

I.A.A ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020.

PROGRAM: INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE FOOD FOREST (ISUFF).





1.) ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

I.A.A- Integrated Agricultural Association

CAMGEW- Cameroon Gender and Environmental Watch

EM- Effective Microorganisms

CISEGD- Community Initiative for sustainable Environment and Gender development.

SHUMAS - Strategic Humanitarian Services

MINADER- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

MINEPIA- Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industry

MINFOF- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

MINPROFF- Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family

MINJEUN- Ministry of Youth Affairs,

OVC- Orphans and other Vulnerable Children,

CNLS- National Aides Control Committee,

CRC- Convention on the Rights of the Child,

CVEAD- Child Victim of Exploitation, Abuse and Discrimination,

UNHCR- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

VWA- Voluntary Welfare Agency,

COHESODEC- Community Health and Social Development for Cameroon.

SPI-Seed Programs International

FIOH-Future In Our Hands.

ISUFF-Integrated Sustainable Food Forest.

2.) I.A.A PRESENTATION.

Integrated Agricultural Association (I.A.A) is a Cameroonian non-profit, non-sectarian and apolitical Organization founded on the 5th of March 2016 by the founder; Dungrila Pascal Mbimenyuy, recognized on the 28th of February 2017, as a non-profit NGO by Law No 90/053 of 19/12/1990 governing associations in Cameroon, with authorization No 09/E.29/1111/Vol.8/ALPAS and Tax Identification No M021716022560S. The goal is to ensure Food security, Promote Disease prevention, Promote Social Justice, promote social, economic, and environmental well-being by (i) helping to create "sustainable economic development in rural communities in Cameroon, (ii) empower and train youths and women-owned producer cooperatives, and (iii) educate Cameroonians about the importance of organic farming and organic food.

I.A.A is Women led Organization with main focus on empowering farmers through organic food production and commerce. I.A.A also transforms subsistence farms into profitable businesses by helping smallholder farmers access good training, affordable capital, quality inputs and better crop prices. I.A.A has in existence for four years, with a focus on smallholder farmer empowerment, defending indigenous minority rights, education, health care and community development. I.A.A empowers and defends the interest of the marginalized and other vulnerable groups at the grassroots level.

2.) PRESENTATION OF ISUFF PROGRAM.

I.A.A designed a program, "Integrated Sustainable Food Forest (ISUFF)". ISUFF introduces indigenous families, youths and smallholder farmers to eco-agriculture to fight drought and hunger. ISUFF focuses on working with women farmers and environmental education with children of all ages and community adults eg. Carbon credit/oxygen from trees, food and nutrition, soil improvement and animal fodder. Our vegetation cover in the region is being lost very fast and the project training is expected to bring about a big change in attitudes in the area towards the environment and the value of tree planting by the year 2035. Trees planted; Feijoa, guava, citrus, Taro, coco yam, and cassava are root yields, bananas, acacia siamea, moringa, mango, mahogany, cocoa, cederella, albizia, teak, leucaena, gliricidia, oframe. The project also includes instructions in organic methods of gardening (Climate smart Agriculture). Cameroonians in general do not add enough vegetables/fruits to their food as such and education is provided to the school pupils on the importance of a balanced diet.

ISUFF is a living ecosystem with a diversity of plants, animals, and fungi. I.A.A designed it to have perfect balance of food version in which the different balanced components produce food, lead to climate adaptation, resilience and poverty alleviation. Integrated in this program is ; health education and services, entrepreneurship training, economic development, women empowerment, livelihood enhancement and supporting women climate justice in agriculture to fight poverty, hunger, climate change and inequalities. It also promotes and support rural enterprises ; food processing, bee farming, vegetable gardening, mushroom frming, the processing of Moringa and honey byproducts.

By working with the marginalized and other vulnerable communities at the grassroots level in Cameroon, the program also work with pregnant women and adolescent girls to provide access to sexual and reproductive health services and maternal care and child health services to urban and rural poor women through health education and services, by training traditional birth attendants and community health workers in good delivery practices and neonatal resuscitation, including the distribution of hygienic and sanitary tools and resources, like clean towels and Misoprostol to reduce postpartum hemorrhage and infant mortality.

