



GREEN HOUSE

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INTRODUCTION

Green House aims to increase small- and large-scale agriculture production in Ituri and North Kivu in order to increase the economic capacity of peasant farmers and lower the price of processed food by creating locally produced goods.

Green House works in Ituri and North Kivu primarily with peasant farmer populations who have been forced to reinvest in their fields after the destruction during the war. The organization also runs a seed bank, nursery, and demonstration field with goods available for purchase.

BACKGROUND

The eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo has suffered through war since 1994. The town of Bunia, in Orientale province, which borders Uganda and Sudan, was greatly affected by the war from 1999-2007 and was the site of various massacres. Rebuilding from the war is a long and arduous process and agriculture development is a large part of this effort. The majority of rural populations rely on agriculture for their primary means of living, but the agriculture sector is severely depleted after years of instability.

Orientale province is unique, as it is well known for its mining, especially gold mines. Many people depend on mining for their livelihoods, but food prices are higher as land that could be cultivated, is not utilized for crops because it could be a potential site for mining. This also deters agriculture development in the region, even though it could greatly benefit all of its citizens.

PROGRAMS

Green House works with local farming associations and women's groups to increase their production and income. This work also has an impact on the whole community because if production increases then the price of food decreases. Green House aims to bring sustainable farming solutions to the average cultivator.

Green House has the technical expertise to work with a variety of local associations using agriculture and animal husbandry activities in their micro-finance or micro-grant portfolios. Currently, there are many international assistance programs that provide animals, seeds and/or tools and equipment without adequate technical assistance support and evaluation. Green House partners with associations such as these to provide materials, continued training and evaluation. Green House has an agreement with each local association to

either support a certain number of recipients and/or to administer training and continuing evaluation on recipients.

Green House works to increase the annual income of farmers and pastoralists through sustainable agro-pastoral education and start-up resources. This includes:

- Agro-forestry systems to foster increased productivity and ecological benefits.
- Strategies such as intercropping to combat soil erosion and increase crop diversification.
- Small-scale permaculture for home gardens.
- Seed vulgarization.
- Proper animal care.
- Start up seeds and tools for vulnerable populations.
- Alternative opportunities to national park exploitation.

Green House also plans to develop the capacity of small businesses to create, refine and package their products so that finished products from Congo can be sold in Congo and internationally. Currently, most packaged products are imported from other countries in East Africa and the Middle East.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Green House aims to expand its technical expertise assistance to a greater number of peasant farmer associations in Ituri and North Kivu provinces to ensure that micro-finance initiatives involving agro-pastoral activities are reaching their potential. Green House also has three project plans to develop in order to assist peasant farmers and women's associations.

1. *Agriculture Training and Seed and Tool Distribution:* Green House will work with and train various local agriculture associations and local organizations that assist vulnerable populations. They will be provided with seeds, tools, and assisted with Green House's tractor to till the soil. Extensive follow up will be carried out to ensure that the associations are using the training, tools, and seeds to their potential.
2. *Free-range Chicken Farms:* The vast majority of eggs and chickens in Ituri and northern North Kivu are imported from Uganda. The inability of this region to produce large amounts of quality chicken products stems from the lack of investment in agro-pastoral activities following the war. Green House proposes to start a large-scale free-range chicken farm that will provide lower-cost chicken products to the community. The farm will also work with other CBOs to identify vulnerable families who can benefit from training at the main farm and then raise their own chickens. This would increase income for families, make a supply of protein more financially feasible and reduce the dependence in the region on imported food.

3. *Increase the capacity of communities to transform raw food products into finished, marketable products:* The potential of agriculture production in DRC is enormous as is the potential to produce simply processed consumable products for sale in DRC and the central African region. Food products such as jam, sausage, cheese, bread, juice, flour, and various meats, are often imported when they could be produced in DRC. Local production would lower costs making the products more accessible to the broader community. Green House will train groups of local associations and provide the initial startup materials to produce processed consumable products that can be sold in the region. They will also work with the local associations to package and market the products.