

**AGROECOLOGY TRAINING FOR TEACHERS**

**Venue: Salvation Army Grammar school, Alekuwodo. Osogbo. Osun state.**

**Coordinator: Samuel C. Okorie**

Agroecology is an adaptive and resilience approach applied to address food insecurity exacerbated by climate change and strengthen sustainable living by shifting our consumption interest from livestock and seafood consumption to vegetable crops and fruits using natural and organic processes, as this will help close some inequality gap in Osogbo community for women teachers who earn very little to cater for their families.

After series of planning and land preparations, Corps member Samuel C. Okorie with the state code OS/21B/1269 trained and distributed seedlings to about 43 female teachers in Salvation Army Grammar School, Alekuwodo, Osogbo on Agroecology to support their means of livelihood and as well serve as a resilience-adaptation approach to tackle gender-based violence influenced by climate change that is affecting women and children.

Agroecology has proven to be a good answer to many countless environmental issues arising from the food we eat to the quality production of commodities. Agroecological promotes the use of a naturally based approach for food crop production with the maximum result while retaining the soil nutrient and healthy crop yield. This is often used for plant-based foods, reducing less, but the better sustainable approach to meat, seafood, eggs and dairy consumption. Through this approach, we can simultaneously counter sustainable farming, land degradation, use of GMOs, and prevent diet-related communicable and non-communicable diseases (food poisoning caused by bacterial, viruses, parasites or toxins, cardiovascular diseases, ulcers, obesity, diabetes, malnutrition, certain types of cancer etc.) which is common in Nigeria, and a rise in other Africa countries and the world at large.

**Justification**

The training was facilitated by Corps member Samuel Chijioko Okorie, the project coordinator and a current serving Corps Member in Salvation Army Grammar School, to educate teachers on Vegetable crop production through the application agroecological process. After the Training, there was a workshop on how to farm some other essential vegetables like green pepper, garbage, lettuce, maize, among others; followed by a practical demonstration exercise which was used to mark the establishment of the school's Agroecology vegetable garden.

The land preparation was made with the support from students. The planted vegetable crops include: Cucumber, Watermelon, Ewedu, and Efo; some of which have started fruiting while some have been harvested. Even though the harvest were done on different time intervals, the school have harvested over two big baskets of Cucumber, and over one big basket of Ewedu.

**Challenges:** The watermelon is still at the fruiting stage and will be harvested at the 9th/11th Week, however, the growth process has been very slow due to much entrance in the garden, affecting the fruiting process as well. Also, Efo, which was planted alongside with the Ewedu experienced severe threat from heat radiation, which affected the growth process, leading to termination in growth with little/no survival. There has also been attacks from pest/rodent (less than 8%) on the cucumber during the fruiting/maturity period. We have harvested over two big Baskets of Cumbers and One Big basket of Ewedu which was shared among teachers.

**Impact:** Training of over 30 teachers and 20 students on agroecological sustainable regenerative farming process, establishment of Agroecology green garden for Salvation Army Grammar School where I planted cucumber, Watermelon, Ewedu and Efo, Distribution of vegetable seedlings to 30 teachers and four corps members, harvesting of over 3 filled baskets of cucumbers, and ewedu, improved knowledge in regenerative sustainable agriculture, promotion of climate friendly farming system, and restoration of degenerated land.

**Sponsors:** Sacred Hearth Catholic Church Osogbo, Salvation Army Grammar School, Mrs Blessing Okereke (Business), Barr (Mrs), Sam Cucumber farms, and Sylvia Mba (Senior Marketer, Access Bank)

**AGROECOLOGY GREEN GARDEN**

Before (Proposed land for Agroecology Green Garden)



After Bush Clearing at the Proposed site for the school agroecology garden.



Land preparation for Agroecology Green Garden (Weeding)



**Land Preparation: Making of Ridges and vegetable Bed**



**Training of Teachers on Agroecology and Vegetable crop production**



**Training of Teachers on Agroecology and Vegetable crop production**

**Appreciation from the Principal, Salvation Army Grammar School, Mrs Adeleke.**



Practical/Demonstration on the farm with Teachers after the training/workshop on Agroecology, and Distribution of Seedlings



Distribution of Seedlings to the teachers after demonstration



The seedlings planted include:

Watermelon

Cucumber

Efo

Ewedu



Planting of Cucumber, Watermelon, Ewedu, and Efo



Application of Compost (Organic manure)



Garden Fencing of the garden by students using Tyre to prevent attack from rodents



Germination, two weeks after plantation

Farmland for the Green Garden in Salvation Army



10 Days after planting



Three Weeks After Plantation



6 Weeks after Plantation, flowering and pollination period



7/8 weeks after Plantation, Fruiting/Harvest (Cucumber), First Harvest





8 Weeks after Plantation, First Harvest of Ewedu Vegetable

