

INUA UPDATE REPORT

Inua Agribusiness Training Empowerment Center (IATEC)

Presented to: FUMCWP Leadership Council Meeting - September 26, 2021

Background

- A. Since 2010, **Inua youth** have developed agricultural projects to raise money, learned to work as a team and understand costs, created areas of accountability and responsibility, and provided individual profit shares to each youth to help start their careers.
- B. **Inua** rented 5 acres of farming land to run a beta test/ pilot program. During the two years of growing corn and beans, **Inua** learned valuable lessons in planting, harvesting and the sale of produce.
- During this time **Inua** consulted agronomists in the US as well as in Kenya to develop best practices and key learning for successful farming.
 - An internationally known agronomist, Dr. Michael Read, PhD., traveled to Naivasha with one of our mission teams, inspected the 5-acre farmland and advised us on pesticides, soil, harvesting and storage techniques. Dr. Read has lived and worked in evolving countries, working on farming issues throughout Africa, the Pacific Rim, Mexico and several areas in the US. Dr. Read is a certified organic farm inspector, is working with community gardens and is a volunteer with ECHO Global Farm in Ft Myers, FL. Dr Read is a key member of the IATEC development team.
 - Taiti D.M., PhD from Kenya, also met with the Kenyan and US team to fully understand the issues with food security, high rate of pesticides and Kenya's diminishing agrarian culture.
 - David Erickson, PhD, CEO of ECHO Global Farms, Ft Myers, Florida, met with members of the Kenyan staff and US Board Members to advise and consult. ECHO teaches sustainable farming across the globe and works with NGO's (non-governmental agencies), universities and industry on food security issues.
- C. On March 24, 2019, **FUMCWP Leadership Council authorized INUA U.S. leadership to purchase land in Kenya for an agricultural center of learning** (see relevant published and excerpted minutes and motion below). **This will become the IATEC center in Kenya.**

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Leadership Council Minutes (Excerpted) – 3/24/19

- 5. Agribusiness Proposal – Ivor [Singer] gave a power point presentation on the Agribusiness proposal. Bill Walker discussed the legal aspects. He and Randy Rush have been talking with a Kenyan attorney. A loan for the capital purchase would be established.
 - A motion to endorse the report of Ivor Singer concerning the expansion of the Inua Kenya ministries to include the purchase of land for an agricultural center of learning, with supplementary comments by Bill Walker, is received and the Inua US leadership is encouraged to proceed prudently and in reliance on legal counsel to protect any investment and avoid liabilities and to keep the Leadership Council advised on an ongoing basis. Motion approved.
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Moving Beyond the Pilot Phase

- D. INUA's initial land rental and pilot farming phase has served as a successful proof of concept. It has demonstrated that adding an agribusiness component to the youth training program and overall business plan was valuable, viable, and sustainable.
- E. Consequently, the INUA Board named this initiative, giving it a more formal designation as a component of the INUA program – **the Inua Agribusiness Training Empowerment Center (IATEC)**.
- F. Key IATEC elements and processes will include:
 - Teaching and training the INUA youth how to understand and organize all aspects of the food supply chain - growing food, harvesting, storage, distribution, sales, marketing, maintenance practices, soil preparation, water systems and reduced use of pesticides.
 - Developing job opportunities associated with the food supply chain to improve each participant's occupational development and individual economic status
 - Generating sales of commodities like eggs, chickens, vegetables, and other produce as part of individual income and program viability
 - Providing nutritional counseling and cooking classes to improve each youth's immune system and to diminish patterns of stunted growth
 - Engaging community members with youth in practical farming methods as means for creating other revenue streams for the IATEC program

Next Steps – An Update for the FUMCWP Leadership Council

- G. Since INUA received Leadership Council's endorsement in March 2019, the INUA team and its advisors have accomplished the necessary due diligence to establish the legal and fiduciary basis for the purchase of agribusiness land with appropriate Kenyan entities and authorities. This includes appropriate considerations that will protect any investment and avoid liabilities. Bill Walker and Ivor Singer have continued to act as key emissaries and ombudsmen in these IATEC efforts.
- H. Current investigations are underway to identify specific land plots that are both suitable for farming and geographically located within reasonable proximity of the various INUA community centers. A final land purchase will account for both fluctuating current market values and the intended INUA budget. A final property size and location are not known at the time of this update. The location search is ongoing.
- I. A projected completion timeframe for acquisition and purchase of the IATEC land plot is intended within the 2021 fourth quarter. Once completed, the INUA Team will provide a final update.