



Coffee Innovation Fund – Myanmar

Supporting innovative and scalable solutions to increase profitability and market access of small-holder coffee farmers

Innovative bunk beds with drying tables and garden beds

Lilypad Co., Ltd., established in 2006 in Pa-O villages, Pin Laung township, provides business solutions to benefit the community. Lilypad is now developing low-cost, replicable technologies in the areas of water, agriculture and construction.

Using land efficiently and increasing income

Limited acreage and the absence of effective farming methods are two of the challenges faced by coffee producing communities. Bamboo drying beds have long been the conventional tools for natural solar drying as they can be easily built. However, they are expensive to maintain. The new innovative bunk beds are multi-purpose: they save space and are used for 4 months for the natural solar drying of coffee and for 8 months for horticultural crops, either for self-consumption or for cash crops.

Every land use decision has a significant opportunity cost and the communities cannot rely solely on coffee for their income. Any method that can support farmers to increase their revenue stream by planting additional crops is a very logical investment for the future.

Bunk beds for drying coffee and growing horticultural crops

By introducing bunk beds, the farmers will be trained to manage a sustainable, natural and mixed farming system. From November to February, the top bunk serves as a drying bed for fresh coffee cherries and parchment. During the remaining time the bottom bunk will be used for growing a mix of various vegetables such as tomatoes and sweet potatoes. The bed is also an ideal place to practise composting and vermiculture. This will allow smallholders to focus on high-quality crops while implementing sustainable natural farming techniques.



Project overview

Term: 2019-2020
Region: PinLaung Township, Shan State, Myanmar
Partner: Behind the Leaf Coffee, Lilypad Co., Ltd.
Volume: EUR 49,359 (supported by the Fund)
EUR 99,902 (total volume)

Goals

- ❖ Develop drying tables as key element of effective and efficient drying systems for speciality coffee.
- ❖ Build capacity for the coffee drying process in the village community.
- ❖ Train farmers in natural agricultural techniques.
- ❖ Create a greater understanding of the speciality coffee industry, spread knowledge and build capacity.

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