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**Empowering 80 Women in Cameroon through Agriculture**

1. Our Objectives

We ensure that the population carries out sustainable and advanced agricultural projects and adopt a spirit of creativity, entrepreneurship and market development so as to promote socio economic progress

We also encourage empowerment through knowledge and seek to develop literacy and educational programs within our organizational structure and in partnership with other non governmental and governmental organizations.

Delivering a comprehensive service by which every farmer has a fair and equal access to the amenities, resources and knowledge base of the organization.

Creation of a communal farm that will be accessible to all and serves as both an educational and an information exchange centre for the whole community

Development of micro-financial system funded by and available to the members for investment in programs which compliment the organization’s aims and objectives

Organize cooperative buying and shared ownership in the purchase of seeds, equipment and the selling of produce

Develop scholarship fund with the express purpose of assisting those that excel to have the opportunity to succeed.

Engage in international cooperation with individuals and organizations in order to develop affiliations and partnership programs for technical and financial assistance.

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**1) Objectives of this project**

1. Women will be able to multiply the seeds they need on their farms. They shall then buy these seeds at a third of the price of seeds in the conventional market. Seeds here are sold at 600frs/kg. With the effective take off of this project, they will be able to get seeds at 200frs/kg. Each will then contribute 50frs for every kilogram bought for the purchase of tools and inputs.
2. The project will be used in income generation activities. The seeds produced will also be sold to individual farmers, other farmer groups at the normal price. Funds raised from this sale will be used to continue the seed production as well as invest in other lucrative business ventures.
3. The additional advantage of seed production will enable farmers start large scale/industrial agriculture which is completely absent. With this a lot will be produced and more income raised.
4. Improvement in seeds, ready supply and at affordable rates to women and girls
5. Create awareness in the minds of women through capacity building measures to ensure that information and knowledge is well disseminated.
6. It is also meant to enable women participate in decision making in every aspect of society.

**2) Advantages of the project**

1. Every woman will be able to get seeds at affordable rates
2. Women income levels will rise leading to improved living conditions of them and their families
3. Since they will no longer depend much on men for their needs, domestic violence, abuse and insubordination will be reduced.
4. They will be able to participate in decision making given their financial barking
5. The education of the children will be guaranteed since women play invaluable roles in enabling children go to school. It is one of the areas of serious concern since children must study.
6. It will also lead to employment of more women since; many people will be needed in the effective management of the project.

**3) Introduction**

Poverty affects millions of people in rural communities in the world. Women are most affected since they play and invaluable role in managing families as mothers and income generators. It must be noted here that agriculture is the main income earner here and it is mainly subsistent family farming. Industrial agriculture is completely absent given the high investment costs involved. Women shoulder the bulk of family responsibility and are therefore in most cases responsible for educating, feeding and taking care of the health needs of the entire family.

The lack of quality seeds, equipment and inputs make it very difficult for them to cater for the needs of their families. This in addition to the large number of reported cases of abuse, insubordination and marginalization further complicate and reduce the quality of life for them. If women are able to acquire quality seeds, inputs and equipment, they will be able to produce enough to take care of all their responsibilities.

 This project targets five women groups with a total of 80 members. Through the project the women will be able start seed multiplication in especially important crops like Irish potatoes which generate a lot of income for them and their families. The most pressing issue is that of lack of quality seeds and this makes it difficult for them to improve farm yield which is much needed for the well being of their families. Helping them to acquire quality seeds means helping them to improve farm yield

**4) Beneficiary Women’s Groups**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| N/S | **Group** | **Membership** |
| 1 | Kintam  | 15 |
| 2 | Kisoo | 15 |
| 3 | Sesum | 16 |
| 4 | Bongsum | 20 |
| 5 | Progressive | 14 |
| Total |  | 80 |

**Problems**

The major problems farmers face are:

* 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

With these problems, yields continue to be low, making it difficult for farmers to meet their mounting social costs the most serious of which is feeding, education of children and health care.

We are therefore appealing to you to help support us in our efforts to lift these women out of poverty by helping them improve and increase the production of Solanum potatoes which should act as a base for all their farming activities. This will go a long way to alleviate poverty and improve living conditions of the population

**5) How the project intends to tackle this problem**

The project is designed to provide each woman in the various groups with 250kg of quality seeds (Irish potatoes), organic manure, a hoe, pesticides and a cutlass. The seed multiplication shall be carried out by the women groups themselves in a 1.5H piece of land. This land is capable of producing some ≥63000kg of seed to be distributed to the women. Part of the produce shall be sold to buy organic manure, pesticides and farm implements. Each woman will thus be entitled to 250kg of seeds to be cultivated on a 0.125Ha or 1/8th of a hectare to start with. This is enough to produce some 4900kg of produce worth 875000 FRS.

