

Concept of the A&A Network Seed-to-Plate (StP) Agriculture Activity

This is an agro-based seed to plate activity tailored to support communities and provide numerous jobs/employment opportunities for the many idle and vulnerable youths and young adults in the country. It is a concept of transforming small scale agriculture into highly attractive and profitable businesses covering the entire value chain of maximizing production, use and consumption of food crops, fruits, fisheries and livestock. The seed to plate lens means that business service facilities (BSFs) will be created to provide assistance in the case of food crops, for example, for seed lots, land preparation, tilling and nurturing, makeshift irrigation, harvesting, storage, processing, packaging, marketing and distribution for widespread internal uses and export. Same goes with the other aforementioned product categories. The small holder farmer in the various agriculture zones are the targets to be supported to maximize productivity in the products of choice within the space of cultivation. The compendium skills, tools and equipment upgrade, retooling and automation regarding productivity capacity enhancement support services in the value chain will create myriad jobs and employment opportunities for the many youths and young adults able and willing to be engaged as private business owners and partners, and or formal employees of business services entities.

Key Elements of the Network StP Activity

Food production (increasing productivity per acreage of smallholder producers)

- Farming tools and implements improvement measures (hoes and cutlasses are not attractive and will not work the deal – Invest in small and medium type cultivation tools machine shop businesses – manufacturing, sales, repairs and servicing)
- Land preparation support to all farmers (Dedicated companies to assume responsibility on contractual basis).
- Seeds (provide weather resistant seeds for local edible crops and vegetables, and if possible adopt no-till techniques)
- Dig wells on all farms as makeshift irrigation measure (rain-fed food production is not attractive and will not cut the deal – provide opportunity for farmers to engage in all year-round production – invest in small and medium companies with the technological know-how to provide this service)
- Harvest assistance, Buying and Purchasing of farm products at farm gates, and Storage Facilities (Invest in Medium and Small scale businesses responsible for providing reliable and regular services; essential to guarantee fair prices and incomes for farmers, prevent post-harvest losses and market glut due to increased yield and productivity – bumper harvests)
- Processing, Packaging, Distribution and Marketing Facilities and channels (Dedicated small and medium scale businesses to provide services)
- Extension, advisory and maintenance services training and skills acquisition initiatives (market value chain development; agriculture water management; soil nutrient management; pest and disease control etc.)

Fruit Trees Plantation and Agro-Forestation

- Fruit Trees seedling lots ventures (involving all locally known and grown fruits – make an inventory)
- Fruit Tree Farms and Plantations with corresponding farm help services – tools, seedlings, wells etc. (Cooperatives, Individuals and small / medium companies)
- Fruit harvesting, purchase, storage, processing, distribution and marketing facilities and outlets

Livestock (animal rearing) and Fish / Mushroom Farming

- Livestock Feed production and processing businesses (cultivation, packaging and distribution services)
- Livestock and Fish Farms (poultry, goats, cattle, tilapia etc ...ventures – current practice where goats, sheep, chicken and other domestic birds are part of the household is not good and attractive .. moreover unhygienic)
- Livestock and Fish products purchasing, processing, packaging, distribution and marketing facilities (dedicated ventures)

Targeted artisan labor force training, production, mobilization, recruitment and placement program

- Revamping, re-tooling and reorganization of the local apprenticeship systems - Farm work, building construction and related public works, carpentry, clothing design and dressmaking, hospitality and restaurant operations, wholesaling and retailing trading businesses etc.