

WHEN A TREE ISN'T JUST A TREE

Trees create shade, sequester carbon, and so much more. Yet amid the push to plant trees and meet climate goals, it's becoming evident that not all trees — or tree planting projects — have an equal (or necessarily positive) impact. The species of trees, who plants them, and where or how they're planted makes a difference.



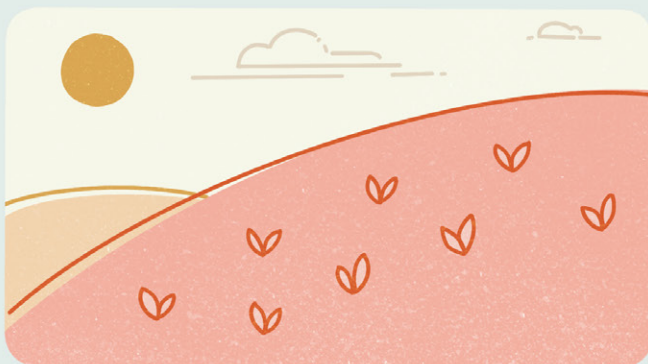
WHO PLANTS TREES MATTERS

Community-led projects choose trees that meet community needs for food, cash crops, lumber, or other local priorities — and invest in them over the long-term, growing saplings into healthy forests.



HOW TREES ARE PLANTED MATTERS

Diverse food forests and agroforestry systems provide both cash crops and sequester carbon — and generate income that reduces the drive to clear the forest.



WHERE TREES ARE PLANTED MATTERS

Indiscriminate tree planting on savannah and grasslands is driving people off of their land and compromising native ecosystems. This “arboreal imperialism” continues a colonial model of control and extraction.



WHICH TREES MATTERS

A massive monocrop plantation of the same, non-native trees doesn't have the same positive impact as a diverse forest.

When communities lead on reforestation projects, they can choose the methods that meet their specific needs, creating a greater impact both for the climate and for local economies. While the term “agroforestry” is fairly new, sustainable food-forest systems have been used by Indigenous communities for centuries. Carbon sequestration and reforestation can be and have historically been achieved through cooperative and community-driven efforts.

Grow Ahead crowdfunds community-led reforestation projects around the globe, building on the understanding that communities know what they need; they just need financial support to reach their goals.

Learn more at: [GrowAhead.org](https://growahead.org)