

Proposal Summary

Bukpe village in Kwali area council, Abuja has the highest number of cassava farmers in the Federal Capital Territory FCT). However, the economic impact of their small-scale farming is limited due to restricted access to resources to further process their cassava and more than half of them community live in poverty. Farmers interviewed revealed that at least 60% of cassava is lost in garri processing and they incur high postharvest losses despite intensive application of labor. The farming women in Bukpe community are more negatively affected, health and timewise, by post-harvest handling of cassava – peeling, drying, grating, washing and frying.

This proposed project is designed to reduce poverty in Bukpe Community. It will promote a culture of entrepreneurship and increase the income of 50 cassava farmers, create employment for 2 youth, and thereby generally increase sales of processed cassava. 30 female and 20 male farmers will be direct beneficiaries as well as 120 indirect beneficiaries. A chief in the community has accepted to donate land for and access to farmers interested in the project. SI4DEV will provide personnel for training and oversight – 20% FTE and 4 volunteers.

Organization

Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative (SI4DEV) was registered in Nigeria in 2017 as an NGO which mission is to train and upskill change makers on how to successfully implement community driven projects. We also train participants and partners on how to effectively access resources to be able to deliver a better quality of life for local communities and how to contribute to sustainable national growth and development. Our annual budget is about \$40,000, with 1 full time staff and over 100 volunteers managing projects across 28 states in Nigeria.

In 2018, we provided a crop processing facility in Abak Village, near Uyo in Akwa Ibom state Nigeria through a \$20,000 grant by another donor. In addition to purchasing palmoil and cassava processing machines, twelve community members including the youth leader, women leader, project coordinators, facility operators were trained in business sustainability. SI4DEV partners guided the management team to set up a bank account and create an agric. cooperative in 2020.

Problem Statement

The predominantly cassava farmers in Bukpe village in Kwali area council, Abuja carefully manage their lands to sustain remarkably good levels of cassava productivity. However, they have little or no access to agricultural inputs with which to process their cassava into high quality produce for better income and livelihood. They sell to formal and informal markets either as raw tubers or processed garri, or flour. Women farmers peel cassava manually and drying takes place on the floor in homes or along roads, which can lead to contamination. There is loss of income if produce is rejected by buyers, and sometimes, the garri /flour turns out toxic - a threat to food security in the community, and for industrial flour users.

This project will bring these family or subsistence farmers into modern enhanced farming to increase income and economic independence. This is an opportune time – the Nigerian government has begun to realize the huge potential for cassava as a driver of rural development.

Also, the market for cassava for commercial and industrial is growing as root starch is now in high demand from food and beverage companies for bread and beer production. It can also be used in plywood and pharmaceuticals, as well as feedstock to produce ethanol biofuel.

Project Goals and Objectives

Goal: To reduce poverty in Bukpe community, Kwali area council, by promoting a culture of entrepreneurship among the cassava farmers.

Objectives:

1. Deliver entrepreneurship training to 50 farmers in Bukpe by December 20, 2020
2. Provide a cassava milling machine in Bukpe by January 31, 2021.
3. Create employment for 2 youths to manage the cassava processing machine in Bukpe.
4. Increase incomes of 50 Bukpe cassava farmers by 25% by September 2021.
5. Generate N100,000 a month from the processing machine by August 2021 - demonstrating increased garri production and sales in the community.

Program Activities

	Activity	Activity Description	Time Frame	Duration	Result
1	Farmers Orientation and Training	Farmers will be trained on coming out of your comfort zone, money management, book and record keeping, customer management and savings, using the Street business school curriculum. They will also be informed of the planned project.	4 th October-4 th November 2020	4 weeks	Farmers have knowledge of business principles, this will enable them to manage their businesses and generate increased income
2	Baseline Coaching Visit	This is first opportunity to meet one-on one with farmers and to lay the foundation for them to belief in themselves, build their confidence and achieve their goal. Baseline data will be gathered and recorded	4 th – 30 th November 2020	4weeks	Build rapport with Coaches, SI4DEV volunteers and Staff, Capture baseline information for evaluation purposes

