



# ASSOCIATION FOR INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

**(A.I.S.D.I. – C.I.G.)**

*“Organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council since 2016”.*

**REG. N°: SW/GP/01/97/203**

## PROFILE

26 MBOH STREET FIANGO, P.O. BOX 409 KUMBA,  
SOUTH WEST REGION, REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.

TEL: +237 (0) 41 21 62 / +1 (210) 467 6435 E-MAIL: [aisdi@vahoo.co.uk](mailto:aisdi@vahoo.co.uk)

## **OUR VISION**

Contribute to human development in a sustainable world.

## **OUR MISSION**

To empower vulnerable communities in the world, to sustainably improve on their living standards.

## **OUR HISTORY**

The Association for Integrated Sustainable Development Initiatives abbreviated A.I.S.D.I.-C.I.G. is a Grassroots Non-Governmental, Non-Profit Making, Non-Discriminatory, Organization created on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1997 by a group of young Cameroonians from different professions who felt the need to attenuate the impact of the economic crisis on the rural masses by offering their services for free through capacity building and technical support. It was legalized and registered on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1997 under Cameroonian Law N° 92/006 of 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1992 relating to Cooperative Societies and Common Initiative Groups and its Decree of Application N° 92/455/PM of 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1992. AISDI is an organisation in special consultation status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2016.

## **INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE BY THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

The Association for Integrated Sustainable Development Initiatives abbreviated A.I.S.D.I.-C.I.G. is a Grassroots Non-Governmental Organization legalized and registered under Cameroonian Law. This initiative was initially motivated to attenuate the adverse effects of the socio-economic crisis that hit Cameroon in the early nineties. To meet these objectives our priority activities have been and remain geared towards the empowerment of communities and the youths through sustainable management of their resources and by harnessing their physical and intellectual effort in order to undertake ventures that generally improve on their standard of living. AISDI bases its effort on capacity building, project elaboration, fundraising and on monitoring and evaluating projects.

We trained 12 groups with 305 direct beneficiaries and 1,255 indirect beneficiaries on themes related to their activities, 27 HIV/AIDs infected and affected persons were touched, 286 and 600 plantain and cocoa smallholder farmers respectively were trained on topics related to their domains, 58 youths were trained on the use of ICT in agriculture particularly in e-commerce and mobile banking for the benefit of the rural smallholder farmers and 32 women were trained to produce nutrient-rich infant food.

## **ADDRESS**

26 Mboh Street, Kumba, South West Region, Republic of Cameroon.

## **MEDIUM OF CONTACT**

*Phone:* +237 675 412 162 / +1 240 467 6435

*Mail:* P.O. Box 409 Kumba.

*E-mail:* [aisdi\\_sw@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aisdi_sw@yahoo.co.uk)

## **CONTACT PERSONS**

Nelson Ammen Benje (Project Coordinator). E-mail: [nelsonammen@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonammen@gmail.com) Tel.: +237 675 412 162

Akuo Clement Ehoh (Chairman). E-mail: [clementcea@yahoo.com](mailto:clementcea@yahoo.com) Tel.: +1 240 467 6435

Ngome Roland (Vice Chair Person). E-mail: [twintusk2@gmail.com](mailto:twintusk2@gmail.com) Tel.: +237 677 359 944

## **EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

ABA International Consultancy, P.O. Box 402 Buea, South West Region, Cameroon.

## **BANKERS**

Mukonje Cooperative Credit Union Limited (MFI)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership to AISDI is non-discriminatory. It is open to all who adhere to its ideals. As at December 31, 2017 AISDI has thirty two (32) individual members, two (2) Cooperative Societies and two (2) Common Initiative Groups representing one hundred and sixty seven (167) persons and a total membership of one hundred and ninety nine (199) distributed within four (4) out of the six (6) Divisions of the South West Region of Cameroon. Women constitute 53% and youths 62% of this membership.

