

Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Programme (COSDEP)



“Training Farmers to Secure their Future”

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Who we are

Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Programme (COSDEP) is a registered non-governmental organization (NGO) that focuses on ensuring continued learning and practice of organic farming in rural communities for improved food and dietary conditions. The organization's main offices are located at Kihara Township, in Kiambu District. It was founded in 2001 as a farmer's training programme in Kiambu and became a non-governmental Organization (NGO) in 2004. Ever since COSDEP has reached out and already working with farmers in parts of two counties namely Kiambu and Murang'a counties and aims to cover the entire Central region of Kenya. A total of at least 20, 000 farmers have been reached and trained with 80% of the number very active in organic farming. Two thirds of this number has also been involved in exchange visits as a way of promoting knowledge and information exchange among them.

COSDEP-Kenya is governed by a seven (7) Board of Directors comprised of representatives across the area of coverage, the program Director and a chairperson. Besides it has a strong personnel team of employees and occasionally offers internship to college students.

Our Mission Statement:

We are committed to promote sustainable development initiatives among the poor small scale farmers in Central region through participatory practices

Long term Goal:

Is to build the communities capacity to secure their own food; nutrition and income security at the household level

Our Values:

COSDEP is guided by the following values: Hard work, Integrity, Team work, Learning, Growth and Sustainability

Our Current Strategic objectives

1. To equip the farming households including young farmers with the ability to be self reliant and food/nutrition secured in an ecologically sound way, and where possible to produce surplus and add value for effective marketing.
2. To ensure that continuity of organic farming practice and information spread through farmer to farmer learning and interaction is happening extensively in all communities where COSDEP works
3. To complement and actively participate in appropriate networks for information exchange and advocacy at all level
4. To establish COSDEP as a relevant, well organized, motivated and adequately resourced organization doing high quality work.

AREAS OF OPERATION: COSDEP is currently working in parts of Kiambu and Murang'a Counties

OUR PROGRAMMES

1. Training and Extension Programme

This is the department with the greatest contact with farmers-our target beneficiaries. Most of its activities are carried out in the field by our competent extensionists who are based where the farmers are and these activities include;

Main activities

- a) Mobilizing /sensitizing the farming, women and youth groups
- b) Participatory institutionalizing and training the farmers on sustainable organic farming
- c) Facilitate info, idea and experience exchange among the farmers during discussions and visits
- d) Encourage Seed bulking, storage and exchange amongst farmers
- e) Collaborate and network with like-minded organizations, individuals and departments
- f) Offering internships to students from both local and international institutions

2. School Gardening Programme

This programme dubbed as ‘**Organic Gardening for Schools**’ was initiated in the year 2009 and is designed to benefit the entire school youth. We target interested pupils especially the neediest ones who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and others who will want to join in the project voluntarily. The project also doubles as a display point for the concepts we stand for to the farming community around the schools where the farmers can be participating during some learning events and take home the lessons for improving their own practices.

3. The Administration

The administration department which operates from the organization’s main office and consists of the full time office personnel who include the Director, Secretary, and the Accounts Clerk. The administration roles include coordinating all organizations activities, formulation of policies, fundraising and controlling resources and overseeing overall implementation of tasks towards achieving the organization’s set goals and objectives.

4. The Demonstration Center

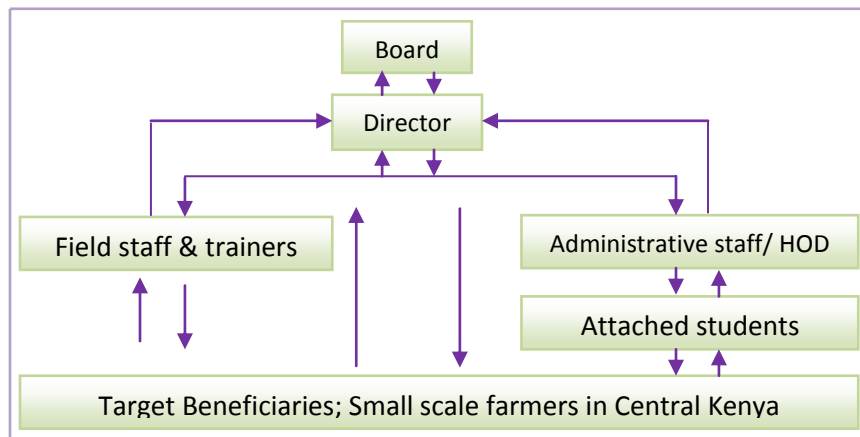
Being a training organization, COSDEP felt it was a good idea to have a hands on training ground for farmers that we work with. To fulfill this desire, a demonstration center was started late 2010 in Kagongo village. Since then farmers from different areas both in and outside Kenya have paid us a visit and learned several ideas and issues affecting them as farmers.

The demo acts as a training center for farmers and a source of income for the organization from the sale of manuals and farm produce.

Target groups: We target to work with small scale farmers, existing farming groups, women and youth groups as well as the children from the poor families.

We also encourage women to find new uses for common staple foods and advise them on how to improve their families' nutrition, such as diversifying by turning to traditional stuff, planting fruit trees, conserving water and learning how to preserve fresh foods.

COSDEP'S Organization's Structure



Our Work in Photos



1. FARMERS EXCHANGE VISIT AT COSDEP'S DEMO CENTER



2. FARMERS INTERACTIVE MEETING SESSION



3. EXHIBITING OUR WORK DURING A FIELD DAY



4. OUR WORK WITH THE SCHOOLS



5. HOSTING STUDENTS FROM LOUISIANA UNI. (USA) AT OUR DEMO



6. OYSTER MUSHROOM PRODUCTION PROJECT AT THE DEMO