



Name: Paul Yeboah

Country: GHANA

Born: 22nd September 1970

Address: P.O. Box TM 390, Techiman, Brong Ahafo Region, Ghana, West Africa.

Email:

Since the age of 22 rural and urban poverty has become my main concern in Ghana after I had received my general Agricultural Certificate for the Farm Institute. I initiated a rural and urban fruit forest project by establishing a seed supply from the Kade Oil Palm Research Institute and Bonsu Cocoa Research Station. Seeds and seedlings were given to rural and urban farmers on a credit basis. This project has created a lot of rural processing industries and employment for the poorest of the poor.

In 2003 I became farm manager at the Kristo Buase Monastery forest farm occupying 300 acres of which about a third is bare rock. About 100 acres was planted with cashew nuts before I came, the rest Fr Ambrose was hoping to develop using agroforestry techniques. We experimented with moringa, oil palm, cocoa and star fruit. After three years he realised that the output of the farm was growing smaller than ever and in 2006 the community jointly made the decision to close the farm for two years and lay off the Farm Manager and most of the staff since at that stage the farm was making an annual loss of about £7,000 a year (despite very fertile ground) and the budget could not sustain the losses. The farm was having a problem of lack of soil fertility and synthetic chemical pollution. In order to overcome this problem I agreed with the superior, Rev Father Ambrose, to invite Greg Knibbs from the Australia Permaculture Institute to teach permaculture techniques to the farm workers in the local communities. After the course in 2004, I was able to cultivate cashew nut, indigenous trees for timber, moringa trees, oil palm, cocoa, citrus and star fruits. In addition sheep, pigs rabbits and chickens were reared and the waste used for manure. I also constructed 1,000 bee hives.

Fr Ambrose later advised me to register permaculture in Ghana we applied to Mike Thomas of Plant a Tree in Africa (PATIA) (a UK charity) for a grant to establish a tree nursery and plant 99 acres of indigenous tree seedlings along the SawSaw and Tano river banks at Krobo-Techiman.

In 2006 Fr Ambrose left the monastery in December 2008 to work in Rome as Assistant to the Abbot President.

I now support schools and community farmers establishing tree nurseries and tree planting projects. My wife and I are also engaged in planting vegetables and rearing livestock, fish farming and composting with local people and advising them about permaculture methods.

I am helping many farmers to process Neem oil to replace synthetic products which are causing serious health and environmental problems in Ghana. I am again supplying free Moringa seeds to schools, farmers and churches for animal fodder and for soap and cosmetics from an agro-forestry system with a further grant from PATIA in 2007.

Personal data:

Wife - Agnes Ameyaa

Children Eric Fagan Yeboah and Frederick Pim Yeboah

Qualifications: Diploma in Tropical Agriculture and Permaculture Design Certificate

Employment: Farm manager (retired 2006)

Present Organisational Post: President Permaculture Network - Ghana