## **Progress of The Growing Seed Trust Foundation**

Covid had a devastating and consequential effect on Nigeria. Not from the disease itself but from the starvation it engendered. This gave us a golden opportunity. We were lucky enough to acquire 21 hectares of virgin fertile land adjacent to a river in the Niger Delta which has been beleaguered with unrest. We decided to develop organic farming techniques and engaged farmers from Benue State who themselves were persecuted by Boko Haram but are knowledgeable in organic farming techniques.



We created 30 metre pods after clearing the land from rocks and roots, which was labour intensive. We created 22 raised beds for each pod, supplied with manure and two irrigation drip lines. This helps us in the dry season. We created a crop plan with produce planned each month. This includes cucumbers, tomatoes, corn, beans, okra, melons and a variety of other vegetables and root crops. We have a farm shop and are educating purchasers in the beneficial effect of consuming nutritious organic produce, free from poisonous carcinogens. We are drafting an organic manual in compliance with the Soil Association international standards as well as developing work instructions and records to demonstrate compliance with the organic standard. This will enable us to be audited to gain our coveted organic certificate. We are trying to raise money for a shredder and solar power electrical battery system and buying pigs and chickens for manure production. We already have wild bees and attempting to harness their honey. We have the opportunity of farming a further 5000 hectares if we inspire others to join our venture. This would grant us export opportunities and pave the way for foreign currency to fund our self-sustaining community projects.

## Rugby

Our rugby community village project involves between 12 and 18 villages in the Niger Delta where we are establishing a Growing Seed rugby league. We teach life skills for youth community servant leadership programs and promote women empowerment schemes. We hope to buy a hectare of land in each village and enter into combined sponsorship with local chiefs, kings and corporations



interested in promoting well-being and security, whilst safeguarding and looking after the welfare of children. We are always looking out for any second-hand rugby kit and sponsorship!

We are modifying <u>our website</u> to identify where targeted funding is required. With the grace of God, we proceed in faith and the generosity of other good people who share our vision for a fairer world.

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