Poultry Project Progress in Nigeria

A grant of $40,000 was awarded in 2013 to the Integrated Community Based Development Programme (ICBDP) of the Rural Development Department of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN – Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), in order to expand its agricultural services. The centerpiece of this new effort has been a poultry project for egg production and to provide day-old chicks to farmers in northeastern Nigeria using half of the grant ($20,000). After one year of operation, ICBDP reports total net monthly sales averaging N400,000 in the Nigerian currency the Naira ($2,500), with an anticipated accumulated net profit of N4,000,000 ($25,000) by the end of 2014. Part two of ICBDP’s expansion has begun. Its objective is to supply quality fertilizers to its farming clients. ICBDP has entered into a contractual agreement with a well known fertilizer company in Nigeria.

In recent correspondence received by Global Food Crisis Fund manager, Jeff Boshart, from the head of the ICBDP department, Markus Vashawa, he describes how eggs are purchased by the crate by many vendors or “hawkers” who then sell these eggs in rural villages. The majority of the customers are Muslims because they believe in the quality of Christian products. In conclusion, Markus sends his appreciation for support from the Church of the Brethren and the Global Food Crisis Fund. He writes, “May the almighty God continue to strengthen our relationship in providing services to his people. We can’t do anything except God is by our side to inspire us in his direction.”

Producing to Grow in Honduras

Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG or Project Global Village) has begun its second year of a two-year animal raising project called Producing to Grow. This is funded by a $60,000 GFCF grant spread over two years. Julie Morrow Dávila, PAG’s information coordinator, recently provided an update after year one. This initiative is working with Lenca Indian families living on the west side of PANACAM (Parque Nacional Azul Meambar). As of March 2014, this project has directly benefitted 240 families living in 15 communities. PAG staff members are providing animals and training in chicken, pig, fish, and honey bee projects.

The chicken project beneficiary families have an average of 12 hens laying eggs on a daily basis. Chicks are being raised and passed on to new families. Training includes information on proper feeding amounts, water and temperature requirements for young chicks, along with vaccination against illnesses. Pig production project recipients learn how to construct maternity pens, to assist their pigs during birthing, and provide medication when needed, and are encouraged to teach their neighbors. Fish farmers are learning to manage feed and water quality and quantity. One family involved with the bee project has an apiary of 19 honey-producing hives and this year added 6 new swarms.

Families are learning to raise tilapia in fish ponds.
Going to the Garden Video

A new video produced by David Sollenberger is now available for viewing on the GFCF webpage (www.brethren.org/gfcf/). This video is approximately five minutes in length, and highlights three different congregations: Champaign (Ill.) Church of the Brethren, Mount Wilson (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, and Living Faith Church of the Brethren (Concord, N.C.). To date, twenty-five congregations have begun or expanded their already existing community gardens with funds received through the Going to the Garden initiative of the Office of Public Witness and the GFCF.

New BVS Position: Washington D.C.

A new Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) position has been approved through a grant from the GFCF. This volunteer will work under the supervision of the director of the Church of the Brethren Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., and will focus time and energy on advocacy of both international and domestic food sovereignty/security issues. Other assignments include starting and promoting a community garden at Washington City Church of the Brethren in conjunction with its soup kitchen, as well as relating to and promoting the Going to the Garden initiative of the Office of Public Witness and the Global Food Crisis Fund. If interested, please contact either Nate Hosler (NHosler@brethren.org) or Jeff Boshart (JBoshart@brethren.org) to learn more.

Book review:

Forty Chances by Howard Buffet

What if you had millions of dollars at your disposal to fight world hunger? How would you use this money? For philanthropist, farmer and food security advocate Howard Buffet, this is not a hypothetical exercise. In a new book titled Forty Chances, Buffet provides a fascinating glimpse into the latest practices and research being developed all over the globe in order to reduce hunger. This book covers personal reflections from many adventures, as he and his son, Howard W. Buffet, document their foundation’s attempts to address the root causes of hunger.

The Buffets have sought out the best minds of today, movie stars, pop singers, researchers, leaders of multinational companies, and current or former heads of state, to understand the challenges that still face our world as we attempt to feed a growing population. This book asks tough questions such as: “What does doing better look like?” “Can smarter carrots save soil?” and “Does aid plant seeds of violence?” To find out the answer to these questions, visit a local library or go online to purchase this book.