

WELCOME TO GTN, KENYA



GRASSROOTS TRANSFORMING NETWORK C.B.O

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ABOUT GTN

The Grassroots Transforming Network (GTN) organization is a Community Based and Non Profit Voluntary Organization in Kadibo Division in Nyando Sub- county , Kisumu County, set up to specifically empower members of the community with skills, urgency ,resources, knowledge and opportunities they need to eradicate poverty through innovative poverty eradication models.

Ideally, GTN was founded in year January 2013 under the name *Arise Pamoja Community Programme* which evolved to *Youth 4 Youth Initiative* and *GTN*. Since 2013 to January 2015, GTN was operating as an informal entity solely under the youth - both in school and out of school. GTN was then registered on 29/01/2015 as a C.B.O in Nyando Sub-county and it is purely youth led.

Since year 2013, GTN has been under the leadership of volunteer students under the theme: “*Giving Back To The Society: We Have The Solution*” and recently, we have been joined by some volunteer professionals who are committed to help us achieve our common dream to drive social change in Kenya. From a humble student’ group yearning to change their societal story, today, we are joined by seven experts who volunteer with GTN to make it becomes a real movement of young change makers. One day, we shall become. We are excited by any effort to make this journey a reality. Join us.

Today, GTN solely focuses on *youth participation in innovative agriculture* with Samba Farmers Youth Group as its first Grassroots Empowerment Units as the organization seeks to change its status as regional entity for maximum impact.

Our Vision: To be the voice of reasoning in championing socio-economic empowerment at the grassroots level across the country.

Our Mission: To provide paradigmatic solutions in our commitment to eradicate poverty in its all form.

Grassroots Adopted Farmers Initiative (G-initiate)

"Refining Youth Participation in Agriculture"

Project Summary

This is a new and innovative initiative that mobilizes, organizes and supports local youth to focus on and carry out modernized middle scale horticultural farming around permanent rivers and near Lake Victoria as the best model to eradicate poverty and all its forms in Homabay.

This project targets the massive idle land along the permanent rivers in Homabay and Lake Victoria which will be **contracted** to the youth for farming – under GTN.

This project takes greater pride in the availability of large tract of fertile land; water availability throughout the year; willingness of the local to contract their land to youth for agricultural development and the magnitude impact the project will have on food security, youth employment, poverty reduction and reduction of HIV infections among the local youth.

This project bases its approach on the recent studies which insist that, for Africa to achieve Green Revolution, the stake players must rethink their approaches and redirect their focus on Middle Scale Farming.

The project further trusts the potential capability of the youth – varied talents, passion, freshness, creativity, activeness – to own, manage and steer middle scale horticultural farming as long as the barriers that hinder them to drive successful agriculture ventures like - lack of capital, land ownership problem and unreliable water for farming are solved. This project takes to account and solve all these aspects.

Now, the project has 30 acres of virgin land next to River Awach in Kajjiei sub-location in Homabay County. GTN has contracted an agricultural economist to advise how best the 30 acres can be brought under sustainable horticultural farming. He has drawn a total budget of USD 25, 000 for the first 30 acres in Phase I and we envision a successful horticultural hub in the country. The net profit is approximated to be USD 50,000 after first harvesting. He also took into account the irrigation infrastructure and any associated cost.

Problem Analysis

In Africa, over 70 per cent of the population relies on agriculture for income. Yet the sector suffers from poor yields, rudimental farming practices and pests and diseases. The youth have shunned it, despite a majority of them being unemployed and their desperation as a result of lacking job availabilities is pushing them into extremes; from joining militia groups that prey on their desperation, to migration in search of greener pastures which have in many instances turned tragic. Unemployment among Kenya's youth is now estimated to stand at 17.3% compared to 6% for both Uganda and Tanzania. (**World Bank Report 2016**).

Agriculture has been stigmatized as a ,poor man's job', but in fact it's the only sector that holds the promise of creating millions of jobs and an unlimited world of possibilities for the youth. The World Bank posits that Africa holds a trillion dollar food market and can comfortably feed its people and export the surplus while allowing its people to earn from it. But the continent's food security is hinged on attracting the youth into agribusiness. The future of food security in Africa has to be addressed with the urgency it deserves using *youth as the change agent*. It is no longer a matter of if, but when.

