

WORLD

A Newsletter for Friends
and Supporters of TechnoServe
July 2014

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Young women and men in developing countries hold the key to alleviating poverty. They are the world's future innovators, entrepreneurs and community leaders. But as unemployment rates climb, young people face unprecedented barriers to opportunities. That is why TechnoServe has prioritized engaging and supporting youth in our five-year strategic plan. In this newsletter, you will meet Arnest Sebbumba, an enterprising young farmer from Uganda whose experience in TechnoServe's STRYDE program inspired him to empower other rural youth in his community. This type of far-reaching impact is possible thanks to supporters like you. Your generous contributions help hardworking young people acquire skills, unlock opportunities and break the cycle of poverty. Thank you for your support.

Tim McLellan
Interim President and CEO

By the Numbers: Youth in Africa

18

median age in sub-Saharan Africa, home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing population

60 percent

of all unemployed people in Africa are youth

11 million

young people expected to enter the African labor market each year for the next decade



● SNAPSHOT: ARNEST SEBBUMBA

The Young Visionary

When Arnest Sebbumba's heifer died from East Coast fever — a livestock disease common in his home region of Kayunga, Uganda — his family was devastated. On a small farm, the death of an animal represents years of lost effort and the loss of significant future income — money the family could use to pay school fees for their five children.

Last year, armed with Internet research and a business mindset he developed with help from TechnoServe's STRYDE program, Arnest, 26, protected his livestock from East Coast fever for the first time in three generations, preventing the death of dozens of animals.

STRYDE equips young people in East Africa with the skills and knowledge they need to take advantage of economic opportunities both on and off the farm. The training helped Arnest recognize his own strengths, and opened his eyes to the income-generating potential of agriculture, a sector many rural young people view as a last resort. Eager to share his newfound confidence and enthusiasm for farming with his peers, Arnest founded the Country-side Youth Foundation, a nonprofit that teaches young people about effective agriculture and entrepreneurship.

IN HIS OWN WORDS: Arnest's story continues on page 2.

Innovating on the Farm

By Arnest Sebbumba,
STRYDE program participant

It is difficult to translate the word “entrepreneur” into my native tongue, Luganda.

Most of my friends come from farming families, but few of them have any interest in managing their farms for a living. Agribusiness skills aren't taught in local schools, though our population is overwhelmingly agrarian. Like so many of my peers, I would have sought employment in the technology sector were it not for the training I received through the STRYDE program run by TechnoServe.

The program began with a three-month training course, designed to push participants to see past traditional farming methods people have adhered to for decades — and to challenge us to consider how to grow our farming operations, address long-standing problems (like East Coast fever)



FOSTERING GROWTH: Arnest is expanding operations on his family farm and sowing the seeds of youth empowerment in his community.

and recognize new opportunities for expansion.

For four hours a day, twice a week, 24 other participants and I learned finance, business and entrepreneurial skills. It wasn't until this training that I began to see the land as a blank canvas.

The advisors challenged us to see the opportunities in commercializing and building on already existing activities.

I was inspired to greatly expand our farm's dairy operations. Among other changes, I worked to prevent East Coast fever among my livestock and introduced artificial insemination. I also started a composting program that saves us money we would normally spend on fertilizer and brings in extra income, as we've begun selling our compost to other farms in the area. A business-minded approach has allowed me to carve out a livelihood for my family from land that previously provided us with only a precarious subsistence.

Perhaps more importantly, the training boosted my confidence and showed me that I could succeed by pursuing innovative, business-savvy farming. I believe this is a viable option for other young Ugandans. If Luganda does not yet have a word for “entrepreneur,” then I figure it's my generation's charge to invent one.

STRYDE: EMPOWERING RURAL YOUTH

Faced with widespread unemployment, a growing number of rural youth in East Africa are migrating to urban areas. Those who stay often lack the skills and knowledge to take advantage of available opportunities. Recognizing that rural youth employment is critical to economic growth, food security and political stability, TechnoServe has partnered with The MasterCard Foundation to empower young women and men through the Strengthening Rural Youth Development through Enterprise (STRYDE) program.

STRYDE is a four-year initiative that aims to help 15,000 rural youth in Kenya, Rwanda and

Uganda transition to economic independence by 2015. Young women and men ages 18 to 30 take part in a three-month comprehensive training program, focusing on personal effectiveness, financial literacy, career skills and entrepreneurship. A nine-month follow-up program provides business mentorship and links to employment and financing.

More than 12,000 young people have completed the training since 2011, and more than 70 percent are engaged in economic activities, including agriculture, entrepreneurship and employment. On average, participants have more than doubled their monthly income.

