



TWO COMMUNITY FRUIT TREE NURSERY PROJECTS: 80,000 SAPLINGS

PROJECT NEEDS & BENEFICIARIES:


Fruit tree agriculture consistently ranks among the top development priorities for rural Moroccan communities. The low market-value of traditional staple crops – such as corn and barley – and population growth, has compelled farmers to plant cash-crops, most commonly fruit trees.

Building off the success of the Kate Jeans-Gail Tree Nursery Memorial project, which distributed 20,000 apple and cherry saplings to 250 households in the Tifnoute Valley in 2009, HAF will support the planting of an additional 20,000 fruit tree saplings in this community nursery (this time cherry and walnut). This project will benefit an additional 250 households in one of the most remote regions of Morocco (approximately 80 trees per family).

With a focus on expanding the community tree nursery model, HAF has partnered with the Regional Direction of Waters and Forests in Marrakech and Rural Communes in Toubkal National Park to plant a nursery of 60,000 tree saplings. This project will profoundly benefit up to twenty villages, including 5,000 people.

KEYS TO SUCCESS:

- Beneficiaries are active partners in every step of the project cycle – from selecting the types of trees for the nursery, to project implementation, management, and evaluation.
- A commitment to planting only varieties of trees that do not require pesticides/herbicides helps to ensure the overall long-term health of the local environment.
- A focus on using local knowledge, building creative and diverse partnerships, and leveraging in-kind community labor allows donor dollars to go even further.
- Local technicians skilled in fruit tree agriculture transfer essential skills to community members.
- Irrigation improvements are identified from the beginning and necessary upgrades are made to ensure adequate access to water once saplings are transplanted to local orchards.

Planting one million trees with rural communities throughout Morocco

Transforming thousands of lives by advancing economic development, strengthening the environment, and developing essential skills of local people

Since 2003, HAF and its partners have planted 141,000 fruit trees, which have benefited 23,000 rural people. The implementation of this initiative is made possible through partnerships with government and non-government agencies, including Morocco's High Commission of Waters and Forests and Ministry of Agriculture.

Join HAF in planting one million trees! \$1 plants one sapling in a community nursery.



PROJECT GOALS:

- Increase the income of up to 750 households (8,000 people) by at least 200 percent in four-six years through the sale of fruit at local markets (local communities are the sole beneficiaries of the fruit) ;
- Train at least fifty community members, including representatives from each participating village, in the care and maintenance of fruit tree nurseries and fruit tree agriculture best practices;
- Strengthen the local environment through the prevention of soil erosion and desertification, and the creation of new agricultural terraces;
- Attain a sapling survival rate of at least 95 percent after two years.

PROJECT TIMELINE: During the winter of 2010 at least 20,000 fruit tree saplings will be planted as part of the Kate Jeans-Gail Tree Nursery Memorial. They will be ready for distribution in 2012. In early 2010 beneficiaries of the second tree nursery project will participate in community meetings to determine the types of trees they wish to plant in the new nursery and create a nursery management plan. The nursery will be planted during the winter of 2011, and be cared for during the next two years until the saplings are ready for distribution.

PROJECT COST: \$80,000 (\$1 per sapling includes all project costs)

CURRENT PROJECT PARTNERS:

In partnership with the Regional Direction of Waters and Forests-Marrakech, Rural Communes, and local communities:



About the High Atlas Foundation:

Founded by former Peace Corps Volunteers in 2000, HAF partners with rural Moroccan communities to help them establish socio-economic and environmental projects that they design and manage, and that are in partnership with government and non-government agencies. HAF trains university students, civil society leaders, representatives from local communes, and government technicians to facilitate participatory community planning meetings to catalyze projects in the areas of fruit tree agriculture, irrigation, clean drinking water, and women's cooperatives.

HAF is a US 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a registered Moroccan association.



For more information or to contribute to this project, please contact Kate McLetchie, Country Director, by e-mail at kate@highatlasfoundation.org, or by phone at +212(0)537 77 38 50 (Morocco) & (646) 688-2946 (US).

www.highatlasfoundation.org