Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture Program

Liberia

Thomas Barlue

Project Summary

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

The Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture project seeks to create a network of young motivated farmers in an attempt to build more interest in the field of Agriculture, networking to address common challenges face by young farmers and discuss strategies and ways to develop and strengthen capacities of youth and young farmers.

About You

Location

Project Street Address
Project City
Project Province/State
Project Postal/Zip Code
Project Country

Your idea

Field of Work

If Field of Work is “other” please define in 1-2 words below

Sustainable Food

Year project started (or projected start date) (yyyy)

2008

YouTube Upload

Project URL (or link to any media coverage)

http://projects.takingitglobal.org/yfnf

What is the primary problem your venture is trying to address and how are you addressing it (or planning to address it)?

The long lasted civil war just ended in this country has some great connections with the issue of food insecurity, most especially the Liberian most stable food, “RICE” been limited and inequitable to the price variation in relation to individual income and the train of national economic growth. These underling situations were also supported with massive lack of quality education and skills require for adding value to the potentials of up springing generations.

Food insecurity has become a global problem which threatens the security and social wellbeing of many societies. Everywhere around the world, importers and exporters of farm products are no longer in good terms given the inequalities and economic demands.

Food security also has been a major concern to the Liberia economy for years which had overtime been a major study of than governments to overcome as citizens continue to plug into harsh conditions related to their stable commodity (RICE). Agriculture, therefore, is now becoming a key focus in solving the underline problems of food insecurity in Liberia.

With these observations, we believe in an alternative, which is forming a network which will create awareness and promote agriculture activities nationwide, linking opportunities, education and awakening interest in agriculture.

Innovation

Project Description

The Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture project seeks to create a network of young motivated farmers in an attempt to build more interest in the field of Agriculture, networking to address common challenges face by young farmers and discuss strategies and ways to develop and strengthen capacities of youth and young farmers.
Unique and different
In many cases the government's approach to finding a workable solution to the food problems in the country have failed miserably leading to several years civil unrest. Food insecurity has led to major violence and chaos. This violence led to a major rice riot in April 1979 and real civil war in 1990 from the marks and incurable costs of food insecurity.

This approach is unique because it is mostly intended to drive young people into getting more interest in growing what they can eat. This approach is brining release to the national in many ways:
- reduce national dependency on imported food.
- create employment opportunity for young people.
- create self-sustainable career-liner for less skill individuals.
- reduce the risk of return to violence
- increase productivity and reduce cost of local farm products.
- create more market for farmers and stamp up income.

Project plan
One week from now and the next six months the project will lunch its first pilot project on the Peace Island (on 23rd September) in Congo Town, the out sketch of the city. The Swarm rice cultivation project on the Peace Island is a component of the Agriculture activity under the general Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture Program.

- The program will also lunch a Young Farmers Networking Forum, which is intended to be use as a medium for awareness creation and motivation, training and discussions for young interested farmers.
- Will identify available young farmer's projects/initiative that needs support.
- create contacts and awareness with possible government ministries and donor agencies.
- Organize public/Open forums on agriculture and food/animal production.

Encourage young farmer's membership to the forum and design forum activity broachers.

Partnerships
Key and prospective partners includes: The African Child Peace Initiative (ACPI) Inc, Community Youth Network Program (CYNP), the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Liberia and the food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

As Volunteer for ACPI, i have lobby support for my idea through the management of the organization and have tried to involve sister organization, CYNP in strategic planning.

The Ministry of Agriculture support the idea and have provided the program with 2 begs of seed rice already for the Peace Island project. I also lobby with FAO for tools as they promise to respond to this very soon.

Impact

Impact

The program will create more support opportunities for young farmers, address challenges, and create trusts and partnerships for regular transformation of agriculture activities throughout the country.

Effectiveness

Presently, there are over 70 young participants and 1,500 beneficiaries of the Peace Island Community Swarm Rice Cultivation Project, plus about 200 participants of the Caldwell Gender Involvement for Food Security Swarm rice project which also measures about 2000 beneficiaries of the community are numbers from our initial struggle.

How do you engage and impact the community?

• Engaging community leaders, addressing the agriculture needs in the communities.

• Identifying gaps among young participants in agricultural activities and the issue of food substances, crops and animal farming among others to be addressed.

• Negotiate, consult and involving community and youth and young farmers participation in problems analysis.

• Seek workable solutions through collective data collections and supportive derivative for meaningful outcome.

How do you measure this impact?

