

The role of women in Treedom projects.

Women are an active part of our agroforestry projects: from creating the nursery, to transporting the seedlings, to maintaining the trees. Many hold positions of responsibility and deal with delicate tasks, such as grafting and geotagging trees.

In almost all parts of the world, caretaker roles are traditionally associated with women. In Africa as well as in South America, looking after the house and fields are typically female tasks, so women are naturally involved in Treedom's agroforestry projects. It's an opportunity to transfer their skills and professionalism without upsetting the cultural habits of the communities involved in the projects.

Women learn how to grow a seedling from a seed, how to take care of it, how to graft, and how to geotag trees with GPS. They find themselves in possession of professional skills they can pass on to others, and with an additional income opportunity that they almost all decide to invest in their children's education.

FOR THOSE WHO PLANT IN AFRICA

We'll take the example of Juliana, the Nursery Manager of the RUCONET project in Tanzania. Juliana plays a crucial role, because she is responsible for the entire life cycle of the nursery. She manages the purchasing of seeds, coordinates the staff who work at the nursery every day, and ensures the well-being of the seedlings.

She's the one who entrusts them to the farmers according to their requests and the characteristics of each area, and who coordinates the grafting activities that allow the trees to become productive more quickly.

It's a task she carries out with a pride she makes no attempt to hide, and over time she's become a real point of reference for her community (who admire her determination and the colourful clothes she wears on the tree delivery days).

FOR THOSE WHO PLANT IN SOUTH AMERICA

In the Huehuetenango region, an area in the northwest of Guatemala, right on the border with Mexico, the currents of warm air meet those of cold air from the Cuchumatanes mountains, allowing coffee to be grown up to very high altitudes.

Huehuetenango coffee is highly prized, and for this reason its cultivation has traditionally been reserved for men. But things are changing.

Here Treedom has inaugurated a project focused on coffee, involving almost exclusively enterprising indigenous women, who have long been looking for a way to enter this market. They will oversee the supply chain from seeds to seedlings, from daily care to harvesting the coffee fruit. With a bit of luck and Treedom's support, they will be able to sell their coffee to eco-friendly circuits or set up agricultural cooperatives to access the market directly.