

RUWAI Seed To Wealth Project

Rural Watch Africa Initiative (RUWAI) is a community-led non-profit promoting environmental, social, and economic justice for vulnerable rural Nigeria and Africa by extension.

Mission

To combat climate change and poverty head-on by teaching marginalized people living in rural areas to enhance their resilience, incomes, and living standards through agriculture and new business ventures.

Vision

To empower rural communities across Nigeria to start and scale businesses born out of our regenerative agricultural initiatives. Creating livelihoods and preventing further land damage at the same time.

RUWAI'S Values

- Transparent about what it *really* takes to implement a sustainable reforestation project.
- Finding innovative ways to create business opportunities for the physically impaired, who are usually not even spared a thought in day-to-day activities or services.
- Empowering locals to educate their own communities so that we can investigate other rarely addressed issues that stop community progress

SEED TO WEALTH

The RUWAI Seed To Wealth's primary mission is to build an inclusive future for marginalized women, youth and men in rural areas. We are always looking for new ways to reduce environmental degradation and poverty in Africa's most disadvantaged communities. We consider alternative skills and ecosystem restoration a strategy to improve livelihoods while reducing human pressure on land-based resources.

The project's mission is to provide underprivileged communities with the proper knowledge, skills acquisition and capacity to take ownership and address poverty, hunger, unemployment and climate change in their local areas.

The project trains and empowers 100 beneficiaries in relevant alternative income skills such as bag and shoemaking, solar fabrication/installation, solar air dryer, biogas construction and installation, beekeeping, wind power, soap production, knitting tailoring and more which will improve the livelihoods of vulnerable women, men and youth in poor communities. It also teaches local women, youth, students, and smallholder farmers through extension service how to raise seedlings and practice agroforestry for increased food supply, income and restoration of degraded farmlands.

PROBLEM

Nigeria is one of the world's most densely populated countries, with around 200 million people. Nigeria is recognized as being vulnerable to climate change. A report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), "2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria", highlights that 40 per cent of the total population, or almost 83 million people, live below the country's poverty line of (\$381.75) per year. The World Poverty Clock has rated Nigeria as the world's poverty capital.

Our focus is on climate solutions that can equip indigenous people to eliminate hunger, poverty and emissions. Since our inception in 2016, we have focused on regenerative economic outcomes that create employment, facilitate transportation, resist pollution, enhance well-being, eradicate poverty, and restore land systems. Our presence is impacting over 20 000 people in more than 25 communities in Nigeria.

The seed to wealth has trained over 500 beneficiaries.

Solution

The Seed to Wealth Empowerment provides technical support, volunteer agroforestry extension workers, seedling, improved crop varieties, livestock, alternative livelihood skills, business management and startup packages for each beneficiary. The beneficiaries are trained on sustainable land use and management, how to raise seedlings, beekeeping, and craft as alternative income sources. The beneficiaries are also prepared to teach and share knowledge with other members in their area

Long-Term Impact

The project will train and empower 100 rural women, youth and students, including smallholder farmers, in each benefiting community. They are equipped to become better managers of their natural resources and wealth creators, reduce soil degradation, and enhance food security, poverty, unemployment and climate change impact.

The initially estimated fund is \$30,000.

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