Global Service Corps Tanzania

Addressing food security in Tanzania
ECHO EA biennial symposium on sustainable agriculture
–Arusha
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innovations for food security in dry land areas

Who is Global Service Corps (GSC)-Tanzania

- Tanzania based NGO
- Working in Sustainable Agriculture nutrition& HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives since 2001
- Working closely with local partner organizations, ministry of agriculture, ministry of food security and cooperatives, plus related ministries
- Overall aim is to improve food security

GSC Vision Statement

- GSC-TZ envisions increased international understanding and mutually supportive relationships, leading to prosperous, healthy food-secure Tanzanian communities, based upon vibrant and sustainable smallholders, a Tanzania with health, through local and international cooperation, caring & sharing.

Mission Statement

- Empower vulnerable Tanzanians to improve their livelihoods through sustainable agriculture and health education, using local and international resources.
- Provide life-changing cross-cultural service-learning experiences for visiting and local program participants, leading to greater international understanding and community support.

What problems are we trying to address?

- Hunger and food insecurity
- Related health issues: malnutrition, child stunting, anemia and more
- Gender equality
- Misinformation and a lack of education about nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention and sustainable agriculture methods
- Lack of money and resources
- Climate change and drought
- Lack of access to clean water

What do we want to achieve

- we'd like to see a future where "people no longer face the agony and injustice of extreme poverty, under nutrition and hunger.

What we need to do to achieve this

- To develop Tanzania's agriculture sector and break the cycle of poverty and hunger, thus promoting global prosperity and stability".
- We want to increase agricultural productivity at a household level and improve education and nutrition. As a result, we hope to boost the income and health of rural families.

Solution

- Sustainable organic Agriculture and the introduction of innovative and appropriate technologies
- Education in the areas of HIV/AIDS, Nutrition and Life Skills

HIV/AIDS, Nutrition & Life Skills Education

- The aim is for participants to be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to promote good health, and prevent HIV/AIDS. Our trainings in nutrition and life skills help translate knowledge into behavioral change

HIV/AIDS & Life Skills Education

Areas covered by our trainings:

- HIV/AIDS awareness & prevention
- Information for those living with HIV/AIDS
- Sex education, human anatomy & puberty
- Life Skills (responding to peer pressure, decision-making, communication, relationships and goal setting)

Nutrition

- Nutrition (Safe food preparation and appropriate foods to eat)
- Health information for pregnant women and children

Our approach to education

- We visit rural community groups, faith based groups youth detention centers and schools
- Don't offer money as a reward for attendance
- Encourage group participation and questions
- Adjust our trainings to suit the audience and their level of literacy and knowledge

Sustainable Agriculture

- By introducing innovative appropriate technologies at a household level, we can help to improve access to water, diversity in plants grown, income (and therefore financial stability), nutrition and overall health.
- These technologies are also aimed at empowering women and overcoming issues faced by inconsistencies in the climate

Sustainable Agriculture

- The technologies that we have implemented include:
  - Keyhole gardens
  - Water Hafirs
  - Sack Gardens
  - Grain Storage
  - Chicken Vaccinations
  - Tree nurseries
  - Orange flesh sweet potatoes

Keyhole Gardens

- Made only with available resources (rocks, sticks etc.)
- Can use dirty water to feed plants
- Allows a variety of plants to be grown
- Made to ensure maximum water retention

Examples of keyhole gardens made from different materials

Hafirs

- In East Africa food insecurity is highly correlated to rainfall & water availability.
- Hafir = household water harvesting technology that stores up to 10,500L
- Low-cost: Approx. $9 per 1000L Capacity.
- Creates a home water source to reduce women/children having to haul water long distances
- Enables water to be harvested from field run-off or the roofs of houses
- During the rains, they collect and store water for various uses during the dry season i.e. watering home gardens

Urban Gardens

Sack gardens designed for use in households of those with HIV or those with insufficient land as well as those lacking labor & resources

Benefits:

- Easy to build and manage.
- Cost effective
- Can be built using only available resources
- Usefully to people who don't have enough space for garden.

Grain Stores

- Household grain stores reduce 40% of post-harvest losses
- They encourage exchange of livestock for grain for maasai.
- Cost effective
- Easy to build

Rural Poultry Vaccinations

- Chickens are the most commonly owned species of livestock in Africa
- Chicken production is important because:
  - Cost efficient, labor efficient and environmentally friendly
  - Provides petty cash, high quality protein, pest control solution, plays a social function and are usually managed by women & children
- Newcastle Disease kills an average of 70% of the chicken population in Tanzania and can only be controlled by vaccinating chickens.

Benefit of the vaccine

- Thermo-stable
- Affordable (30-100Tsh per chicken)
- Produced in Tanzania
- Easy to administer
- 70% annual losses can be reduced to less than 10%
- Allow chickens to live longer. This means they produce more eggs & grow to a larger size for consumption = increased nutrition and sources of income for families
- GSC trains and mobilizes community vaccinators who generate an income from vaccinating chickens

Other sustainable agricultural projects

- Seed saving
- Integrated pest management
- Tree nurseries

The impact stories on how we work for dry areas to ensure food security

a case study of TAPP-60 Project

- With TAPP-60 program we have been promoting keyhole gardens, haffirs, tree nurseries and orange fresh sweet potatoes to improve nutrition in dry areas.
- Keyhole garden technology, is relevant In dry areas because the gardens use small amount of water and even used water from the kitchen and laundry.

Keyhole Garden

Mr File is one of the villager in Mbuguni ward who benefited from our technology of keyhole Garden. Mr File said before he was not able to eat vegetable everyday but now the vegetables are available. Moreover, through this garden Mr File is able to sell and get money and increase household income about twenty thousand per harvest.

Hafirs and orange flesh sweet potatoes

- Eliud a man from Mbuganyekundu village benefited with this two technologies, now he is able to water his gardens. He is able to provide education to his fellow neighbors.

Major achievements

- Reduction of malnutrition in 1000 households
- 50 households access water through construction of hafirs.
- Good ongoing relationship with communities
- Education in the area of Nutrition & HIV/AIDS.
- Donor & Partner contributions

Conclusion

- By integrating cost-effective Sustainable Agriculture practices with Nutrition education, GSC hopes to improve food security and subsequently reduce the rate of poverty in Tanzania
- By taking a capacity building approach to our work, we hope to make ourselves redundant in these communities and see a continuing reduction in poverty within Tanzania.
- The TAPP60 project provides evidence of our success

Thank you for listening

May God Bless you