

**The NGOPEE FOUNDATION**

**A PROPOSAL FOR 100 HECTARES OF**

**MECHANICAL RICE PRODUCTION**

**FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH**

**AT**

**KAMA CHIEFDOM**

**KAILAHUN DISTRICT**

**2010 PLANTING SEASON**

**APRIL 2010**



HEAD OFFICE  
5floor Marong House  
11 Charlotte Street  
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Mobile: +232-78864302  
[www.ngopeefoundation.com](http://www.ngopeefoundation.com)  
[info@ngopeefoundation.com](mailto:info@ngopeefoundation.com)

## **BACKGROUND:**

### **IFAD AND THE NGOPEE FOUNDATION ISSUES RELATING TO YOUTHS AND WOMEN**

IFAD Sierra Leone and the Ngopee Foundation is willing to explore ways to facilitate development-friendly Initiatives that will improve community wellbeing and local livelihoods through sustainable management environment. These initiatives will have a positive long term on the socio-economic development in the countries. Majority of our youths and women are unemployed and grossly marginalized. This project aims at reversing a lot of these negative trends amongst the population of the youths and women for a sustainable empowerment. The development of any nation or community depends on youths and women that are considered as leaders of tomorrow. This project would therefore involve these categories of beneficiaries in the following areas.

- Placement on key decision making bodies of the association
- They would be capacitated through training in the areas of food processing and marketing and simple book keeping
- Membership would be assured in the micro-finance activities (saving and loan scheme). These ventures would not only increase their knowledge but also their income generation power in the society.

#### **Project for women and youth**



## **GOAL: PROMOTING EFFICIENCY IN THE VALUE CHAIN**

The goal of this project is to provide an Agricultural support to vulnerable communities especially widows, women and youths that are food insecure through mechanical cultivation. The food security drive does not only encompass crop production but rather aims at boosting up quality food availability, affordability, at unbreakable intervals. This vision is hampered because those directly involved in the production process are not empowered to skillfully process their agricultural products using modern machineries which could add value to their products, ultimately giving them more money and eventually curbing poverty among youths and women through employment.

In the light of the above, members of IFAD and the Ngopee Foundation would be involved with basic training in production, accessing market information and sales promotion. management and administrative positions would be held by members of the association including: youths and women for the total involvement and participation

### **7 LOAN REPAYMENT STRATEGY**

The project provides tractor services on loan bases;

- a. Every farmer would pay three bushels of husk rice for any one acre of land cultivated using the tractor services.
- b. For every one bushel given as loan to a farmer s/he must return one bushel with a 50% interest for the seed loan.
- c. There would be an establishment of master farmer that will help in the collection process and the overall administration thereby seeking the interest of his compatriots. This is because he is better able to work with the community people, since he is familiar with the people and environment.

### **8 RISK AND RISK MITIGATION STRATEGY**

It is worth noting that mechanical youth farm is not wholly risk averse.

1. **Default in loan repayment:** there are two categories of loans under this category, seed and service repayment. By experience, Rice loan shows a higher default level than that of previous year on seeds.

**Mitigation strategy:** experience has shown that women framers in small communities are more dedicated, honest and willing to repay their loans as against those of young men . Therefore project will concentrate on women farmers in selected small communities that are most cooperative in the loan repayment as against the of young men .

The operation should start in April to create room for complete land preparation and seed at the time when temperatures are optimum for germination.

2. **Post harvest losses:** this poses a serious threat to such a venture. It creates disincentive among the farmers especially when there is loss of grains during transportation of harvested rice and related activities.

**Mitigation strategy:** there should be an increased number of tarpaulins.

Youth farmers that default would be reported to the local authorities and will be dismissed from The programme, especially when it happens as a reason of his/her own negligence.

## 9 STORAGE FACILITY

A storage facility will be secured at a site to be proposed during this farming season. The project is working out ways to construct one that will be up to the required standard.

## 10 FERTILIZER USAGE

Usually farmers within rural communities argue that their land is sufficiently naturally rich in nutrients which resultantly negates the use of chemical fertilizers. It is however professionally conceived that the yields on record in Sierra Leone farm land are generally low as compared to other countries. Notably the project is business venture oriented, and therefore the effect of low yields should not be underscored. Hence the project will introduce the use of mineral fertilizers thereby comparing the economic prudence on the farm. In consequence thereof, farmers would be encouraged to use fertilizer as a potential option to double their yields and hence their economic returns.

## 11 SUPERVISION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Efforts will be made to source extension staff who will appraise the youth farmers and provide them necessary information and requisite criteria for qualifying them to farm with project. The farmer and NGOPEE enter into a contractual agreement detailing all information regarding the product and services the farmer is going to receive over a period of time, as well as the terms of repayment and continuous mentoring and monitoring by extension staff and master farmers. The project will also work in close collaboration with the authorities within the community to enhance effective loan repayment. The foundation will periodically make available progress report to the agricultural officer for ease of monitoring activities.

The process of capacity building and awareness of mostly women will create opportunities for technical capacity building and strengthening trainees management systems. There is therefore an emergent need to tackle the problems through a deliberate framework focusing to train the beneficiaries and assist the affected persons

### **Project sustainable beyond donor funding**

Strategy to sustain the project beyond donor funding

This project would be sustained after the donor phases away through the following strategies:

- Encourage community participation and ownership
- Involve key stake-holders in all activities, explaining their roles the start to the end
- Embark on income mobilization drives in the areas of:
  - Expansion of production sites through net working and partnership with farmers in the neighboring sections in all the three chiefdoms in the Kailahun District. obtain loans from financial institutions
  - Improves on advertisement strategies to attract more clients
  - Observes all government policies and regulations

- Plough back capital into business
- Loans and credit scheme
- Transparency and accountability
- Holding of regular general meeting.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation Officers (M& E)**

- In charge of supervision of all project activities
- Identifies project lapses and suggests possible corrective measure(s).







*Ngopee Foundation:*

*"We stand  
to serve you!"*

Sierra Leone  
Kissy Kama Chiefdom  
Kailahun District.

**Address:**  
Marong House, 5th Floor  
11 Charlotte Street  
Post Office Box 1067  
Freetown /Sierra Leone

Tel: 00 232 76789867.  
[info@ngopeefoundation.com](mailto:info@ngopeefoundation.com)  
[www.ngopeefoundation.com](http://www.ngopeefoundation.com)

---