The Better Tomorrow Plan
Case study

sodexo
Quality of Daily Life Solutions

May 2011

Local Communities

OUR COMMITMENT: We will support local community development in all the countries where we operate by 2015.

Plastic lining

4 x 15 m^2 to feed a family of 10 persons

Only 2 hours of work per day requested

80% of water consumption saved

Biochar

ALGERIA "Super Vegetable Gardens"

Launched on the 22 march 2010 during World Water Day, the Super Vegetable Garden Project aims at developing local communities in desert zones to help the populations become self sufficient in food. In Hassi Ridha and Hassi Khouildat, two arid areas near Hassi Messaoud, new agrarian techniques have been implemented in partnership with Sodexo, Pro-Natura International, JTS Semences, and the agrarian public services of the Hassi Messaoud daïra.

General context

- The populations of many Saharan regions must better balance nutrition and face strong difficulties to develop **efficient agriculture techniques**.
- This situation is mainly due to the costs needed to adapt the cultures to **arid soils and water scarcity**.
- The **ecological footprint** is challenged by traditional and inefficient agrarian techniques and **water and energy wastage**.

Reach an economic and ecological balance

The agrarian methods developed through the program aims at providing **adapted tools and techniques** to allow rural population to **reach food auto sufficiency**, and **decrease their water and energy uses**. The overproduction can then be sold on local markets, and constitutes an alternative source of revenue for local communities. The main goals are:

- Increasing fresh vegetables production to face **demography evolutions** and **new migration trends**.
- Allowing a better **valorization of water resources**.
- Developing and **diversifying cultures** with strong added value **in traditional palm groves** environment.
- Developing **green belts** around suburban areas.
- Allowing production efficiency even in **counter seasons**.

What is in the basic kit?

The toolkit is composed of **adapted seeds (free of GMO), irrigation materials, gardening tools, innovating equipments as cover veils.**

To reduce the carbon footprint and help develop the local economy, we recommend buying locally all materials which will be available in the region or country of implementation.

STOP HUNGER

www.sodexo.com
Bettertomorrow.group@sodexo.com

Zucchinis plots after 4 weeks

The culture cycle starts from the 5th week - depending on vegetables

- Average production: 120kg
- Productivity: 8kg/m^2
- 800kg of okra seeds sold out on the market

A process created for tropical zones will be formatted for other climates

A beneficiary in Hassi Ridha

The Sodexo expert:

Dolores LARROQUE
Subject Matter Leader for Local Communities
dolores.larroque@sodexo.com

Implementation process

It is mandatory to make a feasibility survey by:

1. Choosing a site considering water accessibility, protection against wind and sand winds, closeness to local community
2. Getting a commitment from local authorities and partners
3. Validation and authorization by local authorities
4. Ordering the material kit
5. Identifying the persons who will benefit from this initiative
6. Train the trainers and the users
7. Transfer of knowledge at the local situation.

The project put together **six partners**:

- Sodexo;
- Pro-Natura International;
- Our client SonaHess;
- JTS Semences, who created the concept of tropical gardens;
- The agriculture department of the Hassi Messaoud daïra;
- Deguenati Mohamed and Benmoussa Ridha, two farmers from Hassi Messaoud.

Results

- Production of fresh and varied vegetables is constant throughout the year. Rotation of 5 to 7 different production collection.
- The biochar is composed of unused agricultural residues or renewable biomass. Main qualities: improvement of fertility of soils and carbon capture.
- A week of training is enough to be familiar with that process.
- Surface needed for culture is adapted to small familial farms. For 4x15 m^2: up to 150 kg per plot and crop; annual production between 750 & 1,500 kg.
- No pesticides or chemical intrants are used in the process.
- Similar experimentations have been successfully conducted in Senegal and Niger.

May 10, 2011: first anniversary

A year after its launch, with **several tonnes of vegetable produced**, this initiative proves a success. On May 10, 2011 in Hassi Messaoud, the Ambassador of France in Algeria will be present and will be able to see how well the project has evolved.

First test of okra seeds

Capsule containing okra seeds - Seed Production

Sample of okra vegetables

More information

Laurent MARTIN
General Manager of Sodexo in Algeria
Laurent.martin@sodexo.com