

chukwuma ukpai's New Entry: wealth creation through youths engagement in innovative crop production.

NigeriaGboko, Nigeria
chukwuma ukpai



Year Founded:
2014

Organization type:

hybrid

Project Stage:

Start-Up

Budget:

\$10,000 - \$50,000

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Project Summary

Elevator Pitch

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

There are thousands of unemployed and consequently poor youths littered in gboko,my farming location.Yet there are thousands of unploughed lands suitable for crop production.I observed that there is a general apathy among them because of the drudgery associated with using simple hands implements.

WHAT IF - Inspiration: Write one sentence that describes a way that your project dares to ask, "WHAT IF?"

what if farming could be so challenging,yet so stimulating and fun?

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

This project addresses youth unemployment,unfettered access to crop production for food security and industrial purposes;in a more humane way.This translates to more wealth generating opportunities and by a large extent a sustainable form of mechanisation for crop production in my locality.

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

This project aims at providing the service of 2 wheeled tractors at affordable rates to the teeming youths, to engage in crop production.After subscribing to our service.Every client would be attended to in a unique way after indentifying what he/she needs to be able to produce a crop. The primary activity of this solution consists of contractual land preparation mostly on credit basis.This would both serve as an incentive and motivation for both existing and prospective youths.The point of our engagement would be after contract papers has been signed by both parties after an agreement on modailities witnessed by representatives of Local Government Extension office and a local security officer called Vigilantee in Gboko.

Awards

none

Impact: How does it Work

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

Aondofaa is both poor and under employed. He does menial jobs including farm work for sustenance and he sits regularly at the village square with his friends of the same status arguing about football, local politics and other emerging news partly because there is little he can do with his hands. Both his paternal and maternal families have lots of unploughed lands that he can cultivate to earn enough income for his family but he still farms subsistently because he has no money for inputs and the extra farm labors he would require. He has seen tractors farm on Government farmlands and wishes he would be able to afford to buy his own tractor and produce much crops with much profits with lesser efforts and still enjoy his pastime with his friends

Impact: What is the impact of the work to date? Also describe the projected future impact for the coming years.

The drudgery involved with the use of simple hand tools and implements has caused many farmers and a great number of youths which incidentally constitute a considerable size of our nation's food producers have either left or plan to leave farming. Being that agricultural mechanization is one of the serious problems inhibiting increased agricultural production and the threat of food security in Nigeria, the solution will not only motivate but will minimize the exhaustion and loss of man's hours. It will also ensure food security, jobs, and wealth creation.

Spread Strategies: Moving forward, what are the main strategies for scaling impact?

The spread strategy consists of seeking funding to invest and procure the 18hp of the 2 wheeled tractors, which has the same functionality as the 4 wheeled tractors in the interim. Invest in technological and more time saving farm machines in the upcoming years to take care of our growth potentials. It also consists of our plan to engage in commercial crop production of specific in demand crops per time on contractual basis; Establishing farm-firm linkages that would guarantee assured markets, reduced risk, technology extension and market information.

Sustainability

Financial Sustainability Plan: What is this solution's plan to ensure financial sustainability?

This solution will be sustained by the earnings from the project.

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

The providers of the 4 wheeled tractors. The proposed project is different from their services because majority of farmlands in my locality is on a subsistent level, and the topography of most of these lands are outside the scope of work that the 4 wheeled tractors can do. There is also the factor of cost per hectare of the 4 wheeled tractor which is unaffordable to most small farm holders, which we have outlined to adjust the rule of our engagement to be cheaper and more flexible.

Team

Founding Story

Followed my Dad to the farm as a kid and relishing on the both the experience and potentials in farming, I ventured into farming in 2012. I had challenges and the top of it was accessing farm labors to prepare my lands. This was despite the fact that I already had an agreement to that effect with some locals that are skilled in that regard. The few that were into land preparation of farmlands were scarce and always have their schedule tight. This often often lead to shoddy work, late planting, exhaustion and blisters on the part of the laborers. My farms was later prepared late and the yield was not so good. I had to organize them early the next planting season and my yield was encouraging.

Team

The team is made up of Mr. Chukwuma, a Farmer and an Entrepreneur; Mr. Terwar, a seasoned Farm Manager; Mr. Ralph Dav, a Soil Scientist and a farm Extension Officer and Mr. Ola Emmanuel, a Consultant and Certified Trainer, International Labour Organisation on Entrepreneurship Development.

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