



AGRICORPS

2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR FIRST TEAM; OUR FIRST YEAR

Dear Stakeholder:

The first year for AgriCorps was a huge success in spite of several considerable challenges. The tragic Ebola epidemic in Liberia forced AgriCorps to change course at the beginning of its inaugural year. Corps Members gathered in Grand Saline, Texas, for training, fully expecting to depart for Liberia in ten days, only to have their mission cancelled three days prior to departure. The AgriCorps team utilized its resources to pivot three years worth of research and connections from Liberia to Ghana. Within two weeks, the US Embassy, 4-H Ghana, the Ghana Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture, the Ghana Education Services, Peace Corps Ghana, host communities, cross cultural trainers, and a dozen more partners came together to support a smooth transition into the new host country.

This quick transition into Ghana meant that we had a steep learning curve as an organization. The Corps adjusted marvelously; and as you will see from the sections below, created tremendous and lasting impact.

We learned a lot during our first year, and we are excited to continue into year two with seventeen AgriCorps Members in Ghana and one AgriCorps Member in Ethiopia.

For more up-to-date information on AgriCorps, please visit our website at www.agricorps.org.

Cheers,



Trent McKnight
Founder, AgriCorps, Inc.



AGRICORPS IMPACT 2014-15 – 7 AGRICORPS MEMBERS (ACMS)

AGRICORPS TRAINING Pre-service, In-service, and Post Service training of ACMs	43 Training Days per ACM
TOTAL PERSON-HOURS IN THE FIELD (Teaching Training, School Garden)	10,752 Hours
# OF HOURS TEACHING YOUTH Agriculture / Science	3,840 Hours of Instruction
# STUDENT INTERACTION DAYS Each ACM interacted with 30-40 youth per school day	33,600 Youth Interaction Days
# ADVISOR INTERACTION DAYS Each ACM worked with 2-3 4-H advisors & teachers per day	2,400 4-H Advisor Interaction Days
# 4-H STAFF INTERACTION DAYS 3 Key 4-H staff worked with AgriCorps on daily basis	480 4-H Ghana Staff Interaction Days
TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES Those working with ACMs on a Daily Basis or directly receiving training	600 Direct Beneficiaries
TOTAL INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES 4-H members of teachers trained by AgriCorps	8,750 Indirect Beneficiaries
TOTAL INDIRECT HOUSEHOLD BENEFICIARIES*	35,000 Indirect Household Beneficiaries

*Based on an average household size of 4 according to Ghana Statistical Service (2008)

http://www.statsghana.gov.gh/docfiles/glss5_report.pdf

OUR PARTNERS

FUNDING PARTNERS

(Center on Conflict and Development Foundation; InterBank; Norman Borlaug Foundation)



**CONFLICT &
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION**

InterBank®



COLLABORATING PARTNERS

(4-H; Center on Conflict and Development; Department of ALEC at Texas A&M University; National FFA Organization; Peace Corps Ghana)



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

(4-H Ghana; Global Clover Network; Still Harbor)



OBJECTIVE 1 – RECRUITING HIGH QUALITY AGRICULTURE VOLUNTEERS

In the spring of 2014, AgriCorps recruited seven (7) agriculture volunteers from six (6) different universities to spend a year in Ghana. Two of those seven had masters degrees, and all had experience with either 4-H or FFA. This year's recruitment cycle, starting in August 2014 and ending in March 2015, we tripled our impact.

AgriCorps made offers to 20 individuals to serve as AgriCorps members for 2015-16 academic year. They represent 16 different universities from coast to coast. Six completed masters degrees, and the rest have bachelors degrees in diverse agricultural fields. Two are high school agriculture teachers from California. One of the 20 is a returning AgriCorps member, volunteering another year in Ghana.

AgriCorps began the on-boarding process in March, preparing the recruited candidates for service in Ghana. Of the 20 receiving offers, 17 completed all requirements and would depart for Ghana.



**AgriCorps 1st Class
Ghana 2014-15**



**AgriCorps 2nd Class
Ghana 2015-16**

OBJECTIVE 2: MEET THE NEEDS OF RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE

The first class of seven AgriCorps members spent their year working directly youth and in capacity building efforts with science / agriculture teachers, Ghana 4-H staff, and agricultural extension agents. All were located in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Five AgriCorps members were located in small rural villages and worked side-by-side with science teachers to deliver practical agriculture lessons. These five members established 4-H clubs, identified and empowered club advisors, and several established multiple clubs in their neighboring communities. One AgriCorps member was located at a teachers training college and established the first collegiate 4-H club in Ghana, designed to train future teachers how to establish and create effective clubs.

