

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

### Overview

The development of Cameroon depends on agriculture, the economic sector which currently generates 23% of gross domestic product and employs 62% of the population. Today, national strategy to bring about agricultural progress includes the experimentation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which Cameroon intended to commercialize by 2019.

There is lack of access to adequate amounts of safe and nutritious food which is a public health concern worldwide and particularly in Cameroon. Due to its agro-ecological diversity, Cameroon has great potentials for agricultural production to contribute towards its over 23 million people and beyond, thus contributing towards feeding the world's 9 billion people. Until the late 80s, Cameroon was considered self-sufficient in agricultural production and played a role of food garret for its neighbouring countries. Since early 90s, Cameroon began spending billions of francs CFA to import large quantities of food items (rice, maize, onion, tomatoes, milk and poultry) even though relying on national products has a clear comparative advantage. This has been very worrisome as it undermines local production potentials and pushes many producers out of the production chain as a result of unfair competition.

The challenges are numerous (but not impossible) including low levels of input e.g. via governments subsidies as well as the expected adverse impact of climate change on agriculture now and in the future.

### What We're Doing

Agriculture has equally been tagged as the key drivers to deforestation and degradation with the



consequences being the adverse climatic changes. AJESH therefore come in to contribute in ensuring that the ecosystems are protected while promoting ecofriendly agricultural practices in communities in order to reduce deforestation and forest degradation but making sure the livelihoods of the farmers are improved. In this light AJESH carries out activities on sustainable agricultural systems and food crop productivity in Cameroon by implementing the following action:

- Educating farmers on sustainable ecofriendly agricultural production practices.
- Supporting communities with the supply of disease free

and short circled planting materials.

- Promoting Income Generating Activities (IGA) and small scale agricultural business for farmers.
- Promoting the Value Chain Development of both food and cash crops for local and small scale holder farmers in Cameroon.
- Building capacities of local and cooperate farmers on ecofriendly agricultural practices.
- Educating cocoa cooperative on the necessity of practicing and producing Zero deforestation cocoa and rubber.
- Training cooperatives and farmer groups on agricultural business (elaboration of business plans, creating marketing linkages, developing marketing information systems for agricultural crops.....).
- Carries out studies on production, processing and marketing of food crops in the Southwest and Littoral Regions of Cameroon.
- Supporting communities and over 150 farmers groups with improve and disease free planting materials (maize seeds, cassava cuttings and pepper seeds).
- Facilitates the establishment of demonstration farms and seed multiplication centres for farmer cooperatives.
- Training of over 325 farmers on marketing through Value Chain Development (VCD).
- Developed market linkages and linked 5 pepper farmers to whole sellers in Sandanga market in Douala.

