



SEEDS FOR PEACE

Growing Food, Building Relationships ~ Bauchi, Bauchi State, Nigeria

See the larger story at

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigerianorth.htm>



Since October, 2009, Usman Mohammed Inuwa was inspired to help sometimes-adversarial Muslims and Christians in northern Nigeria to meet face-to-face and create successful relationships. That story is at <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigerianorth.htm>

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



Usman returned home to Bauchi State determined to birth a *Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Peacebuilding (CSAP): Growing Food, Building Relationships* for ongoing agricultural training and peacebuilding. He envisioned this as "the beginning of our Biointensive Agriculture program in Nigeria."



27 October 2013

SEEDS FOR PEACE ONE-DAY SEMINAR

Usman's Sunday, one-day SEEDS FOR PEACE SEMINAR on (1) Biointensive Agriculture and (2) Relationship Building brought together eager **Muslim and Christian farmers** from near and far to "listen to stories of one another and exchange open pollinated seeds."

BACKGROUND

Nigeria experiences exponential particularly in the northern 19 states where over 90% of the people depend on agriculture for living. Bauchi shares boundaries with seven states and has diversity of religions, tribes, and cultures.



Since 1991 Bauchi continues experiencing ethno-religious crises with hundreds of people massacred and many churches, mosques, and family homes burned down. All major ethno-religious crises in Bauchi State emanate from two local government areas, Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa, in the extreme south of Bauchi. Both Local Government Areas (LGAs) share boundaries with Jos, Plateau State, another flash point of unrest and brutality in Nigeria.

The Seeds for Peace Seminar was meant to (1) bring citizens of different religions, tribes, and cultures in tensed areas, to sit at the same table for learning to listen to one another, share their stories, and discover that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard." And the women and men were to (2) serve as the beginning of the new movement in GROW BIO-INTENSIVE Agriculture which will ultimately help people to have organic (healthful) food on their tables and a way of generating income.



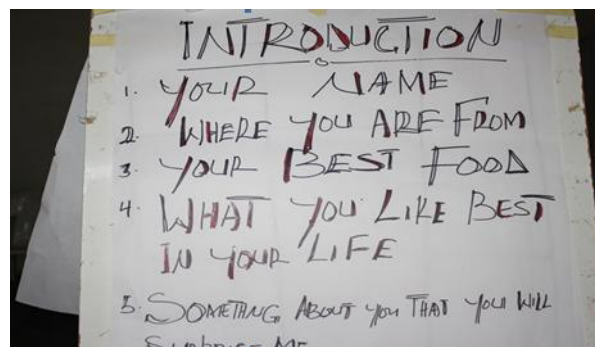
THE SEMINAR

Early Sunday morning, 27th of October, 2013, 20 participants responding to written personal invitations gathered from three Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Bauchi State: (1) Alkaleri, (2) Tafawa Balewa, and (3) Bogoro. Participants were intentionally selected from these LGAs because:

- Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa LGA residents experience tension, fear, and lack of trust from many ethno-religious crises between the faithful of Christianity and Islam who speak three different languages – Hausa, Fulani, and Sayawa.
- All the women and men participants are farmers who either own a farm land or harvest their food on rented farm land.
- Participants from the Gar community in Alkaleri LGA are a model of Muslims and Christians peacefully living together despite differences of religion and tribe. They can share how they have been dealing with misunderstandings and disagreements that arise between them

Participant registration was followed by **opening prayers of Islam and Christianity** then **personal introductions in pairs**.

The partners introduced one another to the whole group.



Perspective Squares Icebreaker

To experience diversity of perception, participants stepped forward to count squares they saw printed on paper flip chart. It was interesting, as the participants gave very different counts of the same boxes before them. They realized that diverse individuals see the world differently. We must choose to respect and explore each other's different views, to live together successfully.