Updates: Our Impact Around the World

HAITI

PRESIDENT CLINTON VISITS COFFEE WORK

President Bill Clinton recently visited the Haiti Coffee Academy, where TechnoServe has helped build a nursery and is working with several partners to make coffee an engine of development for the country. Haiti once produced half the world's coffee, but production and exports have been plunging for decades. The Clinton Foundation teamed up with American coffee company La Colombe, TechnoServe and other partners to establish the academy as a model coffee farm and training center that will help thousands of farmers improve crop yields, coffee quality and access to markets. TechnoServe program staff gave President Clinton a tour of the nursery, which holds 52,000 disease-resistant seedlings and the promise of a revitalized Haitian coffee sector.



President Clinton at the Haiti Coffee Academy



Fara Sánchez



Nyima Dhondup

Haiti photo by Max W. Orenstein / Clinton Foundation

GUATEMALA

TAKING OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS

With its rustic decor and the smell of handmade sausages, Restaurante Katok in Tecpán, Guatemala, lives up to its name — katok means “come in” in the local indigenous language. General manager Fara Sánchez greets restaurant patrons with a warm smile that belies a busy schedule overseeing 80 employees and running two side operations — an artisan condiment business and a small-scale slaughterhouse. The 28-year-old took over managing duties last year from her father, who ran the family business for 30 years. “TechnoServe has helped us to transition between generations,” Fara says. In 2013, Katok was one of 62 Guatemalan

INDIA

PRESERVING TIBETAN CULTURE

Nyima Dhondup, 22, watched many of his Tibetan peers in Mundgod, India, leave in search of better opportunities overseas. But with training and support from

TechnoServe, Nyima launched a cybercafe in his community instead. More than 100,000 Tibetan refugees live in settlements across India, where the preservation of Tibetan culture is threatened by widespread unemployment and the out-migration of young Tibetans. As part of our efforts to create sustainable economic opportunities in Tibetan settlements, TechnoServe selected 60 entrepreneurs, including Nyima, to receive intensive business training and mentoring. Now, Nyima says, “I would like to set up cafes in other settlements, or be able to invest money in other Tibetan businesses.”

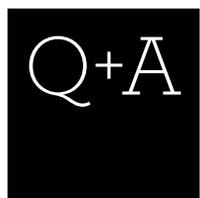
ACCOLADES



A Champion of Social Progress

TechnoServe was named a finalist in the Annual CLASSY Awards — America's largest social impact awards ceremony — for our coffee work in Ethiopia, where we're helping farmers establish coffee-processing businesses, adopt best practices and connect with leading coffee companies. More than 150,000 farmers in Ethiopia have benefited from this work, selling their coffee for a 25 percent higher price.

Our Supporters: Lynn and Martin Bloom



University of Connecticut professors Lynn and Martin Bloom recently chose to create a charitable gift annuity with TechnoServe. Lynn, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of English, conducts writing research and writes creative nonfiction. Martin, Professor Emeritus of Social Work, writes about preventive health care and creates collage art. The couple lives in Ashford, Connecticut, and supports numerous charitable initiatives.



Q: Why did you decide to support TechnoServe?

A: TechnoServe meets all our criteria for a well-run, significant charity. When we are interested in a category of donations, we consult Charity Navigator and respect the 4-star ratings to help us make our choice. We particularly look for the organization’s principles, transparency of accounting and efficiency: what percentage of the money collected actually goes to the work that the organization does.

Q: Have you traveled to any of the places where TechnoServe works?

A: We were in Guatemala several years ago and became aware of the ways in which access to finance was helping enterprising women become self-supporting. What struck us was the intelligence and the energy of the women doing this work, as well as the beauty of their textiles, true works of art for which they receive far too little compensation.

Q: Why did you choose to start a charitable gift annuity?

A: We have been contributing to a wide variety of charities ever since we finished graduate school — at first, relatively small amounts that reflected our income at the time, and gradually increasing. As we get older, we are giving larger charitable gift annuities so as to continue giving back to society, while still feeling secure in receiving an annual income. Charitable gift annuities are a win-win situation — feeling good about doing some good. Giving to TechnoServe is a way to help resilient people whom we might never meet personally, and thereby contribute to some small degree in the ongoing effort to improve the family of humankind.

Support TechnoServe Through Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity with TechnoServe can provide you with a regular income during your retirement years, while helping hardworking men and women in the developing world break the cycle of poverty.

HOW IT WORKS: You make a donation of cash or stocks to TechnoServe. In return, we pay you (and another beneficiary, if you choose) a fixed amount

each year for the rest of your life. You may also receive an immediate income tax deduction.

It’s a gift that benefits your future and future generations. Please contact Daniel Kemp at 202-650-5720 for more information.



TechnoServe has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for eight consecutive years.

DONATE

To donate or learn about other ways to give, visit technoserve.org/donatenow.

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Since its inception in 1968, TechnoServe’s work to create business solutions to poverty has benefited millions of people in more than 40 countries. TechnoServe is a private, nonsectarian, nonprofit organization, as defined by IRS code section 501(c)(3). TechnoServe is a member of Global Impact. Contributions to TechnoServe are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