Solution Analysis

Approximately, 80% of the population in Homabay County depends on Agriculture as the main source of livelihood which means that Agribusiness would be aggressively and successively undertaken. The land fertility and subsequent productivity has continued to decline as a result of a reduced soil fertility levels, unreliable rainfall and poor living coupled with high population pressure; the land holding sizes continue to reduce and foster poverty levels to be high.

It is therefore practically meaningful that the only perfect way to reduce poverty within the Homabay County is to improve the agricultural productivity and competitiveness through intensification and crop substitution.

This works well where smallholder farmer works on his or her own /area of interest (self employed) and is guaranteed direct benefits from the returns and participating in the finishing process. For this reason, larger foreign investments in terms of loans (venture capital) or grants / aid can be used. Due to greater flow of capital, huge amounts can be invested to break the circle. Higher level of investment results in greater income and higher income means more savings which will result into more investments.

It is the breaking of vicious cycle of poverty that this Project concept is seeking for working partnership, in terms of technical assistance, venture funding, grants/Aid and good will to invest within the regions of Homabay County on the principle of “**Public ownership-community participation arrangement**” within the culture of entrepreneurs”.

Neither Small scale nor large scale corporate farming can save us either. This project strongly believes that medium-sized, mixed family farms producing for the market are the only sustainable answer for food security in Kenya and Africa at large. Integrated, mixed farming is important. Making informed decisions on crop varieties, rotation schedules and good crop management that in combination make agricultural and marketing sense will make farmers more resilient to climatic and market shocks. This allows for integrated soil fertility management by re-using plant and animal waste to close the nutrient cycle. This means taking good care of the soils and being less vulnerable to pests and diseases, thus needing less pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

Project Goals, Objectives and Results

A] Principal goal

The **overall goal** of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction, enhance food security and improve the standard of living of the population in the project’s target area.

B] Specific objectives

The **specific development objective** is to increase household incomes of smallholder horticultural producers in the project area through increased production of horticultural products and improved marketing.

C] The expected project results

The expected project results are:

- i. To increase the agricultural production and productivity of the smallholders producers through irrigation development, thereby reducing the effects of climatic variation.
- ii. To increase the domestic supply of vegetables that will improve long-term food security and household nutrition.
- iii. To increase product quality leading to better prices of farm produces.
- iv. To increase youth employment’s opportunities by directly employing 300 youths

D] Induced impact results

Induced impact results would be:

- i. An increase in producers' incomes.
- ii. Contribution to the Government of Kenya's overall poverty reduction efforts.
- iii. Promotion of best agricultural practices and environmental/natural resources management throughout the project.
- iv. Promotion of institutional strengthening of the stakeholders; Grassroots Empowerment Units/ young farmers groups, partnering groups like the NGOs, County Government and National Governmental authorities such as Ministry of Agriculture.
- v. Contribution to the promotion of education in the project's geographical area
- vi. Contribution to the mitigation of HIV/AIDS which rampant in the community especially youth due idleness.
- vii.

Budget for Phase I

No	Budget Item	Amount (KSh)	Amount (USD)
1	Contracted land (30 acre)	0.00	0.00
2	Farm tools/Equipments/Materials	210,000.00	2,100.00
3	Farm inputs	230,000.00	2,300.00
4	Chemicals/Fertilizers	260,800.00	2,608.00
5	Land Preparation/Activity Plan	556,100.00	5,568.00
6	Weed, Disease, Pest & Insect Control	320,000.00	3,200.00
7	Labor & Security	364,000.00	3,640.00
8	Administrative Cost	269,500.00	2,695.00
9	Transport & Marketing	140,000.00	1,400.00
10	Bank Charges	20,000.00	200.00
11	Auditing	50,000.00	500.00
12	Miscellaneous	20,000.00	200.00
13	Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E)	80,000.00	800.00
	TOTAL	2,500,000.00	25,000.00

Conclusion

The project is demand-driven as there was considerable participation of stakeholders in the preparation process which will bring ownership of facilities and provide guarantee of sustainability. Further guarantees are provided by the technically unsophisticated nature of many of the interventions and their simple maintenance requirements and by the use of existing Government of Kenya structures for project implementation. The project meets the Government of Kenya vision and objective of improving productivity of smallholder agriculture. The project will also contribute significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Goal#1-End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal#2-End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and Goal#5. The project is technically feasible, economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially desirable. The project is participatory in its design and devolved in its implementation with a significant beneficiary input intended to ensure sustainability. We have 7 professionally competent staff members as will be shown in full proposal.