3	Construction of a building for the cassava processing machine	A building is required to protect the processing machine from rain and theft	19 th November to 31 st of December 2021	6 weeks	Completed building shield to protect the Machine
4	Installation of the Cassava processing machine	The cassava processing machine will be used to process the Cassava after being harvested.	4 th – 9 th January 2021	5days	Cassava processing machine available in the community
5	Recruitment of workers	5 community youths will be employed from the community for security, administrative, and millers,	6 th – 13 th January, 2021	1 week	Reduced unemployment and youths available to maintain the milling machine
6	Training of the employed youths	Employed youths will be trained on how to use the milling machine, record keeping, and report writing	7 th – 14 th January 2021	1 week	Employed youths will be able to operate the machine, know how to record every transaction and be able to write report
7	Launching of the Cassava Processing Machine	The milling machine will be launched with some dignitaries present such as USA Ambassador, media team, journalists, community members, SI4DEV team and Volunteers.	19 th January 2021	1 day	Cassava processing machine will be opened for farmers to start using it.
8	Mid Monitoring	3 months after the launch farmers will be visited on a one on one basis to capture information on the income and standard of living	18 th March – 28 th April, 2021	4 weeks	To enable us to evaluate the success of the project
9	Handing over project to the community	Project will be handed over to the community	3 rd July 2021	1day	Community now owns the project
10	Exit Monitoring and Evaluation	Capture information from farmers after 3 months of the mid monitoring	18 th July – 22 nd September 2021	8 weeks	To Evaluate the success of the project

Project Method and Design

The project is designed to leverage on four methodologies.

- A. Farmers will be trained in entrepreneurship using the Street Business School (SBS) curriculum. The Street business school is a mobile entrepreneurship training for people with little or no formal education. The entrepreneurship training is done in the community in which they live, and gives participants confidence, increases their income and brings them out of poverty. SI4DEV has proven the efficacy of SBS to increase petty traders' income in four other Nigerian communities. The farmers' income will be noted before training, monitored, and then evaluated for any changes 6 months after training.
- B. Provision of Cassava milling machine in Bukpe community, Kwali Area council, Abuja. The machine will be used to process harvested cassava, and users will pay fees to use the facility. The machine will increase the production and sales of Garri which will increase the income of farmers in the community.
- C. Employment of youths in the community the manage and maintain the milling machine.
- D. Proceeds from facility fees will be used as loans to farmers who want to scale their sales to other communities and industrial buyers.

Beneficiaries

- 50 Cassava farmers will be trained in entrepreneurship through this program
- 2 youths will be employed by the cassava processing facility
- 120 farmers will have access to use the cassava processing machines

Key personnel

Name	Title	Roles	Experience	Qualification
Nkem Akinsoto	Executive Director	Program Coordinator	10 years – research and project management	MSc. Public Health
Patricia Okolo	Operations Manager	Monitoring and evaluation and lead coach	4 years – training, project management, monitoring and evaluation	Bsc, Economics
Samuel Moses	Assistant coach	Data collector/assistant coach	10 years - business development.	MBA. Economics
Amarah Grace	Assistant Coach	Data collector/Assistant coach	5 years - training farmers and project management	PGD Public Administration
Lorraine Apeji	Assistant coach	Data collector/assistant coach	2 years – training, project management	PGD. Economics

Program Partners

Name	Role	Partners role
Chief Adamu Maitako	Chief of Bukpe community	Donation of land and Access to farmers

Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will be monitored closely using the SBS forms. The baseline coaching visit will provide the base line information of the participants to be used in measuring the impact during the mid-coaching and exit monitoring. Youth employed will be trained to use WhatsApp to send weekly details of number of farmers who use the machines and the proceeds generated.

We will work with the stakeholders to develop tools for pre and post testing of all training participants. We will review and update available survey tools to track budget implementation.

- Metrics and indicators
 - Number of meetings held
 - Pre and post testing surveys developed
 - Number of training workshops held
 - No. of participants per workshop
 - Pre and post testing surveys applied
 - Number of evaluation meetings held
 - Post project survey completed

Sustainability Plan

Of the processing facility proceeds, 50% will be given as revolving loans to farmers, 20 percent will be used to pay salaries of community youths employed, 20 percent will be used to maintain and manage the milling machine and 10 percent will be used to support expansion plans to replicate the project in other communities.

1. Project reports: Coordinator will submit monthly progress reports using structured tools with a quarterly cadence.
2. Continued Surveys: We will develop these survey tools with the support of experts, and these will be applied every quarter to facilitators and participants.
3. Blogging: Facilitators and participants will be encouraged to write regular journals and upload/publish on the SI4DEV website. These articles will capture their daily activities, ideas, learning, and challenges to help discuss important themes and experiences.
4. Video and Pictures: Facilitators and community participants will be documented in pictures/video during community meetings following the project and these will be used to support media outreach, blogs, etc.