Acts of Spontaneous Generosity Icebreaker

Participants were asked: **"Remember an experience when they were the recipient of an unexpected, unsolicited act of extraordinary kindness that they have never forgotten."**

Each one chose a partner to sit in dyads (pairs) for sharing their stories in five minutes. For another five minutes, a generous number of pairs were asked to share their experiences with others in the whole room.

After listening to four different pairs, the facilitator asked others to reply aloud to some questions: "What is the meaning to you of these experiences? What is the importance of stories? What stories do you want to put into motion in your communities – Bogoro, Tafawa Balewa, and Alkaleri LGAs?"



Film – DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims and Christians Creating Their Future

[DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA](#), filmed in Jos, was watched by all the participants, followed by a conversation about insights gained from the difference scenarios in the documentary about the 2010 Youth Interfaith Conference. A DVD of the was gifted to each participant in attendance

Lunch together was followed by the **Christians accompanying the Muslims to mosque** to observe the Zuhr prayers.



Film – GROW



Together they watched [GROW](http://www.g-biack.org) -- the inspiring 12-minute film illustrating successful biologically-intensive, sustainable farming with minimum water and without excessive dependence on expensive commercial fertilizers modeled by G-BIACK -- the GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agricultural Center, in Kenya -- <http://www.g-biack.org>

Usman clarified the principles and methods of GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture, then **gave voices to participants' questions and new insights** for their own lives and farms.



Stories of Coexistence

Zakaria Hassan Galadima, "Peace Hero" awardee at that week's 5th Annual Interfaith Dialogue in Jos, Nigeria, shared his personal experience of Muslim-Christian cooperation.



Dr. Ahmed Setle of the faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, ATB University, related his personal relationship-building and peaceful co-existence between Muslim & Christians.

CONCLUSION: Exchange of Seeds

All participants had been asked to bring gifts of **open pollinated seeds** to freely exchange with one another. Some attendees there were seeds in the room they had never seen in their lifetime.



Seeds were exchanged among the participants and some were graciously donated to the new **Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Peacebuilding (CSAP)**, to be used for the first practical demonstrations of GROW BIO-INTENSIVE Agriculture in Nigeria. Their vision is to unite people of different faiths together in peace through BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture – “Growing food, nurturing relationships.”

This first SEEDS FOR PEACE SEMINAR at the RAHAMA Women's Hall in Bauchi saw 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.



Kirfi Community Radio (94.6 FM) then invited organizer Usman Mohammed Inuwa to an interview reaching even rural areas in six states of northeast Nigeria -- Bauchi, Adama, Gombe, Borno, Yobe, and Taraba, giving voices and ears to his information about BIO-INTENSIVE Agriculture, peace building and economic development.

The first compost-making workshop of Muslims and Christians in Gar village was planned for late November, 2013.



December 2013

First Compost-Making Workshop

Usman's first practical demonstration of compost-making was requested by Muslim and Christian farmers -- 4 women, 4 men -- in **Gar village**, Bauchi State, Nigeria, 0900 to 1500, on Wednesday, 04 December 2013.





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January 2014 Second Compost-Making Workshop

On Sunday, January 5th, a second bed was created next to the Inuwa home. Two more workshops were planned for the following weekend, to then have four active compost beds to help with food growing



Tree Planting

For sustaining life on Earth, trees are needed for oxygen, shade, and much more. On **January 25, 2014**, as part of sustainable living education, a tree planting seminar was offered at Bauchi's Aspira Academy for their students and other local college scholars.



Saturday, March 15, 2014, was another tree planting at the Government Girls Unity College (GGUC) where an environmental club was formed in 2010 by Usman's *Forward Action for Conservation of Indigenous Species (FACIS)*. In 2010 a school orchard was established, followed in 2013 by a plant nursery for tree seedlings. FACIS intends to support the girls club to start a bio-intensive agriculture program that empowers them to grow organic food.





Usman Mohammed Inuwa

***Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Peacebuilding (CSAP):
Growing Food, Nurturing Relationships***

a project of

Forward in Action for Conservation of Indigenous Species & Leadership (FACIS)

Bauchi State, northern Nigeria

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