Ghana Sericulture Against Poverty Project

SOMANYA, Ghana
Daniel Tamatey

Organization type: nonprofit/ngo/citizen sector
Project Stage: Growth
Budget: $10,000 - $50,000
Website: http://www.ghanasilkcenter.org

- Employment
- Income generation
- Social enterprise

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center is a non-profit organisation located at Somany in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Our mission is to promote small-scale sericulture or silk farming among rural people especially women and support with production inputs like high yielding
mulberry planting material, DFL eggs and management advice at affordable price for improved output and better income.

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

In an effort to reduce unemployment and poverty among the rural people especially women, the Government of Ghana in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) approved a project ‘Sericulture and Silk Processing Development’ and allocated $384,000 to develop the sericulture industry in Ghana. The overall objective is to assist small-scale sericulture farmers with a raw silk processing facility. The problem facing the farmers is that they are not able to produce enough to meet the production capacity of silk processing factory, because of lack of high yielding and drought resistant mulberry variety, no systematic egg supply programme and poor infrastructure facilities in segments like rearing houses and poor business management skills among the small-scale farmers.

Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!

Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center through our Ghana Sericulture Against Poverty Project seeks to address the four problems (we say challenges) faced by small-scale sericulture farmers, namely: 1. Lack of high yielding and drought resistant mulberry variety 2. Lack of systematic egg supply programme 3. Poor infrastructure facilities in segments like rearing houses 4. Poor business management skills among the small-scale farmers. With regards to lack of high yielding and drought resistant mulberry variety and systematic egg supply programme, the Center is going to supply these inputs to the small-scale farmers at affordable prices. A mobile team will be trained to construct rearing houses and also produce rearing equipment locally. Our agri-business management consultants and advisors will also organise business management seminars and provide the needed management tools at affordable price. Our vision is to make GSBPC the center of excellence for sericulture in Africa.

Impact: How does it Work

Example: Walk us through a specific example(s) of how this solution makes a difference; include its primary activities.

Sericulture or silk farming is the rearing of silkworms for the production of raw silk. Sericulture has become one of the most important cottage industries in a number of countries like China, Japan, India, Korea, Brazil, Russia, Italy and France. It is a labour intensive activity providing direct and indirect employment to a large number of rural people especially women. The sericulture industry provide employment to a large number of rural families in India and China, who are the two main producers, together producing more than 60% of the world output each year. These countries have institutions and centers both private and public engage in providing technical and managerial support the small-scale silk farmers as well as promotion of the industry as an income and employment creation opportunity to eliminate poverty in the rural communities. The sericulture industry in Ghana is not developed and faced with a number of problems (challenges) which need solutions (interventions) to increase output. It is in this light that the idea for establishment of Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center (GSBPC) was conceived to support the small-scale silk farmers by addressing their production challenges to increase output and household income levels. The results we have achieved so far convinced us to pursue the model of our operation for greater impact on the target population we serve. During the first year of operation, we have supported 134 small-scale sericulture farmers across Ghana resulting in more than 300% increase in production output and income level.

Sustainability

Marketplace: Who else is addressing the problem outlined here? How does the proposed project differ from these approaches?

We at Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center (GSBPC) see the current players in the Sericulture industry in Ghana more as partners than competitors. The current major players are Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) which is the engages in research for industry in Ghana and Ghana Small-Scale Sericulture Association which is a welfare association small scale sericulture or silk farmers in Ghana. It is in this light that the idea for establishment of Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center (GSBPC) was conceived to support the small-scale silk farmers by addressing their production challenges to increase output and household income levels. The results we have achieved so far convinced us to pursue the model of our operation for greater impact on the target population we serve. During the first year of operation, we have supported 134 small-scale sericulture farmers across Ghana resulting in more than 300% increase in production output and income level.

Team

Founding Story

As an Agricultural Economist, an entrepreneur, a sericulturist and a native of region with great agricultural potential. My community desires for opportunity to improve their livelihood. This situation runs through all rural communities in Ghana. In August, 2007, I attended a conference on sericulture and its impact on wealth creation and poverty reduction in China and India, on the need for Africa countries to develop sericulture for poverty reduction and wealth creation in rural communities to solve rural – urban migration. In January, 2008, I began to study the success and challenges of the sericulture industry in Ghana. This study have exposed me opportunities that sericulture or silk farming have to Ghana's socio-economic development agenda as well as the challenges that need immediate solutions. I have since committed myself to establish an organization that address the challenges of the sericulture industry in Ghana to foster it growth to create wealth and reduce poverty.

