

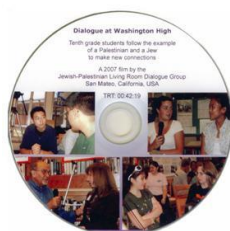
Nigeria 2012 & 2013: Dialogue for Relationships & Sustainable Farming

In October, 2009, Usman Mohammed Inuwa traveled from his Bauchi State home in northern Nigeria to participate in the successful *INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH AND INTERFAITH COMMUNICATION: Building Bridges through Interfaith Dialogue and Citizen-to-Citizen Collaboration* -- <http://interfaithdialogue.cfsites.org> .



In Jos he was given DVDs with two instructional films, *DIALOGUE AT WASHINGTON HIGH*, and *PEACEMAKERS: Palestinians & Jews Together at Camp* - <http://traubman.igc.org/vids2007.htm> created by the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue in far-away California, USA.

DIALOGUE AT WASHINGTON HIGH



PEACEMAKERS: Palestinians & Jews Together at Camp



By February, 2010, Usman had gathered Christian and Muslim women and men in Bauchi to study the DVDs and start relating anew with one another. At <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigerianorth.htm> is the larger story.

In October, 2010, Usman travelled to the *2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH AND INTERFAITH COMMUNICATION* in Jos. A further result was the award-winning documentary film, [DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future](#) which further inspired Usman.



In 2012, Usman saw a 12-minute film -- [GROW](#) -- about women and men cooperating to grow food sustainably without dependence on expensive commercial fertilizers. Usman promptly traveled 100 kilometers out of Bauchi city with his laptop computer, digital projector, and small electric generator. He presented the idea to a village where Muslim and Christian families lived by subsistence farming for their food.



Below is Usman's report of introducing to Gar village the idea of returning to biologically-intensive, sustainable farming modeled by G-BIACK -- the GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agricultural Center, in Kenya -- <http://www.g-biack.org>

Thursday, 22 November 2012

Bauchi State is one of the 19 States in northern Nigeria that is sharing boundary with 7 States namely Plateau, Taraba, Gombe, Yobe, Jigawa, Kaduna and Kano States.

The visit was conducted on the 19th of this month (November) to a village called Gar which is about 100km from the city of Bauchi. The people of Gar village are both Christians and Muslims, and they have different tribes. The village is surrounded by other villages namely Kungibar, Gokaru, Pali, Fanti, Guruntum, Badakoshi, Tudun, Gambo, and Guma. The major occupation of the people of these areas is farming that is 95% done at subsistence level.

Message was sent to the village about our coming to discuss a program on farming which if accepted will be an addition to our on-going activities peaceful coexistence, health and climate change and to also show a 10min movie (GROW) and in the end hear their views about the program. We also requested them to invite other farmers from the neighboring villages to send their representatives to participate so as to get wider views about the program.

We arrived in Gar village at exactly 10:16 am on 19th November, 2012 with a digital projector, small generator and a laptop computer. We met the villagers waiting for our arrival. In attendance were the village heads of Gar and Gumli, men and women farmers, and representatives of youth.





The video clip was shown to the group. Below are some of the views of the participants recorded:

1. *“What we just watched really look good and I believe is something that every farmer will like to practice. In fact, let me just say that we are willing and very ready to demonstrate this kind of farming”*

~ Sule Abubakar (Male)



2. *“Women in this area used to be good farmers that complements their husbands to put food on the table but nowadays even the men are unable to maintain the farms because of the water shortages and lack of fertilizers”*

~ Maryamu Yusuf (Female)

3. *“In the film I saw that men were given priority more than the women but I want to say that women in this area also farm like men. In fact, some used to have 2 to 3 farms while other men have only one. So I’m saying that women are also equal to the task to practice this modern farming.”*

~ Halima Appolos (Female)



4. *“Mine is a question, what I understood from the film and the explanation made was that the new method of farming requires only small amount of water and locally made manure, that is very good and interesting but the question is what will happen to the farms in a situation where there is too much rainfalls just the way we witnessed this year?”*

~ A participant

5. *“As the village head I really must make this comments: First, I’m so happy that this good film was brought to my village for us see how people elsewhere are helping themselves. Secondly, as you can see our farmers are willing to engage in this kind of farming and I’m ready to provide my support to make it a success if our village is chosen. As for the land where to make the farm, I’m ready to provide a piece of land for free”*

~ Yusuf Yakubu (Village head)

On a general note, from what I’ve seen and observed the farmers are interested to have the program started. Actually the willingness and enthusiasm shown by the people did not come to me as a surprise, because if there is anything they so much rely on it is farming and animal rearing. And from me, I’m ready to help others to kick-start the program here in Nigeria we I can get the required skills and knowledge.

Usman Mohammed Inuwa
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Wednesday, 24 April 2013

Usman's presence and reconciliation skills were requested by the people of the Birim and Gigyera villages where both Muslims and Christians of four different tribes live together in Bauchi State, Nigeria.

Usman described "the consensus meeting to help the people from the two villages learn to listen to one another, find a simple way of identifying the root causes of the existing misunderstandings, and collectively proffer a way out."

He said: "The meeting provided an avenue where people from the two villages including the community leaders, chief imams and pastors of the two villages, men, women, and youth, listened, expressed concerns and worries, and shared their views on the way forward."



August 2013 -- Learning Bio-intensive Food Growing

During most of August, 2013, Usman seized the opportunity to train in skills of sustainable, food growing at GROW BIOINTENSIVE in Thika, Kenya -- <http://www.growbiointensive.org>



October 2013 -- Taking Skills Home to Northern Nigeria

Usman's Sunday, one-day SEEDS FOR PEACE SEMINAR on (1) Biointensive Agriculture and (2) Relationship Building brought together eager Muslim and Christian farmers to "listen to

stories of one another and exchange open pollinated seeds." The woman and men met the RAHAMA Women's Hall on Darazo Road, near Sky Crest Secondary School, Bauchi town.

They all brought seeds to share, some of which others had never seen in their lifetimes. There was an outpouring of generosity and excitement among the sometimes-alienated Christian and Muslim farmers who were thrilled to share the day to do what had never before been done there

Participants said: "This is the kind of agriculture we want. When are you coming to our village to teach us?" Usman assured them he'd go to them to teach all he had learned in Kenya.

Usman believed it was "the beginning of our Biointensive Agriculture program in Nigeria." He envisions creating in Bauchi the *SEEDS FOR PEACE INNOVATION AND APPLICATION CENTER: Growing Food, Building Relationships* for ongoing agricultural training and peacebuilding.



See the richly-illustrated, larger story at
<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigerianorth.htm>