**6) Reason for the choice of the Crop**

* Irish potatoes are the most important crop grown in rural communities in the tropics. It has a short production cycle of just a hundred days or three months. Its maturity comes at the time that most food stocks have been depleted and families are unable to feed well.
* Irish potatoes have a ready market within the country and outside. Production has never met demand and whatever amount of this crop produced will always be sold. There is therefore the need to assist farmers improve production and eventually improve yield.
* Its production per unit area of cultivated land is the highest compared to all other crops cultivated here. It is easy to cultivate and easy to harvest.
* It can conveniently be stored in anticipation of price change. Often, farmers would always sell during period of scarcity in which case they are able to raise enough income.
* It can be cultivated more two times a year, i.e. March to June and August to November. A serious farmer can produce more than 42tons in a year. It is therefore, economically viable to concentrate on the cultivation of this crop.

**7) Project time Line/Execution plan**

The project execution plan follows a one hundred day period or three months since this crop takes at most a hundred days to mature. Work on the field however starts in January with clearing, raking, and fencing as seen below:

July

* Constitution of project committee
* Site inspection and work plan
* Fencing
* Seed acquisition
* Clearing, raking, stumping and tilling

August

* Manure application
* Ridging
* Planting

September

* Weed and hill up (Mound) the crops
* Rogue ( cross checking for pests and getting rid of infected plants)
* Controlling late blight and insect pests
* Short report on performance for first three to four 8 weeks

October

* Second Molding with application of manure
* Kill vines
* Late October
* Weeding in preparation for harvest

Early November

* Harvest including sizing up grains
* Storage for three months

December/January

* Storage

**8) HOW THE PROJECT WILL BE RUN**

**Creation of the project management committee and marketing committee**

A project management committee will be created headed by the project manager and representatives from partnership organizations.

The work of the project committee will be to perform the following roles:

* Site Selection and choice of variety of seed to plant
* Supervise clearing, stumping, preparation of compost and ridging
* Planting, mulching and weeding
* Harvesting, storage

The marketing committee will be in charge of all sales and will report to the main administration.

**9) SPECIES UNDER CONSIDERATION AND MATURING PERIODS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **a) Names of Varieties of Irish Potatoes** |  |
| Name of Variety | Yield (Tons) | Disease tolerance | Time of maturity |
| CIPIRA | 20-35 | Tolerant to leaf blight | 100 days |
| TUBIRA | 20-30 | moderately susceptible to blight | 100 days |
| CADINAL | Good | Susceptible to blight | 100 days |
| *DIAMANT* | *Good* | *Susceptible to blight* | *Late maturing* |
| IRAD 2005 | NI | NI | NI |
| SPUNTA | NI | NI | NI |
| MODIAL | NI | NI | NI |
| HERTA | NI | NI | NI |
| NICOLA | NI | NI | NI |
| DESIRE | 15-20 | Tolerant to leaf blight | 100 days |
| Pamina | 20-30 | Tolerant | 100 days |

NI=No Information

February: Distribution of seeds to farmers, sale of excess and purchase of fertilizer, pesticides and equipment in preparation of new farming season starting March 2015.

**10) Project Sustainability Plan:**

Production of the seeds will not be given to the farmers at no cost. The reason for this is to ensure that the project continues. What will be done here is that, once the seeds are ready, farmers will be able to buy from the women cooperative at half the price that it is given in the markets.

The market price for certified seeds is 600frs/kg. Members will get these seeds at 200frs/kg. They will then contribute fifty francs (50) each towards the development of other areas like the purchase of farm implements. This means that if a farmer is buying 150kg of seeds, she will pay 30 000 FRS instead of 90 000 FRS. So she pays a third of the normal price.

In addition to this we will be able to raise 7 500 FRS from this quantity of seeds to add to the proceeds from sale to other farmers at usual price to inputs and equipment.

The continuity of the project will be thanks to the sale of seeds to other farmer groups, individual farmers and general investment through large scale cultivation of Irish potatoes enough to generate income that can employ many other women.

The effective take off of this project will bring good tidings to the women of the community as not only a few will benefit Many will be employed in the various areas of our operations.