One AgriCorps member was assigned to the 4-H Ghana headquarters in Koforidua, Ghana, where he assisted 4-H Ghana in fundraising, training, and better positive youth development practices. In collaboration with 4-H Ghana, AgriCorps assisted in conducting 12 district trainings, designed for 4-H club advisors and district management committees, totaling 308 participants. AgriCorps used these trainings to reinforce positive youth development practices and demonstrate the value of youth voice and leadership within 4-H clubs.

AgriCorps members worked with 4-H Ghana to develop official ceremonies, unifying 4-H clubs in Ghana and empowering youth to speak in front of peers and community leaders. Youth within each 4-H club worked together, establishing and managing school gardens or school farms. One AgriCorps member worked with her club to establish a small pig farm. One member was even installed as a chief for his contribution to the community.

On June 5, AgriCorps Member John Romo, became “Nana Appiah Romo” as the newly installed chief of development for Adarkwa. Romo teaches agriculture and serves as 4-H Advisor to fifty students at the local junior high school and uses the school farm to demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices. He was pivotal in starting a 1,500-seedling cocoa, moringa, and oil palm nursery, through the 4-H Club. Through this connection, young people and their families not only have access to improved agricultural technologies to increase yields, but they also learn life skills to become healthy, critical-thinking farmers and democratic citizens.



OBJECTIVE 3: TRANSFER AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY

Being the first year in Ghana, AgriCops spent much of the first months learning about innovated methods and identifying quality agriculture research institutions. We focused much of our efforts on the 4-H club advisors who can continue teaching methods to young leaders. Those young farmers and leaders, as early adopters will utilize that technology, transferring it to their parents and community.

NO-TILL AGRICULTURE TRAINING

The AgriCorps and 4-H Ghana agriculture training hosted at the Centre for No-Till Agriculture, supported by Con Dev at Texas A&M, was extremely beneficial. The training was attended by seven AgriCorps members, three 4-H Ghana staff, and 13 Ghanaian teachers and 4-H for three days. It was an excellent introduction to conservation agriculture and hands-on practical experience with sustainable agriculture techniques. The three key principles of conservation agriculture were explored through the weekend: minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover, and diversified rotation. AgriCorps members saw this as the best agriculture training of the year, and witnessed club 4-H advisors implementing the new technology and methods on school gardens.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING WORKSHOP

AgriCorps members found that a large barrier to the transfer of technology was the teaching methods used by 4-H advisors and agriculture teachers. In response, the AgriCorps team developed and organized an “Experiential Teaching” workshop. 17 teachers from 9 schools in the Eastern and Volta regions participated in the 3-day event. Sessions were presented by AgriCorps members and cooperating teachers and included topics like “problem based learning.” AgriCorps members witness changes in teaching styles by the advisors. Previously, some had used school gardens as a form of punishment. One advisor in particular completely changed his view after the training.



FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities

FY 2014

Total Revenue & Support	\$348,531.03
Expenses	
Management & General	\$169,860.94
AgriCorps Member Recruitment	\$65,598.23
AgriCorps Member Expense	\$68,296.73
AgriCorps Member In Country Support	\$17,728.35
Total Expenses	\$321,484.25
Net Revenue	\$27,046.78



AGRICORPS

expanding possibilities

impact
one

Globally minded
American
agriculture
professionals
with experience
living abroad

impact
two

Young leaders
in developing
countries
committed
to farming as
a science and
a business

impact
three

Food security in
developing countries
through improved
agriculture production
and value chains

our *mission*

AgriCorps connects American agriculture volunteers to the demand for experiential, school-based agricultural education in developing countries.

To accomplish this, AgriCorps and partners will:

one

Recruit high quality, motivated, creative, American college graduates of agriculture with past experiences in FFA or 4-H to volunteer one year to teach agricultural education in developing countries


two

Meet the needs of rural young people in developing countries by equipping them with agriculture and life skills to become healthy, critical-thinking farmers and democratic citizens

three

Transfer agriculture technology and methodology through youth, as early adopters, into farming communities in developing countries

For more information go to
www.agricorps.org

 www.facebook.com/agricorps