

HEALTHY SOIL HEALTHY FOOD & AGROECOLOGY SUCCESS STORIES

Green Turn: Cameroonian young agricultural entrepreneurs revolutionize farm fertilization

Yaoundé, Cameroon – In the picturesque village of Nkol-Ngon, nestled within the Ngoya II sector of Okola, a green revolution is underway. A dynamic group of 15 young agricultural entrepreneurs, under the auspices of the Association Foi et Justice, is spearheading an initiative that holds the potential to redefine farming in Cameroon. This project, which blossomed this 2023 is already showing promising results.

The backdrop of this initiative stems from the overarching commitment of the Association Foi et Justice to environmental preservation. Their recent focus was triggered by the challenge faced in Nkol-Ngon: the proliferation of pathogens affecting leguminous plants and diminishing soil fertility due to past chemical use and poor nutrient recycling. To tackle this, the association, with support from partner organizations, introduced workshops on low-cost organic fertilizer and bio-fertilizer production to enhance the quality and yield of legumes, a staple in the local diet.

This innovative solution entails hands-on workshops where farmers are trained to produce organic liquid fertilizers. The standard measure is a one-litre bottle filled with a third of animal manure for nitrogen, another third of green matter for minerals, a mixture of soil and wood ash for various microorganisms and minerals, and finally water. This mixture is stirred daily for two weeks, ultimately offering an affordable and sustainable



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solution for nourishing plants. A bonus training involved creating fertilizer from banana peels, a resource readily available in the region.

And the results? Plants now boast lush foliage, crop yield improved significantly, and the overall soil health has enhanced, leading to decreased presence of pests and diseases. Such advancements have translated into financial gains as well. The increased

sale of vegetable products has substantially augmented revenues for local farmers. Many even report that earnings from legume sales alone can cover their educational expenses. Furthermore, there's been a noted decrease in diseases from contaminated foods and an evident rise in food sufficiency.

A testimonial from a young participant underscores the project's

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success: "Thanks to Foi et Justice, we've significantly boosted our agricultural production using very simple resources," while another added, "We no longer need to purchase fertilizers for our family's fields; we make them ourselves."

Considering the tangible positive outcomes, there's a pressing need for a sustained effort in environmental education involving all stakeholders. The call-to-action stresses nurturing a love for nature, fostering collaboration between civil administration and agricultural actors, and reinforcing the environmental dimension in the African agricultural system.

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WHO IS AFSA?

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