

PFX Agro-industrial NV embarks in an ambitious and innovative agroforestry project in Suriname.

The company capitalizes on the government initiative to give away land to small and medium scale farmers in order to rehabilitate a former oil palm estate that has been abandoned 30 years ago. The Phedra community -named after the plantation- of about 100 people has been left over since surviving to the civil war and forgotten from the last decade economic development of the country.

A century of monoculture (palm oil) left a deforested land with a soil poor in nutrients for decent yield of any type of crops. Fertilizers are necessary as well as irrigation.

PFX will establish a 500 ha farm based on the agroforestry pattern, i.e. to inter-cropping cash-crops, energy canes and Nitrogen Fixing Trees. The aim is to produce naturally 400 kg of nitrogen which will supply half of the necessary fertilizer and will save 250 tons per year of chemical.

The first step is to set up an experimentation farm on 20 ha with the technical support of a young agri-tech research institute based in French Guyana, whose expertise is mined-out lands reclamation.

A nursery of 3 types of locally selected Nitrogen Fixing Trees has been established and cared by people from the community.

The experimentation objective is to select the crops that can perform the most in inter-cropping with the tress, it is schedule on 3 years but the first results are expected within 12 months. 7 workers from the local community are employed, 3 more will get a job on the project within 12 months.

