

Project Title

Integrated Farming Project for 200 Beneficiary Rural Women in Cameroon

Proposing organization:

Integrated Rural Community Center for Agriculture (IRCCA Cameroon)

Place of Implementation

Kumbo Bui Division, Northwest Region, Republic of Cameroon, Central Africa

Partnership organizations:

Kintam and Bongsum Women groups Meluf, NAVTI Foundation and New Vision Youth Organization (NVYO) Kumbo,

Project Duration: 12 months

Start Date: April 2013

End Date: April 2014

Area under cultivation: 7ha

Activities involved

Cultivation of Irish potatoes (1.5ha), Tomatoes (0.5ha), Maize (3ha), Soya beans (2ha) and Broiler Poultry farming (2000 broiler chicks) and a grinding mill for the feed processing unit.

Project Cost
\$8000

Cost Distribution

Item	Amount
Irish Potatoes	\$1,000
Tomatoes	\$1,500
Maize	\$500
Soy Beans	\$400
1000 broiler chicks	\$4,000
Grinding Mill	\$600
Total	\$8,000

Expected Project Outcome

Irish potatoes	\$3,000
Tomatoes	\$3,000
Maize	\$1,200
Soy beans	\$800
Broilers	\$10,000
Total	\$18,000

Capital costs \$8000

Income from sales \$18000

Anticipated Profit \$18000-\$8000=\$10000

(Community responsible for all other costs including labor costs)

Introduction

Kumbo is found in the Northwest region of Cameroon and is home to about a hundred and eighty thousand (180000) people. It has rich cultural and natural endowments with breathe taking sites and wonderfully hospitable people. Agriculture is the major economic activity here with over 90% of the population involved. A significant number of people here live below the poverty line of \$1.2 from the UN standards, and misery and poverty continue to increase on a daily bases given the mounting social burdens; diseases and other social responsibilities.

Agriculture takes the form of small holder peasant farming and productivity does not often meet the daily needs of the rural farmers whose sole occupation is farming. Other areas include; market gardening and poultry farming all of which are practiced at a much smaller scale. Industrial agriculture is completely absent. There is some degree of development in both the tertiary and quaternary sectors but for the secondary sector which is completely absent.

Project Summary

Hunger and poverty are endemic in rural agricultural communities all over the world because women and young girls who constitute the most significant group of people here lack capital and capacity building to invest in sustainable agricultural practices. One of the most critical problem is lack of knowledge in adopting new sustainable agricultural techniques, so we want to engage them in workshops, study visits, technical training, outreach to stakeholders and policy-makers, and linkages with related ongoing initiatives in order to improve access to knowledge ,equipment and inputs.

We hope to empower them by strengthening their reach and level of engagement at both ends and develop more programs that are continuous, consistent and compliment our objectives of delivering a lasting and comprehensive solution to their problems.

Problems of Farmers in Kumbo

- Scarcity of quality seeds
- High cost of seeds
- High prevalence of diseases and pests on the crop in fields
- Poor mastery of proper cultivation techniques by the farmers
- High post harvest losses
- Insufficient capital to expand production
- Price manipulation by traders
- Poor transport facilities

- Insufficient inputs like fertilizers and pesticides etc

What the project will do

The main focus of this project will be to strengthen our micro-finance initiative in order to provide capital to these women to invest in sustainable agricultural practices. The project starts with poultry farming.

A feed processing unit will be built wherein the maize and the soya beans cultivated will be used to process chicken feed. Other crops will be sold to buy other feed requirements. The droppings collected will be used for both organic farming and market gardening. This will help them improve farming systems, new varieties of crops and animals, and commercialize their production as well as establish and manage farm business

- It will also empower them through capacity building eventually creating an enabling environment for them to start large scale farming and also to diversify production into areas that are economically more feasible.
- They will equally be able to market their produce conveniently. They shall no longer feel the effects of price fluctuations since they shall be able to buy own produce and sell later when price stabilizes.
- It shall also help improve on their farm yields and income and assist them attain food sufficiency a much desired goal for Food security;
- It shall create employment opportunities for them and the community at large given the diversity of activities involved and eventually improves the health and quality of life.
- Practice organic farming thereby reducing over dependence on the more expensive inorganic fertilizers
- It will empower young girls in the area of their academic careers since one of our objectives is encouraging empowerment through knowledge.

How will this project solve this problem?

Since the ultimate goal of this project is project is to strengthen our micro-financial initiative, we hope to make capital available to these women and also train them on proper farming methods. This will improve production, income levels and living conditions of the families. It will also ensure that they adopt sustainable agricultural practices which will eventually save them the time and energy of travelling to distant places in search of more productive agricultural land. In short, helping 200 women means helping 200 families and the wider community.

Potential Long Term Impact

Women have the capacity to lead and build and of recent, those of them who have been

given the opportunity to invest in sustainable agricultural practices have been able to rescue whole families from hunger and poverty. Empowering them thus will have the long term impact of improving food security and reducing poverty by about 75% in rural communities and bringing some ½ a billion people out of hunger and starvation.

Sustainability

The scope of this project extends beyond the anticipated timeline. After the first phase of this project, which ends in April 2014, we shall launch similar projects to make sure that the project continues to have an impact on the lives of these women, their families and the wider community.

We have put up a competent agricultural resource structure so called IRCCA enterprise tasked with business study, market research, business creation and operation to manage the project and make sure the overall goals objectives are attained.