



ACCESS TO INFORMATION

" Participants in TGC will benefit immensely from IT/Connectivity as a whole new world will be opened to them. They'll acquire computing skills & have instant access to appropriate agricultural information. They'll also be able to communicate & share food growing ideas with friends world-wide & learn about markets & other important factors affecting agriculture. "

Dr. Joe Kwarteng

Professor of Agricultural Extension, University of Cape Coast, Ghana & TGC Ghana Coordinator

GROWTH & CHOICE...

WORK TOGETHER,
BRINGING SUSTAINED
FOOD SECURITY &
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



IN SCHOOLS...

TGC ENABLES YOUTH TO BRING HOME FRESH FOOD & CONTRIBUTE MATERIALLY TO THEIR FAMILIES. IN THE RURAL DEVELOPING WORLD, THIS ADDS VALUE TO EDUCATION & ENCOURAGES FAMILIES TO KEEP CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS LONGER

CULTIVATING FOOD, CONNECTING MINDS, HARVESTING HOPE

THE GROWING CONNECTION IS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF YOUNG FOOD PRODUCERS WITH ACCESS TO THE INNOVATION AND INFORMATION THEY NEED TO IMPROVE NUTRITION AND BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY.

IN THE GROWING CONNECTION, YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD USE PROVEN, AFFORDABLE FOOD-GROWING INNOVATIONS TO GROW HIGH-VALUE PRODUCE. THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CONNECTED, VIA THE INTERNET AND ICTS, TO EACH OTHER AND TO VITAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE.

OUR CHALLENGE...

Over 800 million people live on less than one dollar a day and depend on agriculture - *the land, nature, the seasons* - to feed and raise their families. Access to information - *on what to grow, the weather, pests and disease and new technologies* - can be the difference between a successful harvest and failure. Equally important, growers need price and market information to negotiate fair returns. Unfortunately, most of these 800 million lack access to information and the means to share knowledge.

OUR SOLUTION...

...in **THE GROWING CONNECTION**, is **GROWTH** and **CHOICE**. **GROWTH** is the production of highly nutritious vegetables using innovative, intensive horticultural methods. **CHOICE** is opportunity derived from access to information and communications.

WATER-EFFICIENT, YEAR-ROUND FOOD PRODUCTION

Central to TGC is the EarthBox, a proven breakthrough in growing high-value produce in areas of poor soil, water and space availability.

The EarthBox relies on an innovative nutrient and water gradient system. Soil is not depleted and no chemicals enter the water tables.

The EarthBox is low-cost, low-maintenance, uses local inputs, and consumes one-fifth of the water of in-ground drip irrigation.

BRINGING NUTRIENT-RICH CROPS TO REMOTE PLACES

JALISCO, MEXICO: In the remote mountain community of Haimatsie, youth and families participating in TGC are using EarthBoxes and hoop houses to grow nutritious leafy greens – fresh and on the spot, within weeks of planting.

Families at Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya also benefit from the water-efficiency and portability of the EarthBox.

Use of the EarthBox has immediate positive nutritional impact for people otherwise unable to farm or to purchase food. This includes the landless, urban and peri-urban dwellers, HIV/AIDS sufferers and disaster victims.



AT A GLANCE...

- **THE GROWING CONNECTION WAS DEVELOPED BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.**

- **SINCE 2003, TGC HAS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SITES IN 9 PILOT COUNTRIES:**

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
GHANA
JAMAICA – IN 2006
KENYA
MEXICO

NICARAGUA
SENEGAL
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
UNITED STATES

- **TGC IS READY TO REPLICATE & SCALE UP THE SUCCESS OF ITS PILOT PHASE INTO NEW COUNTRIES.**
- **FAO HAS PLATFORM PROJECTS FOR POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF TGC ACTIVITIES IN OVER 100 COUNTRIES.**
- **TGC'S BOARD OF ADVISORS IS CHAIRED BY VINT CERF & DR. MARC CATHEY. THE BOARD INCLUDES LEADERS FROM THE IT, HORTICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH, MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT SECTORS.**
- **TGC IS BASED ON PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITIES, NGOS & BUSINESS.**

- **OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:**

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS,
CHICAGO
BALTIMORE MAYOR'S OFFICE
EARTHBOX
GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY
CORNELL UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
DAVIS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR
SCHOOL FARMS, GHANA
UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA, MEXICO
SELVA NEGRA FUNDACIÓN, MEXICO
A.C.E.S, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
UPLIFTMENT JAMAICA
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

" I have learned how to grow & care for vegetables like cabbages, carrots, garden eggs, tomatoes, green peppers & so on, without using chemicals on them. I was happy to learn because I know in the future I can get a job from it. "

Bernard Arko
School for the Deaf,
Cape Coast, Ghana

CONNECTING YOUTH IN THE DEVELOPING & DEVELOPED...

...WORLD. YOUTH COMMUNICATE & COLLABORATE AS PEERS, SHARING WHAT THEY GROW & HOW THEY GROW IT. THEY PULL DOWN RELEVANT INFORMATION, CONTRIBUTE PLANT GROWING DATA & SHARE SOLUTIONS, IDEAS & SUCCESSES.

NEW INCOME-GENERATING OPPORTUNITY

THE EARTHBOX ENABLES PARTICIPANTS TO GROW HIGH-VALUE PRODUCE OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE, TO UTILIZE TRADITIONALLY UNSUITABLE AREAS & TO EXTEND THE GROWING SEASON, EVEN INTO THE DRY SEASON.

TGC PARTICIPANTS GAIN NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEAR-ROUND INCOME GENERATION & VALUE-ADDING.

A SMALLHOLDER FARMER CAN EARN HIGHER RETURNS SELLING PRODUCE DURING THE DRY SEASON, OR AN URBAN DWELLER CAN GROW ON A ROOFTOP TO SUPPLY RESTAURANTS WITH SPECIALTY PRODUCE.

PLEASE CONTACT US

Robert Patterson

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
2175 K St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20037

Tel: 202-653-2438 Email: Robert.Patterson@fao.org

Cultivating Food, Connecting Minds, Harvesting Hope

The Growing
Connection