

NEW ENGLAND BIOLABS FOUNDATION
END OF PROJECT REPORT

Name of organization: Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP)

Grant amount: \$US 5000

Date of Award: November, 2006

Date of Report: August, 2007

Original goal of your project as stated in your proposal.

Promote the practice of organic agriculture in the Mount Cameroon Region, Cameroon

Name and Title of person submitting this evaluation.

Mr. Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel

Did your organization conduct an evaluation on site? Yes

Date: 20th June, 2007

Did you receive a written report? Yes

Date: 20th, August 2007

Describe the components of the project that were successful or positive:

➤ **Sensitization meetings:**

CENDEP was able to sensitize five (5) communities through village meetings, focus group meetings and individual contacts. The process was facilitated by the Government of Cameroon Agricultural Extension Worker for the area Mr. Mbuh Pius Fondikum. There was good collaboration of the village chiefs and quarter heads that resulted in the sensitization of over 300 farmers.

Through sensitization nearby villages came to know about the project and requested for training of their community members. Because CENDEP hadn't sufficient resources to meet their request seedlings were donated to some farmers to enable them spread the technology in their community through the establishment of farms. CENDEP staff provided support in the planting of donated seedlings and also during technical support visits. CENDEP had foreseen this as this was the basis for the establishment of a central nursery that can be used to raise seedlings for distribution to community members and nearby villages.

➤ **Training workshops**

At least 90% of the farmers selected to represent the five villages were regular during the entire period of the training workshop. They asked questions that indicated their interest in learning and participated actively in establishing the central

nursery even though it was not in their own community. The remaining 10% took time off (1 to 2 hours) to attend to their private needs and so did not fully participate in the training workshop. We were able to get the 25 trainees earmarked to participate in the training workshop.

➤ **Establishment of demonstration farms**

The five earmarked community demonstration farms were established. They are well maintained and thus there is assurance for the future production of planting materials for farm expansion. This is a sign that this project will contribute to the conservation of a threatened vegetable, Eru. Each farm measured 5m x 10m and had fifty (50) seedlings each. The farms were established using agro forestry techniques. The agro forestry trees planted served as live stakes for the Eru (vegetable) and shall in the future be pruned to provide manure/mulch for the plants and firewood for the women. No burning took place in the demonstration farms as in the surrounding farms. In a couple of years the demonstration farms will create a microhabitat that mimics that of the natural forest. This is very important in an area where almost all the forest vegetation is gone and reforestation is not very welcome because of the type of farming being practiced (i.e. slash and burn). CENDEP was able through this operation to introduce a high valued NTFP in the farming system in the area. The culture of working in group was fostered during the project execution. This was enhanced through the establishment of group farms which together pulled a total of 25 farmers that were trained by the project. Despite the sad history of community farms in extension work the established farms are all well maintained, even though by a hand full of dedicated members who have vowed to see the project to its end. Those who did not participate in the training benefited from backstopping provided during technical support visits.

Describe the difficulties you encountered, and how you solved them (or did not).

a. Land Acquisition for demonstration farms:

Due to the land tenure system in the area it was not easy to get land for the establishment of demonstration farms. Most of the farmers rent land for a couple of years and are not allowed to plant perennial crops. The new agricultural crop was a perennial crop. To get land for demonstrations it was necessary to involve the landlords. CENDEP held discussions with landlords and farmers who were interested in trying the new crop. At the end of the discussions the landlords authorized their tenants to plant the crop. An important achievement for the project was that the

landlords did not only offer land but participated in the training workshop and follow up visits.

b. Prolonged dry season

The establishment of demonstration farms was delayed because of the prolonged dry season. When the rains came they were not regular and this led to the drying up of some of the seedlings in the demonstration farm. Efforts were undertaken to replace the dead plants during technical support visits.

c. Pre- financing of some project activities

It was not easy to prefinance the activities of the project. CENDEP is a young grassroots organization created in 2000. The organization has no reserves as yet as it has been struggling to always break even. However, pre-financing was possible because of yet to be spent funds from other projects. Also, CENDEP runs a small nursery for the production and distribution of non timber forest product seedlings. Revenue generated from the sales of seedlings was also used to pre-finance the project activities.

