School meals provide much needed food security in a region susceptible to climate change

In recent years, Ethiopia has suffered greatly from the negative effects of climate change. Approximately 80% of the workforce is engaged in agriculture with many of them subsistence farmers, working on just 1 hectare (~2.5 acres) of land. For these smallholder farmers that barely produce enough in a good year, variations in the climate from year to year often lead to disaster. For example, Ethiopia experienced a severe drought during the rainy season (June-Sept) in 2008, destroying entire harvests in some regions and leaving families with nothing for the upcoming year. School meal programs play a critical role in ensuring food security in countries such as Ethiopia that are especially vulnerable to variations in the climate.

Corn and soy beans

In the Millennium Village of Koraro (where TFT and the World Food Programme support the school meal program), a corn soya blend (“CSB”) is served for lunch. In a region where nutrient intake is often insufficient at home, the CSB provides much needed calories and nutrition.

Do you want an orange?

In order to supplement the nutritional value of the school meals, TFT funds have been used to purchase 2 oranges per week for each student. On the right, Mr. Gabrakida is seen picking some oranges from his fruit garden – a result of painstaking work digging a borehole to supply sufficient water. He is now able to produce a surplus, which he sells on the market to earn cash.