## **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

### **GOVERNING STRUCTURES**

#### ***GENERAL ASSEMBLY***

The General Assembly comprises all registered members. It is the supreme decision and policy-making body of the organization. It establishes the strategic goals, medium-term objectives and annual achievement benchmarks and it approves the management's consolidated budget as well as project proposals. It meets once every year to approve the Financial Statements, decide on allocation of income, elect members of the Executive Bureau, to confirm the appointment of the Project Coordinator, to appoint the Auditor and approve or reject agreements. Its decisions are democratically taken in a secret and free ballot and on a simple majority of votes cast. It is headed by a Chairperson elected by his peers. It is convened by the Executive Bureau and deliberates when two thirds of its members are present.

#### ***THE BOARD***

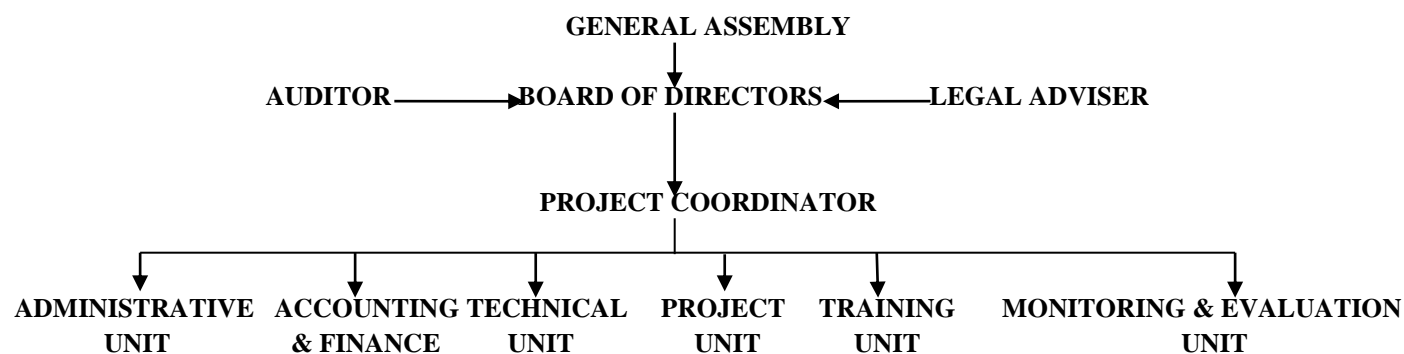
The fourteen-man Executive Bureau ensures the implementation of the policies and decisions of the General Assembly and oversees and supervises the activities of the Management Team. It meets every three months. It reports to the General Assembly every six months. The duties of the members of the Executive Bureau are honorary. Members of the Executive Bureau are democratically elected from the General Assembly.

It deliberates when  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its members are present. Its principal role is to appoint the Project Coordinator and monitor and evaluate the implementation of project activities by the Technical Team and report to the General Meeting.

#### ***MANAGEMENT TEAM***

The Technical Team which is called the Management Committee is made up of a Project Coordinator and his/her team. He may or may not be a member of the Organization but he cannot be the Chairman of the General Meeting nor be a member of the Executive Committee. He is the Chief Administrative and Technical Officer of the project. He organizes, supervises and oversees the day-to-day running of project activities, recruits staff, prepares reports and financial statements, attends Executive and General Meetings, liaises with government and other partners and reports to the Executive Bureau, monthly.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## HUMAN RESOURCES

### STAFF

Six (6) permanent staff, eleven (11) volunteers and thirteen (13) field collaborators.

### FUNDING

AISDI receives its funding from:

- Membership fees and annual contributions;
- Fees for services (elaboration and monitoring of projects) and
- Subventions received from public and private organizations.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

AISDI project area covers the South West Region of Cameroon. The organization's headquarters is in Kumba, a cosmopolitan city of more than 600,000 inhabitants of which 53% is female and 66% youth. More than 80% of the active population depends on agriculture and agriculturally-related activities.

Kumba is situated 65Km away from Buea the Regional Headquarters and 140Km away from Douala the economic capital of Cameroon with access to an international airport and seaport. It is accessible at all seasons.

