



Press release

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Floresta Viva showcased as a model of Climate-Smart Agriculture

Rabobank Foundation has recently published a Market Assessment about impact investing in climate-smart agriculture in Brazil, in which Floresta Viva, Moringa's fifth investee company, was portrayed as a case study. Acknowledged as a pioneer in Climate-Smart Agriculture in Brazil, Floresta Viva's innovative paradigm is described in an online video made by Rabobank Foundation as part of the Market Assessment.

Moringa invested in 2017 in Floresta Viva SA, a bright example of degraded land regeneration through a groundbreaking agroforestry system revolving around organic heart of palm. Traditionally, Brazil has been extracting heart of palm from natural forests, causing a major loss of forest biodiversity. When founding Floresta Viva, the Pini brothers proved an alternative production model was possible for the heart of palm sector.

As part of its "Market Assessment in Impact Investing in Climate-Smart Agriculture in Brazil", the Rabobank Foundation in coordination with Alimi Impact Ventures singled out six Brazilian case studies that scored highest in their ranking based on sustainability indicators. By raising awareness on Brazilian businesses, the objective of the project is to scale up similar initiatives and investments in climate-smart agriculture around the world.

The case study dedicated to Floresta Viva highlights its intrinsic environmental and social impact. Floresta Viva's production system mimics nature to achieve regeneration of the soils. This unique model has been developed in close collaboration with renowned experts such as Leontino Balbo and Ernst Götsch on the basis of syntropic farming and Ecosystem Revitalizing Agriculture principles. Located in the Vale do Ribeira region, home of most of the remaining Mata Atlântica, São Pedro Farm's agroforestry and agroecology practices aim at restoring degraded soil and reforesting deforested areas.

Furthermore, Floresta Viva's effort to scale up production is intended to be socially inclusive. The recently launched "Heart Of the Mata atlântica Ecosystem" (HOME) project is setting up an extensive network of medium and smallholder farmers who are trained and financially supported to plant organic agroforestry plots in the region. Perfectly adapted to the agricultural context of the Vale do Ribeira, the multi-cropping system will enable the producers to generate monthly sales in the short term, and fruits and wood revenues in the long term. This project is co-financed by Floresta Viva and the Agroforestry Technical Assistance Facility (ATAF). The French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), managed by the French Development Agency (AFD), has recently provided a grant of EUR 93,000 to finance the project. Rabobank and Moringa are currently exploring ways for on-the-ground cooperation to boost the positive impacts of the smallholder outgrower scheme.

Link to the case study on Floresta Viva: <http://climatesmart.com.br/project3/index.html>

About Moringa

The Moringa Fund is an investment company that provides equity financing for sustainable agroforestry projects in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Agroforestry combines tree planting with agricultural crops to create positive synergies in economic, environmental and social terms. The fund was initiated by the Edmond de Rothschild Group and ONF International, an international subsidiary of the French Office National des Forêts (ONF).

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