West Africa Initiative (WAI) Program

Brief presentation

LIBERIA
INTRODUCTION

Problem?

✓ Liberia 15 years civil crises have devastated the lives of many Liberians and as a result, people residing in post war rural communities lack capacity to improve their livelihood;
  • Lack health center
  • Lack school facilities
  • Feed on carbohydrate dominated meals
  • High unemployment rate

✓ WAI started 2004, as a Farmers Field School training pilot project on:
  • Beekeeping
  • Snails farming
  • Moringa production
  • WAI is accredited as a nongovernmental organization by the Republic of Liberia, through the following ministries; Foreign affairs, Planning and economics and...
COMMUNITY INTERVENTION STRATEGY

☑ Consultative meetings with stakeholders:

• Local authority (share information/ seek approval)
• Participatory rural appraisal (identify community basic needs)
• Semi-structure-interview (collect base line data)
✓ WAI uses Farmers field school (FFS) training approach to train farmers and to replicate appropriate farming technologies in new communities.

✓ The farmers field school training is 20% theory and 80% practical. The trainees meet at farmers field training site, to acquire improved skills.

✓ From the farmers field school training site, the trainees go to their respective farms, to practice the improved skills acquired.

✓ The farmers field school training facilitator do follow-up visits, to ensure that the trainees properly adopt the improved skills.

✓ Provide starter kit to trainees.
## ACTIVITIES IMPACTS / BENEFITS

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<tr>
<th>WAI program activities</th>
<th>Economic benefits</th>
<th>Environmental benefits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Beekeeping</td>
<td>• Bees, snails and Moringa products are highly income generative, nutritious and medicinal&lt;br&gt;• Proceeds generated from the sales of honey, snails and Moringa are used to;&lt;br&gt;  - Provide balance meal for the farm family&lt;br&gt;  - Paid children school fees and medical bills&lt;br&gt;  - And in some cases, rebuilt house that were destroyed by the civil war.</td>
<td>- multiply and maintain bees population&lt;br&gt;  - bees facilitate effective cross pollination&lt;br&gt;  - beekeeping and snails farming prevent bush fire.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Snails farming</td>
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<td>• Moringa production</td>
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<td>• Integrated crops and pests management</td>
<td>• Reduces production and increases income&lt;br&gt;• Produces healthy food&lt;br&gt;• Generate quick income for family</td>
<td>- avoid excessive use of agrochemicals,&lt;br&gt;  - avoid water pollution&lt;br&gt;  - protect soil microorganisms&lt;br&gt;  - reduces pressure on farmland</td>
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<td>• Revolving micro loan</td>
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WAI PROGRAM EXIT STRATEGIES

- Transform farmers field school participants (trainees) into community based farming groups
- Provide starter kits to farmers field school participants
- Facilitate group leadership dynamics workshops
- Formed Liberia pure honey, as a business unit, to create market for FFS trainees farm products

CONSTRAINS / PROBLEMS

- Some communities lack production and storage facilitates
- WAI not fully capacitated to extend the program activities in new counties
LESSONS LEARNED

- Rural communities realized the potentials of local resources.
- Livelihood improved through self-help initiatives.
- Collective work yield more impacts.
- The environment and biodiversity can be protected at community level.
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