If you were to do this project again, would you do it differently? If so, how?

Yes, we will use the Analogue Forestry¹ approach to tackle the problem of deforestation, poor farming practices and declining crop yields. There are already hundreds of successful Analogue Forestry demonstration sites around the world and this approach offers a promising solution to recuperate lost biodiversity in the project area while addressing human development needs. A pictorial illustration of Analogue Forestry is given in the PDF file attached. An entry point has already been made with the introduction of live trees for the staking of Eru plants. So in principle some farmers/landlords have accepted the planting of trees on their farms. The next step will be to introduce other non timber forest products that have direct uses to the farmers in the system. So if we are doing this project again, our nursery shall not only produce Eru seedlings but also other seedlings such as *Irvingia spp*, *Dacryodes spp etc*. Also this time we shall seek to involve the entire communities in the project.

¹ Analogue Forestry seeks to restore degraded forest lands, often replacing inefficient slash and burn agriculture or cattle ranching, with highly productive and biologically diverse regenerated forests capable of meeting the extractive needs of local populations (e.g. firewood, fodder, fruits, nuts, subsistence crops, timber) while supplying them with a supplemental income and an ecologically stable environment.

Give a detailed budget of the use of the grant money. (Verification may be requested.)

Activity	Cost item	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Totals	Amount(\$)
Sensitization meetings												
	Vehicle hire	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000	400
	Staff allowances	400000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000	400
			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training workshop												
	Writing materials		12,500								12,500	25
	Staff allowances		320,000								160,000	320
	Feeding of trainees		45,000								45,000	90
	Vehicle hire		160,000								160,000	320
Demonstration materials												
	Rooting propagator		50,000								50,000	100
	Weaning propagator		75,000								75,000	150
	Permanent shade over nursery		200,000								200,000	400
	Polythene bags		225,000								225,000	450
	Purchase of eru seedlings						80,000				80,000	160
	Transportation of eru seedlings						27,500				27,500	55
Technical support visits												

				40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	280,000	560
				40,000	35,000	40,000	35,000	40,000	45,000	45,000	280,000	560
Administration												
Communication	20,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	120,000	240
Stationeries	13,000	12,000									25,000	50
Grand total	633,000	1,119,500	100,000	85,000	90,000	192,500	90,000	95,000	95,000	2,500,000	5,000	

What are your plans concerning the project for the next two years?

- a. Broaden the project to include other tree species using the Analogue Forestry approach;
- b. Train farmers on the processing and marketing of their produce using locally tested technology. (Funding is being solicited from ICCO for this component of the project. Progress made includes the acquisition of a dryer and a test processing of Eru and placement in local stores and super markets. We are looking forth to the financing of the construction of our processing unit by the American Embassy in Yaoundé-Cameroon, come September 2007.)
- c. Involve school children through a Conservation Education program involving the establishment of school orchards or Analogue Forests that mimic the natural ecosystem that existed in their community;
- d. Conduct exchange visit for school children & community groups;
- e. Organize prize award ceremonies for best Analogue Forests or school orchards;
- f. Organize best school song, arts & craft competition on Analogue Forestry/environmental issues.

These activities can be practically accomplished in two years.

What are your plans for future financial support?

We are submitting a new plan/ project proposal together with this report. The proposal builds on the achievements of our just ended project. It covers the first year of the proposed time frame to realistically implement our plans.

Do you have any comments, suggestions or criticisms about working with the foundation staff?

If the foundation's finances permit it could be good to sample and visit some of her financed projects. If this is not possible, then provision should be made for organizations financed by the foundation and who are within the same country/region to do an exchange visit to evaluate/learn and share experiences with other foundation partners. An in-country coordinator can be chosen in each country/region. Such a coordinator could be a partner organization. A first step would be for the foundation to initiate communication amongst her partners. This should lead to the partners themselves deciding on who should coordinate this partner experience sharing exercise. Otherwise CENDEP would gladly opt to take up the position. We appreciate the suggestions of the foundation staff during the review of our proposal. It enabled us to share in the foundation's knowledge/experience on successful projects.

Please provide us with any published materials concerning the project.

N/A