

Beneficiaries

In Nigeria, women make up 60 to 80 percent of the agricultural labor force and produce two-thirds of the food crops.

Agricultural extension services in Nigeria have traditionally been focused on men and their farm production needs. Gender roles prevent women and widows from engaging in long distance trade, thus forcing them to sell their agricultural produce in the local market. The primary beneficiaries of Agric-P.O.W.E.R. are women farmers and the social impact is multiplied as they channel their newly renewed empowerment and income to educating their children.

Other beneficiaries are youth between the ages of 18 and 22 hired as youth agricultural information workers. Young people in Nigeria generally have apathy towards agriculture as they have witnessed the work under very difficult and arduous situations with crude traditional technology. The exodus of youth from rural areas has resulted in the reduction in available human labor and has deprived the rural farming population of the virile labor force needed in agriculture. Agric-P.O.W.E.R. will reverse this migration disaster as it will give youth a reason to remain in their local communities and participate in its development.



Since its founding in 2000, YTF has worked relentlessly to revitalize participation in disenfranchised and marginalized communities by empowering young people and their mothers.

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Agricultural Platform Offering
Women (Widows) Empowerment
Resources

A Program of Youth for
Technology Foundation (YTF)



Nowhere else, apart from in Africa, do women play dual roles of producing the continent's food and at the same time, raising their children.



With support from Ashoka

About Youth for Technology Foundation

Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF) is an independent, non-governmental organization focused on using the power of technology to transform the lives of millions of rural youth and women living in developing countries.

YTF's mission is to transform rural communities into enriched learning environments in which technology used appropriately enhances and expands opportunities for marginalized people, specifically youth and women. YTF provides youth and their mothers with the tools to help them convert their ideas into action.

Background

Agric-P.O.W.E.R. is delivering services and information directly to the demographic at the bottom of the economic pyramid, rural women and widowed farmers, while providing a sustainable and innovative platform for youth to redeem their interest in and develop a passion for agriculture.

Agric-P.O.W.E.R. is a social enterprise that closes the information gap facing rural women farmers, including widows, in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Agric-P.O.W.E.R. encourages a more participatory approach in improved agriculture to ensure equitable access to productive resources and extension agents by rural women farmers.

Agric-P.O.W.E.R. delivers agricultural information to women through trusted channels – other women in their community and youth agricultural information workers. These youth 'broker' and deliver information



using appropriate technology, leapfrogging the bureaucracy and bottlenecks that plague agricultural extension services in many developing countries.

Beneficiaries receive a start up kit, "agri- business in a bag" which includes training and marketing support and improved variety of seeds. The farmers also learn to access relevant farming information via their mobile phones.

The Need

60% of the world's uncultivated land is in Africa. In the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, most of the women are into farming or fishing activities. Oil spills are caused by a variety of factors including blowouts, rupture or corrosion of flow and as a result cause severe damage to the environment. These all directly impact the farming work of women in this region.

Agricultural extension services in the Niger Delta region, especially, have traditionally been focused on men and their farm production needs while neglecting the female half of the production force. There is a high rate of widowhood in this region about 25% or 6.2 million women. A disproportionate number of rural women farmers and widows do not have access to improved agricultural inputs, like subsidized fertilizers and insecticides that their male counterparts have. Reasons include the high cost, scarcity in the market, lack of knowledge about their existence and technical know how.

Agric-P.O.W.E.R. fills this gap by providing the education they need to be empowered, sustain their agri-businesses, access credit, extension services and market their produce more broadly.

