Case Study of
Josué and Rachel Baya
Mid-2015

Teaching people how to fish rather than offering them fish is the objective of ECHO, which seeks to provide people with the tools and agricultural resources to reduce hunger and improve lives. To this end, ECHO uses a range of complementary actions and strategies to impact small-scale farming through networking, training, and resources.

In Burkina Faso, nearly two hundred people benefited from the resources and agricultural tools provided by ECHO, as a part of the two Forums held in Ouagadougou in 2010 and 2012. Four years after these Forums, the Regional Impact Center of ECHO for West Africa wanted to know the real impact of these ECHO Forums on the beneficiaries and their communities through this case study. This study, which focuses on one of the participants, seeks to present the contribution that ECHO has made in improving the quality of life and well-being of the beneficiaries and their respective communities.

I.1. Josué Before The 2010 ECHO Forum

Josué Baya is an evangelical pastor who ministers in the village of Dora in the province of the Mounhoun in western Burkina Faso. Josue, who is also a farmer, was granted some of the poorest land around the village of Dora to use for his farmland, due to the tradition of giving the village wastelands (undesirable fields) to immigrant applicants (migrants, Christians, state services, etc.) who request the use of the land for the purpose of farming.

Consequences: Josué, a hard worker, cultivated his fields with enthusiasm and passion, but remained dissatisfied and disappointed with his low crop yields. He even went into debt to try to increase his yields by purchasing chemical fertilizers and agricultural equipment. However, his disappointment became greater when his yields still did not increase and he became incapable of repaying his loan,
1.4. The Consecutive Changes Following the Forum

1.4.1. Changes in Josué's Family

Josué began by applying some of the new practices to his experimental family garden of 1,200 m² near his home and produced compost, all in compliance with what he had learned at the Forum. In just one year, his well-managed family garden increased his yields in lettuce, cucumbers, onions, cabbage, eggplant, and tomato. His production yields actually increased from 30 to 100%. In this garden, he also included moringa trees, papaya, guava, tamarind and baobab. According to Josué, the family garden plot generates about 100 000 F CFA (~ $200 USD). In addition to the financial benefits, Josué’s family has fresh fruit and vegetables year round, which improves their diet and health.

This success prompted Josué to create a second garden of more than 0.5 ha outside the village on the site (above - see picture), Josué planted produce such as moringa, banana, mango, lemon, baobabs, tubers like taro and sweet potatoes, and even rice. This garden currently produces for him an annual sum of 500,000 CFA francs (around $1,000 USD).

In addition to his fruit and vegetable gardens, Josué is also a successful farmer who farms a total area of 6.5 ha with the following crops: rice: 0.5 ha; cotton: 1.5 ha; sorghum and millet: 3 ha; and maize 1.5 ha.
1.4.2. Changes in Josué's Community

Being both generous and open, Josué did not hide his success from the others in the village of Dora. Obviously as a pastor in that village he seeks to reach out to others and share with them and offer them the grace and salvation he received Christ. Thus, given the income generated by his crop production, several people approached Josué asking for his advice, or to benefit from his production. Seeing the interest of his peers for his growing experience, Josué thought that the best way to help them was to encourage them to follow the same path that he had, namely the transmission of knowledge. Josué has therefore trained (early 2015) 242 people of varying social economic and religious backgrounds allowing them to access new resources and agricultural tools:

- **Training of his church members**: Josué has voluntarily decided to train interested members of his church, his inner circle, so that they will not only apply this knowledge in their fields, but also so that they can transmit this information out further to the many applicants from the surrounding villages.

- **Training in the surrounding villages**: In addition to the village of Dora, four other villages have benefited directly from Josué's training as he instructed them on how to take a more active role in what they want to achieve. These courses consisted of sharing what Josué had learned at the Forum and had implemented on his own farm. A total of 111 persons benefited from these trainings.

- **In the neighboring churches**: Josué has trained 32 pastors of another evangelical denomination (different from his own). He has also trained 99 students at the Poundou Bible School.

- **Production in nurseries**: Because of the strong demand for fruit and moringa trees, Josué established a nursery production area to meet the demand. As a result, he benefited from technical supervision, guidance, and even protection from the (government) departmental service for the environment.

![Nursery for young papaya](image)

- **Supporting producers**: Josué decided to assist farmers who came to him for help with the implementation of these techniques for their farms through advice and corrections when/if necessary.

- **Distribution of plants to his pastor colleagues**: In order to help his fellow pastors Josué distributed free seedlings to all those who wanted to follow in his footsteps.

Josué's efforts were ultimately recognized in the winning of the first regional award for best gardener. From across the region, people now flock to listen to the testimony of Josué, and to procure produce.
of certain social reluctance are all compelling realities that reinforce people’s confidence in relationship to the church.

- Josué was also granted free land from the (land) chiefs in Dora offering him new and more fertile fields as reward and recognition for everything he has done to help the local community.

- The opportunities for evangelization have multiplied and have become easier because of Josué’s work.

- The conversions have also increased because people more readily understand that through the power and strength of the God of Josué these feats have been made possible.

### Conclusion

Through his commitment to implement the practices and techniques he received during the ECHO Forum, Josué has unintentionally positioned himself as a local leader and peasant-innovator. He has become that voice that accounts for development in the village of Dora, but he is also seen as the voice of ECHO among his peers. For Josué, the ECHO Forum was an opportunity for capacity building, social recognition, and improving revenues. Josué’s life is now inextricably linked to ECHO and it is with pride and gratitude he tells this to anyone who will listen how God blessed him through ECHO. Now, to the glory of God, Josué is blessing hundreds of others in turn.

### Good agricultural practices provide healthy and delicious products like these in Josué’s garden

![Image of fresh produce]

### Summary Table Tracking Josué’s Progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practices and the state of Josué</th>
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<th>Today</th>
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<td>Type of soil inputs</td>
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<td>Organic/biological</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Production</td>
<td>Deficient</td>
<td>Producing excess</td>
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<td>Rice Production</td>
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<td>Reputation</td>
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<td>Spiritually</td>
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