

## INTEGRATED ORGANIC FARMING (IOF)

### ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY IN CAMEROON

#### WHY INTEGRATED ORGANIC FARMING?

Low Crop and Livestock yields as a result of declining soil fertility, poor seeds/breeds, improper management techniques and decreasing Household farm sizes, in the face of increasing population is pushing farmers (especially the rural poor) to resort to farming methods that increase yields at the expense of the environment. These practices include slash and burn, the use of synthetic fertilizers/pesticides and extending of farmland by clearing down forest lands.



While such processes improve on the short-term food security for some Households in Cameroon, they demand high external inputs that often are not affordable for most rural Households

There is often inadequate knowledge in using the external inputs (when available and affordable) leads to direct Environmental Hazards (e.g water pollution/contamination) or health problems (e.g. Food Poisoning). Integrated Organic Farming is therefore an alternative-low external input system that can

increase yields on smaller average household farm sizes for poorer farmers without causing any harm on the environment.

#### WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF IOF?

-It uses low external inputs  
-production and productivity of crops and livestock are increased.



-It makes maximum use of smaller household farm size  
-Income and food security especially for the poor can be improved  
-Everybody can practice it  
-It is environmentally friendly  
-It is sustainable  
-It sequesters carbon in the soil, thus becoming a solution to global warming

#### HOW DOES SHUMAS PLAN TO PROMOTE IOF IN CAMEROON?

- By setting up an Integrated Organic Farming Demonstration Centre
- Offering training opportunities to interested clients for
  1. 9 months intensive course on Integrated Organic farming

2. short courses on various issues related to Integrated Organic Farming

- Affording technical support to trainees / ex-trainees through follow-up visits
- Supporting ex-trainees to start or establish Integrated Organic Farms
- Lobby / advocate for the promotion and marketing of Organic Products within Cameroon and Beyond its borders
- Promoting Participatory Research in Organic Farming
- Sharing knowledge and experience with partners

#### WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES?

The primary beneficiaries are resource poor farmers (especially women and youth) who are willing to increase their income and improve on food security through the use of environmentally-friendly organic Farming practices. Other beneficiaries include Academicians, Researchers, Volunteers, tourists and the general public, just to name a few.

#### WHAT RESULTS / IMPACTS DOES THE SHUMAS IOF PROJECT HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

- Increased yields of crops and livestock that improves the food security status for poor rural households in Cameroon

- Increased income from the sale of household surpluses
- Job opportunities especially for women and youth



- Better nutrition and an improvement in the health status of beneficiaries
- A significant reduction in the use of external farm inputs
- More children of school age in beneficiary households attend school regularly
- Environmentally-friendly agriculture promoted

#### HOW CAN ONE PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT?

You can participate in the SHUMAS-led Integrated Organic Farming Project by:

- Donating materially and / or financially to the functioning of the project
- Telling others about the project and its benefits
- Offering lectures on various aspects of Intergrated Organic Farming
- Participating in the regular (9 months) course on IOF
- Attending short, tailor-made courses on aspects of IOF

- Practicing and implementing IOF techniques

#### WHEN IS THE KICK OFF?

The IOF project implemented by SHUMAS Cameroon began in 1999 with feasibility studies and culminated in the acquisition of a site in Kumbo as well as limited funding for the establishment of the Integrated Organic Farm Demonstration Centre. Work on the project will be completed by October 2008. The first short courses will be offered as from September 2008 and the regular (9 months) course will begin annually in October.



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## STRATEGIC HUMANITARIAN SERVICES



### SHUMAS

*INTEGRATED ORGANIC  
FARMING AND  
DEMONSTRATION  
CENTRE –BAMNDZENG  
KUMBO*