About You

Organization:
Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center

About You

First Name
Daniel
Last Name
Tamatey

Twitter URL
www.twitter.com/dantamatey

Facebook URL
www.facebook.com/dantamatey

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About Your Organization

Organization Name
Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center

Organization Country
, EA, SOMANYA

Country where this project is creating social impact
, EA, SOMANYA

Age of Innovator
18-34

Gender of Innovator
Male

How long has your organization been operating?
1-5 years

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The information you provide here will be used to fill in any parts of your profile that have been left blank, such as interests, organization information, and website. No contact information will be made public. Please uncheck here if you do not want this to happen.

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Innovation

How long have you been in operation?
Operating for 1-5 years

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Social Impact

What solution(s) does your initiative address to help emerging entrepreneurs and small businesses grow and thrive in underserved communities? (select all applicable)


What has been the impact of your solution to date?

Since the establishment of Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center (GSBPC) in April, 2011, we have made significant impact even in the face of limited resources. During the first year of operation, we have served 134 small – scale sericulture farmers across Ghana resulting in moving their output from 1478Kg to 4523Kg with their income improving from US$ 7,390 to US$ 22,615.

This improvement in income as a result of an increase in production output brings about improvement in quality of life for the families of these small-scale silk farmers. This improvement has created farm jobs for about 400 family members. The increased output level is good news to silk processing factory which have been operating below capacity due to low silk cocoon production output.

Our Sericulture or silk farming activity have impacted the environment positively because of the following reasons:
1. Land requirement is relatively less.
2. No need of pesticide use which brings no residue problems.

What is your projected impact over the next 1-3 years?

Our goal is to expand our services to benefit more current small – scale silk farmers and also attract other small-scale farmers to embrace sericulture or silk farming as a way of getting out of poverty and unemployment to provide decent living condition for their family members.

Over the next 1 – 3 years, Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Center plan to provide 1000 small – scale farmers with technical and managerial service that will help them produce 200,000Kg which will bring more than US$ 1million income to their families. These create farm jobs for about 4000 family member of the small – scale farmers.

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What barriers might hinder the success of your project? How do you plan to overcome them?

A major barrier to our project will be the low level of awareness among farmers in Ghana about the opportunities offered by sericulture or silk
A major barrier to our project will be the low level of awareness among farmers in Ghana about the opportunities offered by sericulture or silk farming compared to other cash crop farming activities like cocoa, coffee and oil palm which has been introduced to Ghana over 100 years ago.

To overcome this challenge, we are going to create awareness in the rural areas of Ghana about the unique advantages of sericulture or silk farming over other crops. These advantages include:
1. It is basically a small-scale farmers activity
2. Income per unit area is high.
3. Land requirement is relatively less.
4. Can engage entire family throughout the year.
5. Can take one batch of rearing every month and thus regular cash flow can be obtained.
6. Mulberry plantation is good for soil conservation.

**Winning entries present a strong plan for how they will achieve and track growth. Identify your six-month milestone for growing your impact**

Increase the service delivery capacity of Ghana Sericulture Business Promotion Centre to serve 1000 small-scale silk farmers

- Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your six-month milestone

  **Task 1**
  Increase the production of the high yielding drought resistant mulberry variety from the current 10 acres to 100 acres

  **Task 2**
  Increase the production of the silkworm eggs from the current 20,000 eggs per month to 2 million eggs per month

  **Task 3**
  Recruit and train additional 20 field officers to boost our farmers’ support team.

**Now think bigger! Identify your 12-month impact milestone**

Must supply the required mulberry planting material, silkworm eggs (DFLs) and field officers to 1000 small-scale silk farmers

- Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your 12-month milestone

  **Task 1**
  Recruit a minimum of 1000 small-scale sericulture or silk farmers for our support to increase their output and income levels.

  **Task 2**
  Organize a Sericulture Seminar to train new farmer who are recruited in our project for our support

  **Task 3**
  Make mulberry planting material, silkworm eggs (DFLs) and field officers available to the 1000 small-scale sericulture farmers

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**Sustainability**

**Tell us about your partnerships**

We are partnering with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) which is engaged in research for the sericulture industry in Ghana and the Ghana Small – Scale Sericulture Farmers Association (GSSSFA) which is a welfare association small-scale sericulture or silk farmers in Ghana.

Our partnership with these institutions seek combine the efforts of the partners to maximize the socio-economic impact of interventions. This partnership has so far been very effective and the partners are committed to collaborate more for greater impact to achieve our respective visions.

**Please elaborate on any needs or offers you have mentioned above and/or suggest categories of support that aren’t specified within the list**

Our business model is scalable. We are therefore prepared for any support in terms of investments, human resources and marketing/media to expand our services and support to reach more rural people especially women who seek better livelihoods for a better life. We are also prepared to collaborate and network with other organizations with similar objectives to ours for greater socio-economic impact.

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**Source URL:** https://www.changemakers.com/powerofsmall/entries/ghana-integrated-sericulture-development-project#comment-0