This region falls within the tropical rain forest of Central Africa with a rainy season stretching from Mid-March to Mid-October and a dry season extending from Mid-October to Mid-March. Annual rainfall ranges between 1,400mm to 2,200mm while temperature varies between 22°C and 32°C. This area lies within the extension of the volcanic debris of the Cameroon Mountain and the alluvial soils of the Mungo River and the Meme River basins. The warm climate, sufficient and well-spread rainfall, rich volcanic and alluvial soils and dense secondary forest vegetation make it suitable for growing a variety of crops targeting the local, national and international markets.

There are several sites such as the Cameroon, the Kupe and the Muanenguba Mountains, the Rumpi Hills, the Limbe Botanic Gardens, The Korup National Park, the Bayang-Mbo Sanctuary, the Southern Bakundu Forest Reserve, the Bakossi Forest Reserve, the Muanenguba Twin lakes, the Barombi, the Bamin and the Ejagam Lakes, the Ekombe and the Chede Waterfalls, the Ndipse Hot Spring, etc... All these sites are endowed with a rich ecosystem full of diverse fauna and flora that make this region an attractive touristic destination.

## ACTIVITIES

**TABLE OF ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT**

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENTS/IMPACT	BENEFICIARY
Increase income and improve livelihood of smallholder farmers.	Identification and enlisting of stakeholders, identification of problems and needs, enlisting of holistic indigenous and exogenous solutions to problems, conception and elaboration of micro-projects, fund sourcing, training of trainers and training of stakeholders, backstopping, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.	Increase in productivity, Value added to products, improvement in product quality, Increase in shelf-life of products, increase in income, improvement in living standards. Beneficiaries, direct: 305, indirect: 1,255; of which women: 827 youths: 976.	12 Common Initiatives groups made of 305 smallholder farmers.
Fighting HIV/AIDS through quality food products.	Training of HIV/AIDS infected and affected persons on the production and use of high nutrient, vitamins and mineral food products.	Immune system boosted for 27 HIV/AIDS infected persons and 27 lives preserved.	27 HIV/AIDS infected and affected persons.
Increasing productivity through appropriate use of pesticides on plantain.	Training smallholder plantain farmers on appropriate use of pesticides on plantain.	Productivity improved; pesticides are well managed; incomes increased and standard of living improved; 286 smallholder plantain farmers touched.	Two communities with 286 smallholder plantain farmers.
Reducing pesticide residues in cocoa and coffee through the use of good agricultural practices.	Train cocoa and coffee cooperatives' leaders on Good Agricultural Practices necessary for the reduction of pesticide residues in cocoa and coffee.	Commodity pesticide residue are reduced to acceptable levels; commodity prices increased; farmers' income increased; standard of living improved for more than 600 cooperative members and their families.	Ten Cooperative Societies with more than 600 members.
Facilitating acquisition of agricultural equipment and input and enhancing marketing of agricultural products through the use of ICTs.	Training youths in e-commerce and mobile banking.	Smallholder farmers can easily source and purchase equipment and input and sign contracts using the internet. They can receive money for sale of commodities or pay for products using mobile money systems.	58 youths from 16 communities.
Fight infant mortality through healthy food products.	Train mothers in the methods of incorporating soybean and moringa in infant nutrition.	Dynamic food systems are appropriated, the immune system is built, the health of the infants, convalescents and the aged is preserved, and infant mortality is reduced.	32 women from 5 communities.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

After building the capacity of different groups and communities on themes related to their needs and their activities and after elaborating micro-projects and searching for funding for these projects, our focus is geared towards helping in their execution, monitoring and evaluating their impact and reporting to the donors and to them.

The progress indicators include the number of trainings held, the number of producers trained, the number of Associations touched, etc... To verify the expected outputs, the means of verification used include minutes of meetings, attendance sheets of trainings, training technical bulletins, reports, etc...

