

A Thousand Gardens in Africa

We are cultivating an ambitious dream:
to set up vegetable gardens in every Terra Madre
community in Africa. Anyone who believes
in this dream can help us make it a reality.



Slow Food's most important project, **Terra Madre**, has developed into a global network of farmers, producers and food communities who believe in sustainable agriculture that respects the environment and uses natural resources with care.

Since 2004, the members of this network have met every two years in Turin to discuss the issues and challenges shared by food producers around the world.

Over the years, thanks in part to Terra Madre, thousands of farmers have strengthened their knowledge, improved production techniques and, most of all, increased their faith in themselves. They have become aware of how, in their local area, they can promote sustainable agriculture, improve the quality of daily life, value and preserve traditional knowledge and grow local economies. Many of them live in countries where simply getting access to food is a daily struggle.

Slow Food wants to give this network a voice and support it with concrete actions.

For Terra Madre 2010 it is launching a new challenge: to create a thousand vegetable gardens in Africa, in schools and villages and on the outskirts of cities.

A vegetable garden means healthy, local food for the community, the passing-on of knowledge from the old to the young and a reinforced spirit of collaboration.

The gardens will be planted first in the countries where the Terra Madre network is already strong (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Morocco) and then gradually in all the others around the continent.

Not Just Any Garden

In Africa, vegetable plots represent above all an accessible source of healthy food and extra income for local communities. Terra Madre gardens encourage an awareness of local plants and biodiversity, respect for the environment, the sustainable use of soil and water and the safeguarding of traditional recipes.

There are many kinds of garden: school gardens, primarily educational, with some produce used for school meals and some sold; community gardens, used for subsistence, with a small percentage of produce sold at the market; and urban and peri-urban gardens, primarily used to produce food to sell on the local market.

They are farmed sustainably, with composting, natural treatments for pests and rational water use, and planted with local varieties, intercropping fruit trees, vegetables and medicinal herbs. The concept of a thousand gardens in Africa isn't new, but it has developed out of many agricultural and educational projects already underway. Here are two examples:

Schoolchildren in Uganda

In Uganda, most of the food that makes up the daily diet is imported. The country's soil is rapidly losing fertility, local varieties are disappearing, young people are abandoning the countryside and contempt for farming work is widespread (schoolchildren are often sent to work in the fields as punishment for bad behavior). In this context, a project was launched in 17 schools, with a total of 620 students, to improve young people's relationship with agriculture and help ensure food security for local communities. Through experience in the garden and classroom lessons, the students learn how to recognize and cultivate local fruits and vegetables, which are then cooked for school meals. Any surplus is sold at markets to support the project.





Village Women in Côte d'Ivoire

The conflict that exploded in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2002 had an enormous impact on the region of Korhogo, in the north of the country, seriously threatening agricultural production. This meant a steep fall in incomes for women, the main agricultural work force, and many children had to leave school. In the village of N'Ganon, a community of women is cultivating a seven-hectare organic vegetable garden. Some of the harvest goes to their families, some is given to the school for students' meals and the rest is sold at the local market, generating further income for the cooperative.

Supporting the "Thousand Gardens in Africa" project means:

- Providing education to farmers and young people about how to grow local products, avoid the use of chemicals and recuperate traditional knowledge.
- Supplying the materials necessary to set up a garden (seeds, hoes, rakes, composting boxes, etc.).
- Encouraging knowledge exchanges between communities, through visits to other gardens and the creation of regional networks.
- Guaranteeing a daily supply of fresh and healthy food to local communities.

Gardens and Young People

The Terra Madre gardens in Africa will be run by the communities, but also by students who have graduated from the University of Gastronomic Sciences. Slow Food scholarships have enabled some young people from Africa to study in Italy at the university, and after graduating they have returned to their home communities. Here they are working to strengthen the Terra Madre network, map biodiversity and traditional knowledge, manage projects with farmers and herders, promote food and taste education and establish vegetable gardens in villages and schools. The "Thousand Gardens in Africa" project will allow more young people to study in Italy and return to their home countries to help local communities strengthen their economy and protect their cultural identity.

Words from a Kenyan Student

☞ After I graduated in 2008, I decided to return to Kenya to share the experiences and knowledge gained during my studies in Italy. Now I can work to improve living conditions in my community and to strengthen a sustainable local economy according to the Terra Madre principles. ☞

Jane Karanja

How Donations Will Be Managed

The **Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity**, Slow Food's non-profit organization which runs projects to support Terra Madre food communities, will manage donations and coordinate the activities in Africa.

The Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity:

- Has an autonomous budget
- Has published an annual social report since 2005
- Guarantees complete transparency in the use of donations

For more information: www.slowfoodfoundation.com

Costs for Setting Up One Garden

Materials: hoes, shovels, rakes, watering cans, seeds, seedlings, etc.	250 €
Training for a local team and on-site activity coordination	100 €
Organization of training exchanges with other projects in the same country or neighboring countries	100 €
Printing and distribution of educational material in local languages (Swahili, Amharic, Oromo, Bambara, Wolof, etc.)	50 €
*General project coordination and technical assistance in creating the gardens in harmony with the Slow Food philosophy (local varieties, no synthetic chemicals, etc.)	250 €
Contribution to scholarships to train young Africans (at the University of Gastronomic Sciences)	100 €
Contribution to cover the costs for African garden communities in the Terra Madre event	50 €
TOTAL	900 €

**This is the only cost for the international office; all the rest of the donation goes directly to the African communities.*



Slow Food Foundation
for Biodiversity



Each garden will have a sign with the name of the donor who supported its creation.

Help us create a thousand gardens in Africa!

To adopt an African vegetable garden, fill in the attached form and send us a donation via bank transfer.

For more information
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www.terramadre.org

DONATION FORM (Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity copy)

The undersigned (name or business) _____

Address _____

ZIP/Postcode _____ Town/City _____ State/Region _____

Country _____ Tel. _____

VAT number/fiscal code (optional) _____

undertakes to transfer the sum of _____ euros (900 euros per garden) to the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity within _____ days following the signing of this form as a donation for the creation of _____ Terra Madre garden(s) in Africa.

The payment will be made by bank transfer to
C/A payable to The Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity
Banca Sella - via Giuseppe Verdi 15, 12042 Bra
IBAN: IT75 F 03268 46040 052878155042
SWIFT : SELBIT2BXXX

The treatment of personal data is authorized in accordance with Italian law no. 675 of 31/12/1996 for the protection and security of personal data.

Date, _____

Stamp and signature

DONATION FORM (donor copy)

The bank transfer of € _____ for the support of _____ Terra Madre gardens in Africa must be made before the date of _____ to:

C/A payable to The Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity
Banca Sella - via Giuseppe Verdi 15, 12042 Bra
CODICE IBAN: IT75 F 03268 46040 052878155042
CODICE SWIFT : SELBIT2BXXX

Payment details: A Thousand Terra Madre Gardens in Africa

Date, _____

Stamp and signature