**11) Project Budget Analysis**

**Total project Funding=$7868**

**Community contribution=$1508**

**Net to be funded=$6360**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Head-description**  | **unit** | **unit pr.** | **CFA** |  **Dollars**  | **Jan-Feb**  | **Mar-Apr** | **May-Jun** |
| **Farm tools** |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Cutlasses | 4 | 1500 | 6000 | $12  | x  |   |   |
| Lines for picking in 100m | 200 | 25 | 5000 | $10  | x  | x  |   |
| Sprayers  | 4 | 38000 | 76000 | $152  |   | x  |   |
| Bags for transporting to the store | 10 | 400 | 4000 | $8  |   | x  |   |
| Spades  | 4 | 5000 | 20000 | $40  | x  |   |   |
| Three fingers  | 2 | 3500 | 7000 | $14  | x  | x  | x  |
|   | 224 | 48125 | **118000** | **$236**  |   |   |   |
| **Construction storage house:** |   |   |  |  |   | **Time line**  |   |
|   | unit | unit pr. | **CFA** |  **Euro's**  | **Feb-Mar** | **Apr-May** | **Jun-July** |
| **Building materials and labour:**  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| Moldering of sundry bricks  | 2000  | 30   | **60000** | **$120**  |   | x | x |
| Labour: Construction, | 1  | 25000 | **25000** | **$50**  |   | x | x |
| Total budget building materials and labour | 2001 | 25030 | **85000** | **$170**  |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| **Roofing materials** |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| Raftrers: Plank 5m long (2x6) | 30  | 1500 | **45000** | **$90**  |   | x | x |
| Polines: 5m long (2x3)  | 20  | 700 | **14000** | **$28**  |   | x | x |
| Nails in packets (3 and 5 inches)  | 5  | 3400 | **17000** | **$34**  |   | x | x |
| Zinc nails and gaskets  | 3  | 4000 | **12000** | **$24**  |   | x | x |
| Zinc (2m long) | 75  | 4000 | **300000** | **$600**  |   | x | x |
| Cost of roofing  | 1  | 25000 | **25000** | **$50**  |   | x | x |
| **Total budget roofing materials**  | **134** | **38600** | **413000** | **$8.26**  |  |  |  |
|   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| Furniture ( doors, windows and shaves) |  |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| Windows and inches  | 2 | 5000 | **10000** | **$20** |   | x | x |
| Doors, inches, and lucks  | 3 | 9000 | **27000** | **$54**  |   | x | x |
| Making of storage shaves  | 1 | 2000 | **2000** | **$4**  |   | x | x |
| Labour for above work | 1 | 15000 | **15000** | **$30**  |   | x | x |
| **Total budget furniture materials and labour** | **7** | **31000** | **54000** | **$108**  |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| **Total estimated storage house construction** | **7** | **31000** | **54000** |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| **Fencing of the farm site (25% of a hecter)** |  |  |  |  | **Time line**  |   |
|  | **unit** | **unit pr.** | **CFA** |  **Euro's**  | **Apr-May** | **Jun-Jul** | **Aug-Sep** |
| **Fencing materials**  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Cost of sawing of fence sticks  | 400 | 150 | 60000 | $120  | x  |   |   |
| Cost of sawing of polines of at least 5m long | 240 | 250 | 60000 | $120  | x  |   |   |
| Cost of local bamboo's  | 400 | 50 | 12000 | $24  | x  |   |   |
| Cost of binding wire and rolls  | 10 | 1500 | 15000 | $30  | x  |   |   |
| 3 and 4 inches nails in packages  | 6 | 5000 | 30000 | $60  | x  |   |   |
| **Total estimate fencing materials**  | 1056 | 6950 | **177000** | **142 €**  | x |   |   |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Fencing labour**  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Transferring fence sticks, digging holes & pinning | 400 | 75 | 30000 | $60  | x |   |   |
| Nailing and tying of polines and bamboo's  | 1 | 30000 | 30000 | $60  | x |   |   |
| **Total estimate labour fencing** | 201 | 15075 | **60000** | **$120**  | x |   |   |
| **Total estimate fencing materials and labour**  | 602 | 22025 | **237000** | **$474**  |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| **Farm preparation & planting** | **unit** | **unit pr.** | **CFA** |  **Euro's**  | **Jun-Jul** | **Aug-Sep** | **Oct-Nov** |
| Clearing and racking No of pers x 1day)  | 20 | 1500 | **30000** | **$60**  |   | x  |   |
| Ploughing, Picking & marking | 40 | 3000 | **120000** | **$240 cc** |   | x  |   |
| Planting by 10 prs x 2000 per dy | 20 | 2000 | **40000** | **$80 cc** |   | x  |   |
| Applying of fowl droppings /organic manure | 10 | 1500 | **15000** | **$30 cc** |   | x  |   |
| Transportation of tools and materials  | 5 | 10000 | **50000** | **$100** | x  | x  | x  |
