# SHADE
## COFFEE

Aromatic synergies of coffee - trees:
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## OUR PROJECT

Shifting cultivation and mono-cropping of staple food crops such as maize, rice and cassava have been identified as principal drivers for declining yields due to soil degradation and soil erosion in the Northwest region of Viet Nam. The AFLI project (Agroforestry for Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in Northwest Viet Nam) addresses these issues by enhancing smallholder farming systems through agroforestry.

## OUR COFFEE

Through on-farm participatory research, we evaluated the performance of multi-story agroforestry systems with teak, plum, coffee, forage grasses and soybeans. Teak and plum provide shade to the coffee, and also produce timber and fruit; whilst forage grasses planted along contour lines control soil erosion, and annual crops provide early returns of investment from the system.

## FARMERS' BENEFITS

After three years, the system produced 2.5 tons of fresh coffee berries per hectare, 0.8 tons of plum, 0.2 tons of soybeans, and 8 tons of forage grasses. The total income from coffee, plum, forage grasses and soybeans was 1,400 USD/ha/year, this is higher compared to the income from monoculture coffee, which is 1,200 USD/ha/year on average.

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Up to 90% reduction in annual soil loss per hectare
- Water conservation and enhanced agro-biodiversity
- Carbon sequestration.

## POTENTIAL

There is great potential for this practice to increase the yield and quality of arabica coffee, as it requires sufficient shade. Through further scaling, this systems could benefit up to 20,000 coffee farmers in the region.

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