundance, honey production has increased, and fuelwood is widely available through tree-pruning. Even communities – which were once reliant on food aid for over two decades – were able to sell more than 100 tonnes of grain to the World Food Programme in 2013 alone. Humbo has become a learning site for the rest of Ethiopia, as NGOs, government representatives and communities discover FMNR as a transformational land restoration technique.

1. Through World Vision Programmes

“Before the project, the land was very bare. Now the forest is restored. The forest is our resource. We are getting fuelwood, grass from the forest area. We can farm small livestock using the grass, and there is no more soil erosion, so our farmland is progressing and helping us. At the cooperative level we are also getting carbon credits.”

– Adila Agebo, Humbo

