

Transforming Communities through Agriculture Innovations and Food Security

Many Africa Rising partner organizations share a common goal of improving food security for the most vulnerable individuals in their communities. Education and innovation can combat the forces of drought, famine and crop failure and allow communities to thrive. Africa Rising is gathering a group of partners for an interactive training and collaboration on the theme of *transforming communities through agriculture innovations and food security*. Read on to find out about some of the innovative programs currently in practice that will be shared at this meeting in February 2011.



Facilitator and Site: ***The Family Alliance for Development and Cooperation (FADECO)***. FADECO was founded by Joseph Sekiku, an agricultural engineer whose passion is equipping his fellow Tanzanians with the knowledge and skills to improve their livelihoods as farmers. He runs a demonstration center where he shows how to preserve food staples and increase their value through methods such as drying fruit. In addition, he provides training on how to control the price of goods sold and accessing markets to get a higher price on agricultural products. He

also runs a radio station that reaches rural farmers with information and training on the same topics. Joseph's knowledge and trainings have helped thousands of farmers provide for their families and improve their economic security.

Participant: ***Kilisa Village Development Committee (KVDC)*** Farmers in the village of Kilisa in Kenya are trapped in a cycle of poverty because of food insecurity. When there is a good harvest, farmers quickly sell their goods at very low prices because of lack of resources to preserve the food. Then, in times of drought, they are forced to pay extremely high prices for food to survive. To combat this cycle, KVDC is beginning a food bank that buys surplus food in the village at a fair price and sells it back to community members during times of drought at a profit, but at a lower price than they would otherwise pay.



Participant: ***Center for Research, Education Enhancement, and Development in Africa (CREED)*** The major focus of CREED is on providing excellent education to the students at Grace Academy in Orisai, Uganda. The organization has found a way to provide breakfast and lunch to students at the school while increasing parent involvement. Parents volunteer their labor on a piece of land donated to the school where they grow corn, beans, sweet potatoes, and fruit. All the produce is then used by the school. It is a struggle for many schools to consistently have food

for students and very unique for a school to provide two meals per day. The nutritious meals help the students achieve better results and engage parents with the school in a meaningful way.

Participant: ***Shalom City*** The community of 3,000 families that make up Shalom City in Kenya share a common challenge of rebuilding their lives after fleeing their homes to escape violence in December 2007. Nearly all of the families made a living through farming, and when they left their land they had to leave seeds, farming tools, and animals. Now they live without fear for their lives, but face the extraordinary challenge of growing enough food to live on without their tools, seeds, or animals. As a solution, Shalom City is starting a supply store where they will offer credit and installment payment plans at very fair rates to the residents of Shalom City. This will allow farmers to access the supplies they need in order to survive and achieve greater food security.



Participant: ***Childreach Africa*** The young mothers who have community meetings on the 30 acres of land in Northern Uganda owned by Childreach Africa are learning agricultural skills. Because most of them have grown up in camps for internally displaced people or were abducted by the rebel army, there is a whole generation of Ugandans who don't have the skills or knowledge for farming. To address this, Childreach Africa has set up a center where women learn the vital skills they need to be able to grow their own food for themselves and their children. While learning these skills, the women also build bonds with peers and staff to help them begin to heal the emotional and psychological wounds that deeply affect them all.