

Options for Helping the Rural Poor in Developing Countries

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An ECHO International Presentation
By Martin Price



Prepare Yourself by Filling Your "Mental Toolbox"

- Become familiar with potential problems and potential solutions

"Supermarket on a Stalk"

- Edible parts:
 - Leaves like spinach
 - Pods like green beans
 - Seeds
 - Tubers (8% protein)
 - Blossoms

Problems → Solutions

- "We'll be translating the Bible in a remote jungle setting."
- "I'm told that none of the vegetables we grow in Illinois will grow in a rainforest."
- "How can I find vegetables to feed my family?"



Artemisia to Heal Malaria



Intern Option 1 Nursery & Tropical Fruit



Education and Training

Internship Program:

A 14-month work experience program at ECHO Florida designed to provide training for potential development workers.



Intern Option 2 Sub-specialty in Seed Saving & Seed Banking



ECHO Interns: Learning by Doing

- College degree
- Vibrant Christian faith
- Already have legal permits to work in USA
- Considering overseas work with poor rural or urban food producers
- Often followed by a year overseas
- Internship is “enhanced by special training opportunities”
- Regional Impact Centers also have interns

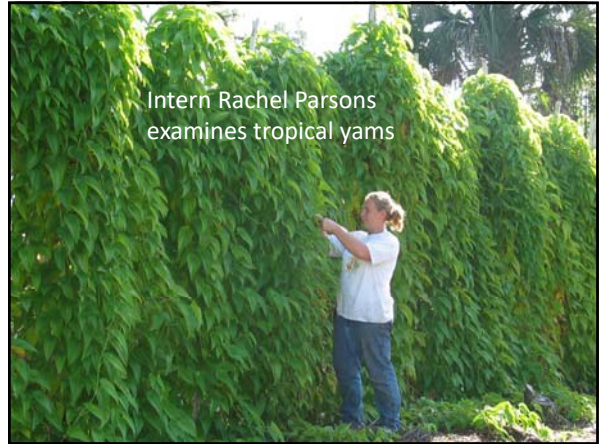
Rainforest Trail



Cinnamon & Curry Leaf Trees



Intern Rachel Parsons examines tropical yams



Avocado + Forage Peanut



Intern Carolyn Langley Planting Rice.



Building Mt. Victor





Hillside Farming

Two smaller photographs are shown side-by-side. The left one shows a garden bed on a hillside with rows of plants and a wooden fence. The right one shows a similar garden bed on a rocky slope.

Forage Bank

A photograph of a row of green, bushy plants in a field, likely used as forage for livestock. The plants are dense and vibrant green.

Underexploited Tropical Plants with Promising Economic Value

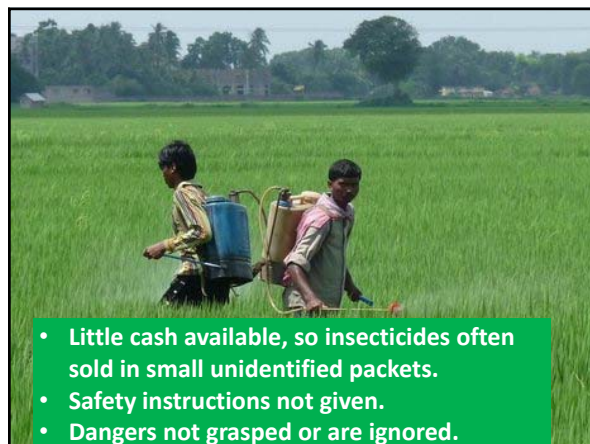
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

A grid of nine small images showing various tropical plants and their products, including seeds, fruits, and leaves. The images are arranged in a 3x3 grid.





Soils have low fertility, due to centuries of farming, erosion and leaching.



- Little cash available, so insecticides often sold in small unidentified packets.
- Safety instructions not given.
- Dangers not grasped or are ignored.



Weed control occupies valuable farmer time.

Difficulties of Growing Leafy Vegetables From Seed

- Insects and farm animals eat the seedlings.
- It is a lot of work for a farmer in ill health to plow, plant and weed the garden.
- The vegetables may die if several days without rain.
- Viable seed may be hard to find.



Supply stores may sell outdated seeds creating germination issues.

Advantages of Perennial Vegetables

- Far less labor
- Crucial for the sick, handicapped and elderly
- No need to seek an annual supply of seeds
- Can eat for years
- Less vulnerable to animals
- No till, so less erosion
- Plants must have disease / insect resistance to become perennials

Advantages of Perennial Vegetables

Question – Name two perennial vegetables grown widely “up north” (i.e. in temperate climates)

Chaya in Rocks in Bahamas



Chaya Plant Once, Eat for Years



Sauropus androgynous-- Katuk



Regional Impact Centers

- SE Asia: in Thailand
- West Africa: in Tanzania
- East Africa: in Burkina Faso
- Caribbean: In planning--will be run from Florida for now.
- India and southern China possibly.

Extensive Website for Agricultural
Development Workers

- Enables both access to content and personal networking!!! www.echocommunity.org
- Many in Spanish & French
- Some in several other languages

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- www.echonet.org for info about ECHO in general.
- <https://www.echonet.org/dr-martin-price-professional-testimony/>