Impact measured base on previous and present participation of young people in food and agricultural activities in each communities.

Assessing marketers for changes in lacks of basic food commodities and interviews with youth and young farmers.

Young farmers project will be routinely assessed to understand profitability or level of income and ease of employability/opportunity been created.

Obstacles

Obstacles in Liberia are common to most African communities. The lack of good roads and access to possible government stakeholders are major among others.

How to raise more assistance for low impcome participants for a food for work program for some communities.
**Sustainability**

**Financing source**

(or how do you expect your initiative will be financed)

The entire nation after civil war is still heavily dependent on donor funding. We hope to get support from donors through partnership/government agencies or direct support from willing international donors.

We will also engage some world recognized financial and agriculture institutions for more funding were needs arise.

**Aside from financial sustainability, how do you plan to grow and sustain your project?**

The project will grow immensely as we attract more interested young people. The young farmers forum component will be use as a tool to create opportunity for youth and young farmers and also be use to raise fund for sustainability.

We will engage high class professionals in the agriculture industries to support our forum through educational programs which young people will be encouraged to make little contribution for participation.

---

**Finance details**

Presently the team is small; I represent myself and my organization who first appraised my idea. I encourage a friend from a sister organization, the community youth network program, CYNP who is very active alone. Other teams are community leaders and representatives who have to coordination our grassroots engagements in various communities. Total project team for now is 5 persons.

A piece of 48 acres provided by the Peace Island community will be used to lunch the first face of the project's agriculture and youth empowerment component this September. Also a 4 plot of swarm land available in Caldwell Township, which would be our next target, be implemented through the initiating Gender Involvement for food security group.

We already have in our possession, 2 begs of seed rice provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Liberia and they promise to provide tools before the lunch of the project.

**Creative funding**

The major move so far is to grasp government and possible donor FAO attention to the dire need.

Further strategies been plan to better suit young people's interest and provide opportunity for young farmers.

**Other non finance needs**

Some needs include the commitment of leaders. We need to establish important contacts with government stakeholders.

There is also a need to have some expert agriculturist to support strategic developments in order to formulate better program for the advancement of program ideas and assure better output.

---

**The Story**

**Motivation**

I have been a direct victim of the cost that insecurity have brought to my country over the past 14 years and suffered many difficulties in exile before returning back home recently as a motivated young activist for youth empowerment and change.

I understand that governing the secret of our existence as human being, is an inescapable quest and duty one should perform, given the numerous challenges face with young people especially with the high rate of poverty and also unemployment amongst them.

This program in my vision will bring great relief in every sector and create more opportunity for young people while still providing more security for the general population.

**Awards**

Present National Focal Point for Global Youth Coalition against HIV/AID$- GYCA and representative for Africa Youth for Peace and Development – www. Aypad.org

My organization since 2006 have been recognized by the UNITED NATIONS MISSION in LIBERIA as a possibility for youth empowerment and Peace builder, as such awarded the premium opportunity to construct the first Youth Peacebuilding Center ever in Liberia. In 2007 ACPI implemented the Creating Local Connections West Africa project for Liberia (CLCWA-Liberia) in partnership with Takingitglobal of Canada, with funding from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa – OSIWA, which was able to train over 1000 youths (including leaders of LNOGs, students, women leaders) in ICT & Entrepreneurship, ICT & Leadership skills, open forums for youth and regular national youth meetings, which I served as Co-Facilitator/Trainer and Coordinator for my organizations general programs/departments.

**Broader context**

The project seeks transformation of political, social and economic systems and institutions to create a more equitable and just society targeting the underlying causes of critical social problems, such as insufficiency, unemployment, disintegrated families, homelessness, discrimination and poverty.

In my view, the project drive a good deal for social transformation given strategic methods that utilizes activism, cooperation, persistence, and dedication of members.

**Ongoing**

As an African/Liberian, I agree to spent 60 percent of my life in the public sector, sharing and make use of all necessary skills and experience to impact other individuals.
No matter where i find myself, my projects, goals and objectives are of primary concern to me and must put in necessary time to make sure anything i have engaged with do not become a failure.

The YESA program is of major important to me as a see the vision for general youth empowerment across the world and therefore would apply all chances to make sure this adventure continue to live on and remain as a road model in my communities and beyond.

What is your age?

23

How did you hear about this competition?

I joined www.Changemakers.com early August and saw these opportunities.

Source URL: https://www.changemakers.com/competition/staplesyv/entries/youth-empowerment-and-sustainable-agriculture-program#comment-0