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

We assess impact by looking at indicators such as improvement in clothing and housing facilities, quality and quantity of food consumed, reduction in medical bills due to improvement in family health, children's school attendance rates, level of participation in decision-making instances in their communities, number of self-employed youths, increase in productivity, improvement in savings, frequency and weight of savings, increase in income, rate of reduction of rural exodus, level of decrease in domestic violence, etc....

## **CONCLUSION**

We need to constantly build the capacity of our staff through refresher courses, national and international seminars and workshops, etc... in order to reduce the cost of hiring resource persons. We need to organize and manage local training workshops for our stakeholders and beneficiaries. Our geographical location is very difficult with inaccessible roads that can be accessed only during the dry season using rugged and adaptable 4WD vehicles.

The near extinction of Colocasia, due to Taro Leaf Blight Disease, has attracted our attention because it has exposed the populations to hunger. This crop is a staple food in Cameroon and feeds about 8 million people. We intend to work with all stakeholders concerned particularly the Institute of Agronomic Research for Development, the National Root and Tuber Development Project and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to come up with resistant/tolerant Taro cultivars to be multiplied and distributed to Colocasia farmers and build their capacity in the use of Good Agricultural Practices to Mitigating Yield Loss in Colocasia in order to Eradicate Hunger, Alleviate Poverty and Enhance Rural Livelihood.

Our attention has also been attracted by the huge number of unemployed graduates roaming the streets of our cities searching for jobs that they never find. Many have gone back to their villages to help their poor parents in their farms. Others have become motorcycle transporters; while others have involved in football betting games, drugs, prostitution, etc... We hope to train and assist them to come out of this deplorable situation through organizations and institutions like Globalgiving, Mastercard Foundation, D-prize, Kiva, and a lot more.

We also intend to organize trainings on solar drying techniques and technologies, post-harvest techniques and technologies and marketing of agricultural products using ICTs.

From this report it can be observed that much emphasis has been laid on Capacity Building and on elaboration of Micro-Projects. This is because we believe that if the rural communities particularly, the women and the youths are empowered intellectually through trainings and economically through the financing of their micro-projects, it would be easier for them to understand why the environment has to be protected, why soils have to be improved, why the use of improved varieties and modern techniques and technologies are essential, why potable water is a source of good health, why we must continue the fight against HIV/AIDS, why the consumption of bush meat might be the source of the Ebola Virus, etc... and how all these options can bring them out of poverty and improve on their livelihood.

It will also be easier for them to participate in decision-making institutions in their communities, their council area, etc... So, we gear all these activities towards them and enlist their full participation.

AISDI is a small organization with a big ambition but the means to meet the challenges of this great ambition are extremely limited. Members are mostly smallholder farmers and retired civil servants with very mean incomes and whose annual contributions cannot ensure the survival of the organization. So we try as much as possible to minimize our costs by maximizing our effort.

The cost of training our staff, hiring Resource Persons and organizing training workshops for the underprivileged and poor populations is extremely high. Transportation cost to the rural areas where we mostly work is very expensive and sometimes impossible especially during the rainy season due to the deplorable state of roads.

We believe a possibility of meeting this challenge is by training Volunteers to join us in this arduous task – which we are struggling to do. The communities we work with do not always receive a fair price for their commodities.

They do not have access to credit facilities as they cannot provide the collateral necessary to cover the loans. So they have no access to all these facilities. They need to be helped through us.

We also believe that starting a Rural Funding Revolving Scheme shall be useful to facilitate the financing of micro-projects since the majority of projects sent for funding to various Institutions do not always receive a favourable appeal leading the communities to feel that the world does not care about their plight.

We appeal to the generous in the world and to givers to donate whatever they may have to help these poor, underprivileged and vulnerable people overcome hunger and alleviate poverty. Together let us make the world a better place to live.

This notwithstanding, AISDI does not relent in its effort to carry out its activities. But, we strongly believe that with a little financial push, we shall overcome these bottlenecks and meet the challenge of improving the lives of the rural poor and underprivileged populations.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

Available

## **ANNUAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

Available

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONORS**

Our acknowledgement goes to:

The South Western University System Cameroon (SUSC);

The United nations Development Programme (UNDP)