WATER WISE COFFEE
SOLVING WET MILL RIVER POLLUTION

**KEY MESSAGES**

**Description:** Project to prevent wet mills, required to process coffee, from discharging waste water and organic coffee skins into the local rivers. The project improves river water quality, essential for the local communities for washing, watering livestock and even drinking.

**Specificity:** Separation of coffee skins for composting and use of Vetiver wetlands to filter processing waste water and prevent contamination of the river.

**Impact:** Improvement of standards of living for all people living near water courses.

**SCOPE**

SIDAMA, ETHIOPIA

480,000 people positively impacted by the program

**FUNCTIONING**

**SEVERAL WET MILL TRANSFORMATION STEPS:**

- Technical support to the wet mills to reduce and track water use
- Creation of Vetiver wetland for waste water management
- Composting of coffee skins to return to farmers
- Monitoring of rivers to assess impact on water quality

**IMPACTS**

- Agricultural productivity
  - 71 wet mills enrolled
- Climate change
  - Reduced water use and river pollution
- Sustainable dev. goals
  - Over 35,000 m³ of water filtered each season

**BUDGET**

$300 K/year since 2012

**PLAYERS**

Donors

- TechnoServe
- Partners

- TechnoServe

**NEXT STEPS**

Extend the program to new districts in Ethiopia

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"I have always feared the harvest season due to the bad smells produced by pollution. Since we use Vetiver systems, I use river water again to wash. It has stopped pollution." - Ethiopian producer

"Zoom on wet mills: coffee washing essential for high quality coffee
- Clean water enables improvement of coffee quality and thus producers’ income
- Improved community relations for the wet mills and less likelihood of wet mill closures by government."