



ACCESS TO INFORMATION

" Participants in TGC will benefit immensely from IT/Connectivity as a whole new world will be opened to them. They'll acquire computing skills & have instant access to appropriate agricultural information. They'll also be able to communicate & share food growing ideas with friends world-wide & learn about markets & other important factors affecting agriculture. "

Dr. Joe Kwarteng

Vice Dean, School of Agriculture, University of Cape Coast, Ghana & TGC Ghana Coordinator, Ghana

GROWTH & CHOICE...

WORK TOGETHER,
BRINGING SUSTAINED
FOOD SECURITY &
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.



IN SCHOOLS...

TGC ENABLES YOUTH TO BRING HOME FRESH FOOD & CONTRIBUTE MATERIALLY TO THEIR FAMILIES. IN THE RURAL DEVELOPING WORLD, THIS ADDS VALUE TO EDUCATION & ENCOURAGES FAMILIES TO KEEP CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS LONGER.

CULTIVATING FOOD, CONNECTING MINDS, HARVESTING HOPE

THE GROWING CONNECTION IS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF PEOPLE GROWING FOOD AND ACCESSING THE TOOLS, TECHNIQUES AND INFORMATION THEY NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR NUTRITION AND TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY.

IN THE GROWING CONNECTION, YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD USE LOW-IMPACT, AFFORDABLE FOOD-GROWING METHODS TO GROW FRESH, NUTRITIOUS PRODUCE. THEY ARE ALL CONNECTED, VIA THE INTERNET, TO EACH OTHER AND TO VITAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE.

OUR CHALLENGE...

Over 880 million people live on less than one dollar a day. Millions worldwide, including in the USA, do not have easy or affordable access to fresh vegetables, nor to the land, tools, training, information and advice they could use to improve their lives. TGC combines tools, training, information and communications to overcome this challenge.

OUR SOLUTION...

...in **THE GROWING CONNECTION** we help people and communities to build highly productive, space and water-efficient vegetable gardens.

...**TGC** provides information and advice about sustainable ways to improve nutrition and, where possible, to generate income.

...**TGC** links participants, all sharing the experience and community, in local and global solutions to chronic malnutrition.

WATER-EFFICIENT, YEAR-ROUND, GROW-ANYWHERE, FOOD PRODUCT

Central to TGC is the EarthBox, a use-anywhere water-efficient containerized vegetable growing system. The EarthBox, easy to use, demonstrates the universal ability to grow food and draws people into the world of innovative horticulture.

The EarthBox is low-cost, low-maintenance, uses local inputs, and consumes about 60% less water than in ground drip irrigation without any possibility of soil or water contamination.

BRINGING NUTRIENT-RICH CROPS TO REMOTE PLACES

TGC now has leafy greens growing on mountain tops in **JALISCO, MEXICO**, on rooftops in **HARLEM** and **CHICAGO** and alley ways in **QUEENS, NEW YORK** and during the dry season in **GHANA**. With complementary practices, like hoop houses and rain catchments, fresh nutritious produce is available within weeks of planting.



AT A GLANCE...

- **THE GROWING CONNECTION WAS DEVELOPED BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.**
- **SINCE 2003, TGC HAS SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SITES IN:**

BAHAMAS	KENYA	SENEGAL
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	MEXICO	SOUTH AFRICA
GHANA	MOROCCO	UNITED STATES
HAITI	NICARAGUA	U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
JAMAICA	ST. LUCIA	

" I have learned how to grow & care for vegetables like cabbages, carrots, garden eggs, tomatoes, green peppers & so on, without using chemicals on them. I was happy to learn because I know in the future I can get a job from it. "

Bernard Arko
School for the Deaf,
Cape Coast, Ghana

- **TGC IS READY TO SCALE UP THE SUCCESS OF ITS PILOT PHASE IN RWANDA · INDIA · NAMIBIA**
- **FAO HAS PLATFORM PROJECTS FOR POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF TGC ACTIVITIES IN OVER 100 COUNTRIES.**
- **TGC IS BASED ON PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITIES, NGOS & BUSINESSES INCLUDING:**

CHICAGO PARKS DEPARTMENT	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
MAYOR'S OFFICE BALTIMORE	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
EARTHBOX	DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR
NEW YORK CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL FARMS, GHANA
GOOGLE	UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA, MEXICO
CORNELL UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE	SELVA NEGRA FUNDACIÓN, MEXICO
EXTENSION	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,	CICEANA, MEXICO
DAVIS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CLUBS
CISCO SYSTEMS, INC	FABRETTO CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES, AMD	PROJECT MEDISHARE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF	RESTAURANT ASSOCIATES
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS	COMPASS GROUP
AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS,	
CHICAGO	

CONNECTING YOUTH IN THE DEVELOPING & DEVELOPED...

...WORLD. YOUTH COMMUNICATE & COLLABORATE AS PEERS, SHARING WHAT THEY GROW & HOW THEY GROW IT. THEY PULL DOWN RELEVANT INFORMATION, CONTRIBUTE PLANT GROWING DATA & SHARE SOLUTIONS, IDEAS & SUCCESSES.

NEW INCOME-GENERATING OPPORTUNITY

THE EARTHBOX ENABLES PARTICIPANTS TO GROW HIGH-VALUE PRODUCE OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE, TO UTILIZE TRADITIONALLY UNSUITABLE AREAS & TO EXTEND THE GROWING SEASON, EVEN INTO THE DRY SEASON.

TGC PARTICIPANTS GAIN NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEAR-ROUND INCOME GENERATION & VALUE-ADDING.

A SMALLHOLDER FARMER CAN EARN HIGHER RETURNS SELLING PRODUCE DURING THE DRY SEASON, OR AN URBAN DWELLER CAN GROW ON A ROOFTOP TO SUPPLY RESTAURANTS WITH SPECIALTY PRODUCE.

PLEASE CONTACT US

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Cultivating Food, Connecting Minds, Harvesting Hope

The Growing Connection