

Botanic Gardens and Community Joint Efforts: Working together towards more sustainable production

From an African Perspective

Addressing the most pressing needs, especially of the poor and marginalized communities, makes Botanic Gardens more relevant to the Communities that surround them, encourage community members to engage in conservation efforts; and, increase peoples' awareness on the usefulness of plants to human life and well-being.

ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION

Fighting Poverty

- Botanic Gardens can work with the communities to promote cultivation of medicinal plants for Income by poor households in their vicinity by providing seedlings, technical guidance and marketing infrastructure.
- If households get knowledge on proper use of medicinal plants, they can spend less on medical bills hence realizing savings and improved income.



Rosmarinus spp a medicinal plant with commercial potential

HEALTH

Fighting Disease

In Africa, over 70% of the population doesn't have access to modern medicine; unfortunately also the knowledge of their own medicinal plants is being lost as well. As medicinal plants provide over 70% of medical needs, well programmed public education and guidance on preparation and use of home-made herbal formula amongst poor communities can contribute tremendously to achieving improved health and immunity boosting, especially among children.



A home-based herbal garden

FOOD SECURITY

Fighting Hunger and Malnutrition

- Supporting Indigenous Food crops that promote Food Security and Nutrition fights hunger and malnutrition. Many of these are now rare and threatened with extinction. Botanic Gardens should conserve and propagate these important species.
- Encouraging Crop Diversity on the Farm provides insurance to poor farming households and promotes Food Security and Sustainable Production.



Biodiversity on the farm: improves food security

EMPOWERMENT

Advocating for the Rights of the Poorest of the Poor

Communities' should be guided on sustainable use of resources and land rights. Communities should also be able to actively participate in decision-making and influencing policies that affect their well-being.



Practical training for community empowerment

THEME: Promoting Education and Awareness about Plant Diversity

HSBC Plc through the *Investing in Nature Programme* implemented by BGCI supported Nature Palace Botanical Garden's *Poverty Alleviation and Health Promotion through Conservation (PHPC)* Project which aimed at Strengthening Community Collaboration in Conservation through Joint Community Strategic Planning with a major focus of cultivating rare Medicinal Plants for Income Generation. The project addressed the above mentioned areas. For more information and full project report please contact address given below.



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