|  | 95 | 18000 | **255000** | **$510** |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| Purchasing of seeds organic manure etc | unit | unit pr. | **CFA** |  **Euro's**  | **Jul-Aug** | **Sep-Oct** | **Nov-Dec** |
| 2500kg of seeds at 1000frs per kg | 2500 | 600 | **1500000** | **$3000**  |   | x  |   |
| Purchasing of fowl droppings in bags  | 50 | 3000 | **150000** | **$300**  |   |   |   |
| Fungicide sachets | 50 | 500 | **25000** | **$50**  |   | x  |   |
| Insecticide in liters  | 10 | 7500 | **75000** | **$150**  |   | x  |   |
| Urea (organic manufactured fertilser)  | 3 | 17000 | **51000** | **$102** |   | x  |   |
|  | 2613 | 28600 | **1801000** | **$3602**  |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| Weeding and hilling up the ridges | unit | unit pr. | **CFA** |  **Euro's**  | **Sep-Oct** | **Nov-Dec** | **Jan-Feb** |
| Weeding and hilling up the ridges  | 1 | 60000 | **60000** | **$120 cc** |   | x  |   |
| Applying of Urea (organic manufactured fertilser)  | 12 | 2000 | **24000** | **$48 cc** |   | x  |   |
| Fungicide applications (sachets) | 60 | 300 | **18000** | **$36** |   | x  |   |
| Insecticide applications in liters (1l x5x10) | 25 | 300 | **15000** | **$30**  |   | x  |   |
|  | 98 | 32600 | **117000** | **$234**  |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| Harvesting and operational expenses  | unit | unit pr. | **CFA** |  **Euro's**  | **Nov-Dec** | **Jan-Feb** | **Mar-Apr** |
| Harvesting: (digging and assembling in collection point) | 300 | 1500 | **450000** | **$900 cc** |   | x  | x  |
| Transferring to the temporal store  | 300 | 500 | **150000** | **$300**  |   | x  | x  |
| Operational and promotional expenses  | 1 | 25000 | **25000** | **$50** |   | x  | x  |
| Drying, selecting of seeds and packing | 75 | 600 | **45000** | **$90 cc** |   | x  | x  |
|  | 676 | 6700 | **670000** | **$1340** |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| Supervision and administration by Farm manager and supervisors |  1 | 25000 | **25000** | **$50** |   |   |   |
| Farm manager's monthly salary for daily  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| farm management (Fencing repairs, . , , ) | 3 | 7500 | **22500** | **$45**  | x | x | x |
| Administration and general management exp. | 1 | 25000 | **25000** | **$50**  | x | x | x |
| Total estimate administration and operational exp. | 5 |   | **50000** | **$100**  |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| **Total estimated budget for seeds multiplication project** | **7497** | **165325** | **3934000** | **$7868**  |  |  |  |
|  | Potatoes seeds multiplication turnover expectation calculation |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |
| **Total harvest in bags and seeds in kilos** |  |  |  |  | **Dec-Jan** | **Feb-Mar** | **Apr-May** |
| **Turnover from potatoes sells in low season (bags):**  | **50** | **15000** | **750000** | **$1500**  |  | **x**  | **x**  |
| **Turnover from potatoes sells in high season (bags):**  | **50** | **21000** | **1005000** | **$2010**  |  | **x**  | **x**  |
| **Total sells of potatoes A & B in low & high season** | **50** | **36000** | **1755000** | **$3510**  |  | **x**  | **x**  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Turnover from seeds sells in high season (kilo's):**  | **100** | **21000** | **2100000** | **$4200**  |  |  | **x**  |
| **Total sells of seeds type A & B in high season** | **100** | **21000** | **2100000** | **$4200**  |  |  | **x**  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total turnover from potatoes and seeds (G Profit)** | **300** | **99000** | **6960000** | **$13920** |  |  |  |
| **Selling and advertising expenses**  | **-1** | **30000** | **-30000** | **-$60** |  |  |  |
| **The eventual lost of seeds & potatoes due rot etc**  | **-200** | **600** | **-120000** | **-$240**  |  |  |  |
| **Total turnover minus other expenses.** | **3473** | **68400** | **6810000** | **$13620** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total cost of production & farm operartional exp.** | **1129** | **165325** | **3934000** | **$7868** | **x**  | **x**  | **x**  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gross profit: Turnover minus cost of prodcution & selling exp.** |  | **-48125** | **3626000** | **$5752**  |  |  |  |

**CC-community contribution=FCFA754000 or $1508**

**Gross profit excluding community contribution**

**FCFA3934000-FCFA750000=FCFA3184000**

**Gross profit = Total turn over-Cost of production**

**FCFA6810000-FCFA3184000=FCFA3626000.**

**Net profit=Gross profit – Eventual seed loss and advertising expenses**

**FCFA3626000-FCFA150000=*FCFA3476000 or $695200***