3.) SUPPORT ON FAMILY BASED GARDENS-SEED DISTRIBUTION.

3.1) THEME: "INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE AND UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF ORGANIC VEGETABLES GARDENING.

I.A.A estimated to train and give a start up support to 350 families in conservation agriculture practices in 2020. 200 families and 50 groups reached in Bafia. Beneficiaries were drawn from villages at the outskirts of Bafia town. They received training in sustainable agriculture which included; (i) economic principles (ii) social principles (iii) environmental principles. And sustainable agriculture practices (

Organic/Conservation agriculture methods which included the following principles; (1) rotating crops and embracing diversity (2) planting cover crops (3) reducing or eliminating tillage (4) applying integrated pest and disease management (5) integrating livestock and crops (6) adopting agroforestry practices (7) managing whole systems and landscapes. However, beneficiaries were encouraged to use compost manure, farm yard manure as well as cow dung, pig waste and fowl dropping for fertilizer. 250 people also received 15 packets of different kinds of vegetables seed each as start up support, making a total of 3250 packets given out. The project was launched in Bafia, attended by the Divisional Delegate of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) Mbam Et Inoubou Division, Center Region-Cameroon, His Delegation and Secretary General of Bafia Council. The two personalities together with Dungrila Pascal Mbimenyuy, Director of I.A.A officially opened the seed boxes in the presence of the beneficiaries. They expressed their readiness to continue supporting this project in Bafia until its goals are attained. Seed Program International USA donated 3 medium size boxes of vegetables seed to I.A.A. She also organized 2 village level vegetable farming groups in Bafia.



BENEFICIARIES DURING THE LAUCHING OF THE PROJECT-SEED DISTRIBUTION.

4.) THE TREE PLANTING PROJECT IN KUMBO.

Deforestation is a major threat that affects the population of. Local people describe the drivers of an ongoing process in which the tree cover has been over time depleted. This has been due to the conversion of trees, woodlands and wetlands to farming, increasing demands for poles and timber for house construction, fuel wood for cooking and brick making, charcoal burning for sale and other human activities. They are increasingly noticing the combined effects of environmental degradation and climate change in this area, where it used to be possible to grow almost any tropical crop in the two farming seasons that were supported with high rainfall regimes annually. Tree removal and today's agricultural approach is certainly not the most appropriate. Heavy rainfall and steep slopes lead to significant soil erosion and landslides in the area.

I.A.A have collaborated with farmers and community members, and planted 1,500,000 trees on degraded farms and watercatchments in the area. She has also established a tree nursery with 2,500,000 trees for livelihood and to provide a continues tree planting support in the area. The aim is to foster community engagement in afforestation. She planted agroforestry species and nitrogen fixing trees.



Community members participating in the tree planting exercise.

5.) DEFENDING CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD/FORCED MARRIAGE IN FOUMBAN.

CHILD/FORCED MARRIAGE. This is any marriage entered into under pressure, usually without the consent of the child, before the age of 15 years for the young girl and before the age of 18 years for the young boy, without the child being physiologically and psychologically ready to assume the responsibilities of marriage and procreation. This is a form of sexual exploitation of children which lead to dramatic immediate consequences and prejudices which they will suffer all through their adult life. This practice is common in Islamic and Indigenous communities in Africa and elsewhere in the world mainly for customary reasons. Young girls between 12-15 years and young boys between 15-18 years have been deprived of education that we believe to be an instrument of peace, increasing the number of school dropout, advancing illiteracy, increasing poverty, exposing girls to higher rate of vulnerability and has a serious impact on children's health especially sexual and reproductive health.

I.A.A organized advocacy and awareness workshops at G.B.H.S SIN Fouban, to increase awareness and action to protect children against child marriage (early marriage), so that they can have opportunities to education which is a basic tool for personal and peace. And also, to foster community engagement in the control of harmful practices relative to customs and traditions, so that children's rights and human dignity can be respected. I.A.A sent letters of advocacy to community leaders in Fouban to influence practices linked to gender inequality and custom and tradition, so that the rights of girls and women could be respected.

20 community leaders were sensitized, up to 2000 students were sensitized on the dangers of child marriage and other related sexual issues like sexual exploitation, child prostitution, female genital mutilation and incest and 120 teachers were sensitized and asked to always caution the parents.



