

# WATER WISE COFFEE

## SOLVING WET MILL RIVER POLLUTION



TECHNOSERVE

● Project launched

### KEY MESSAGES

**Description:** Project to prevent wet mills, required to process coffee, from discharging waste water and organic coffee skins into the local rivers. The project improves **river water quality**, essential for the local communities for washing, watering livestock and even drinking.

**Specificity:** Separation of coffee skins for composting and use of **Vetiver wetlands** to filter processing waste water and prevent contamination of the river.

**Impact:** **Improvement of standards of living** for all people living near water courses

### LEVERS

SOILS

AGRICULTURAL WATER

RISK MANAGEMENT

FINANCING

### SCOPE



SIDAMA, ETHIOPIA



480 000 people positively impacted by the program

### FUNCTIONING

#### SEVERAL WET MILL TRANSFORMATION STEPS:

Technical support to the wet mills to reduce and track water use

Creation of Vetiver wetland for waste water management

Composting of coffee skins to return to farmers

Monitoring of rivers to assess impact on water quality



"I have always feared the harvest season due to the bad smells produced by pollution. Since we use Vetiver systems, I use river water again to wash. It has stopped pollution." Ethiopian producer

**Zoom on wet mills: coffee washing essential for high quality coffee**  
 - Clean water enables improvement of coffee quality and thus producers' income  
 - Improved community relations for the wet mills and less likelihood of wet mill closures by government.

### BUDGET

\$ 300 K/year since 2012

### IMPACTS

**Agricultural productivity**  
71 wet mills enrolled

**Climate change**  
Reduced water use and river pollution

**Sustainable dev. goals**  
Over 35 000 m<sup>3</sup> of water filtered each season

### PLAYERS

Donors



Partners



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### NEXT STEPS

Extend the program to new districts in Ethiopia