Cameroon Government Breadfruit Briefing Notes

Breadfruit is believed to be one of the most productive crops in the world, with yield estimates under orchard conditions ranging from 16 to 50 metric tons (t) per hectare (ha) (6.5–20.2 t/ac) of fruit (fresh weight) based on a planting density of 100 trees/ha (40 trees/ac). (see Breadfruit Agroforestry Guide: Planning and Implementation of Regenerative Organic Methods By Craig R. Elevitch and Diane Ragon). Cameroon has been identified as one of the best areas to grow breadfruit by the National Tropical Botanical Garden organization. See map at <https://ntbg.org/breadfruit/care/regions/>

The Trees That Feed Foundation and Northwestern University have been working in various countries with breadfruit. <https://www.treesthatfeed.org/programs/entrepreneurship-agro-business/> <https://treesthatfeed.org/countries/> . In particular, Northwestern University has been studying the “Potential of breadfruit cultivation to contribute to climate-resilient low latitude food systems,”  <https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2022/08/climate-resilient-breadfruit-might-be-the-food-of-the-future/>. The Trees for Life organization has breadfruit project in 15 countries including four African countries. [https://treesthatfeed.org/uganda/](https://treesthatfeed.org/countries/) <https://treesthatfeed.org/kenya/>. The Cameroon Bureau d'Etudes pour le development local et rural (BEDELOR) organization believes that breadfruit cultivation offers an opportunity for pig feed as well as breadfruit flour and other foods. See “Replacing Imported Energy Feeds by Storage of Excessive Breadfruits as Out-of-Season Pig Feed by James Currie.

BEDELOR is suggesting that we respond to a request for a proposal (RFP) from the US Embassy <https://cm.usembassy.gov/public-diplomacy-grants-program/> so that the Cameroon government officials can make use of international experts by

1. Obtaining breadfruit root stock. For a fee Karin Bolczyk of Tissue Grown, Inc. can ship quantities of 1000 or more breadfruit root stock should the root stock not be available in Cameroon. <https://ntbg.org/news/a-global-partnership-that-feeds/>
2. Using the extensive literature and videos on growing breadfruit provided by the organization Trees for Life <https://treesthatfeed.org/>
3. Using the tree nurseries in Cameroon developed by tree nursery expert Dr Ann DeGrande at the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) in Cameroon. <https://www.cifor-icraf.org/locations/africa/cameroon/>
4. Planting the nursery products (when ready) at locations suggested by the Cameroon government. The Catholic Relief Services/Cameroon, CIFOR-ICRAF/Cameroon, and USAID can help identify appropriate locations for planting the breadfruit nursery products if requested. For example, note that CIFOR-ICRAF/Cameroon just started as five-year initiative (2023-2028), funded by the European Union, that covers three key landscapes: Logone Valley in the Far North Region, and West and East Benoue, which sit mainly in the North Region with extensions into the Adamawa Region.

We believe that Cameroon women and children will be interested in methods for earning money.  We hope to have the Cameroon government personnel distribute the breadfruit tree seedlings and appropriate training material so that Cameroon women and children can raise enough pigs to get out of poverty. We can supply Cameroon personnel with the unpublished paper by Rick Burnette and Jamlong Pawkham to guide their help (see “Basics of Backyard Pig Production in Upland Villages of the Golden Triangle”, also available from ECHO, 17430 Durrance Road, N. Ft. Myers, FL, 9pp.

We hope that Cameroon Government officials will support BEDELOR in responding to the US Embassy RFP.