Students participated in the child marriage sensitization workshop in Fuomban.

6.) WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT IN MUYOKA.

TAKING UP COVID-19 CHALLENGE TO ENSURE A PEACEFUL CAMEROON, THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP, TRAINING AND SUPPORT IN THE PRODUCTION OF SAVON, LIQUID AND POWDER SOAP FOR CONFLICT AFFECTED GIRLS AND WOMEN IN CAMEROON.

THEME: BUILDING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND PEACE BUILDING.

Gender inequality continues to hold women and girls back from the opportunities and freedom they deserve. Many live in communities that don't respect their rights to make decisions about their own lives and bodies. Political instability and the recent COVID-19 pandemic outbreak have led to continues violation of girl's and women's right.

- Women make up two-thirds of the world's labor force. They own just 1% of the world's wealth.
- Globally, only 1 out of every 4 elected representatives is a woman.
- About 70% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner.
- 1 out of every 3 girls in the developing world marries before age 18, often without their consent.

A lot of conservative communities in Cameroon and in the world still believe that young women shouldn't go to college or find well-paid jobs. This belief often becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, as girls grow up thinking they can't achieve what boys can. Many parents view child marriage as the key to securing a stable future for their daughters—not realizing that younger brides are more likely to experience violence from their partners and live in poverty.

I.A.A organized workshops ; one on Gender Discrimination (violence against women and girls), and another one on ; Entrepreneurship Training. The goal is to promote gender equality and peace through sensitization on gender inequality and entrepreneurship training and support for conflict affected girls and women, so that they find their financial freedom in mainstream society, build wealth for their families, participate in nation building and live peaceful and healthy lives in their respective communities. Up to 1000 girls and women between 13 and 38 years old have been reached and trained in the production and marketing of homemade detergent. And a female self-help group of 50 members have been organized by I.A.A in Muyoka who are now young producers of local soap and savon which presently survives their families.



Participants at one of the Gender and Entrepreneurship training workshop.

7.) A WORD FROM PROJECT LEADER.

I.A.A has the absolute passion to create social change and to ensure social, economic and environmental well-being of the rural population in Cameroon. Despite the challenges at start of the program, she is determined to take up challenges to forge ahead for success. Hence, this report is prepared to share the program successes and challenges to the public. This is a program with greater ambition in terms of livelihood improvement, social, economic and environmental well-being, even though the impact at start are still below expected results. However, we learn a lot through practical examples and there is a high possibility to build skills and experiences while in the field. We remain objective, passionate, focused in what we do and ready to grow this work. We think that it is important for the Government, NGOs and Individuals to work collectively in poverty alleviation and to feed the world. Vegetable gardening is one of the many agricultural enterprises with several advantages over many agricultural enterprises, but still has many challenges which need to be addressed. Given that we are still a young organization with little or

no external support, we are opened to anyone or institution interested in this work to support us continue this work and to extend to many more communities. We have the absolute privilege that through this program, we are contributing to fight poverty, and ensure food security through sustainable agriculture and livelihood enhancement.



Dungrila Pascal Mbimenyuy

Project Leader/I.A.A Director

8.) PROJECT CHALLENGES.

The following challenges exist as the program began:

- 1) Lack of sufficient capital and required skilled personnel by I.A.A.
- 2) Over utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by 95% of peasant farmers.
- 3) Gender bias in land ownership.
- 4) Most agricultural produce are highly perishable
- 5) Difficulty in seed sourcing (production)
- 6) Lack of sufficient or ready market and COVID-19 outbreak.
- 7) Difficulty of mobility by I.A.A team (Lack of transportation means).

9.) TESTIMONY FROM BENEFICIARY.

Belan Suzanne, Beneficiary ; Mayor's representative and Delegate MINADER of BAFIA

We are so glad to benefit from your support. However, your lectures on sustainable agriculture practices in particular, have re-instilled hope and belief in our farming activities. We think that the seed and training received on the use of organic manure for fertilizer and natural methods of pest and disease control methods is promising an increase in our production/income, thereby giving us an ultimate reason to use conservation methods in agriculture for more be

