

THE RURAL YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAM

(Family Farm Schools – Diocese of Kumbo; North West Region, Cameroon, Central Africa)

1. A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE FAMILY FARM SCHOOLS (FSS+)

The *Rural Youth Training Program* is one of the initiatives being supported by Social Welfare Caritas, Diocese of Kumbo (North West Region - Cameroon). It started in 2008. The Rural youth training program is being implemented mostly through the Family Farm schools. The Family Farm School is a multi-disciplinary vocational training center that gives a relevant education to rural youths for Self-employment and employment. The family farm schools also give the youths the possibility of continuing education through formal qualifications. The schools use a unique training system and method called the alternance pedagogy; this entails a permanent training link with the Socio professional milieu through internships. As such 50% of the training time is spent on action research through internships with rural entrepreneurs in the milieu. The rest of the time Spent in the school is used for analysis and teaching in the General as well as professional courses in Agriculture and livestock production. This gives the rural youths a hands on the job training that prepares them for self-employment and employment. The Rural Youth training program of Social welfare/caritas Kumbo runs six family farm schools in six villages viz: *Ngondzen, Ngarum, Bamti, Mbiame, Mbot* and the Institute of Rural entrepreneurship (IFER) in *Nkambe* which is the second cycle and Diploma awarding level of the Family Farm School program.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RURAL YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAM:

The Rural Youth training program of Social welfare/caritas Kumbo runs six family farm schools in *Ngondzen, Ngarum, Bamti, Mbiame, Mbot* and the Institute of Rural entrepreneurship in *Nkambe* which is the second cycle and Diploma awarding level of the Family Farm School

program. The family Farm School program of the diocese of Kumbo started in 2008 and since then has trained hundreds of rural entrepreneurs. About 60% of these trainees have become rural entrepreneurs with micro activities in Agriculture, livestock production and crafts. About 10% percent are gainfully employed and about 30% have chosen to further their education in the Institute of Rural Entrepreneurship. A recent forum regrouping about forty ex-students demonstrated beyond doubt that the program has indeed been helpful to the rural youths and their families.

3. SOME OF OUR CHALLENGES

Our Challenges include: limited financial resources for the follow up of students for internships, lack of a means of transportation, lack of investment towards self-reliance, difficult terrain, few funders, and limited support to those who have graduated from our centers.

4. CONCLUSION

The Rural Youth Programme of the Diocese of Kumbo, is needed in the North West Region of Cameroon and beyond and it shall forever remain a need. This is so precisely because of the type of education it offers – it impacts on the young, technical knowledge on Livestock and Agriculture (helping them to become Rural Entrepreneurs) and at the same time, it drills the students on general education which prepares them to write public examination (General Certificate Examination Ordinary and Advance Levels, which are a prerequisite degrees to entry into the University in Cameroon and abroad). No other school in Cameroon and its environs provides this type of education, a perfect blend of Entrepreneurial Skills and General Course for further studies.

We shall be grateful to receive financial and material support from organizations and individuals who will like to give a future to the young people; by financing some aspects of this youth programme in the Diocese of Kumbo. Feel free to support any of these activities below:

No.	Activity
1	Follow up of students on internship by the trainers
2	Provision of a means of transportation (a Service Car)
3	Construction of a small poultry house for training in one family farm school
4	Gardening equipment for a family farm school
5	Construction of a small piggery in a family Farm school
6	Equipping a small computer lab in a family farm school (ten computers with accessories)
7	Salaries of Trainers

