

How do Growing Projects Work?

Field Crop Model

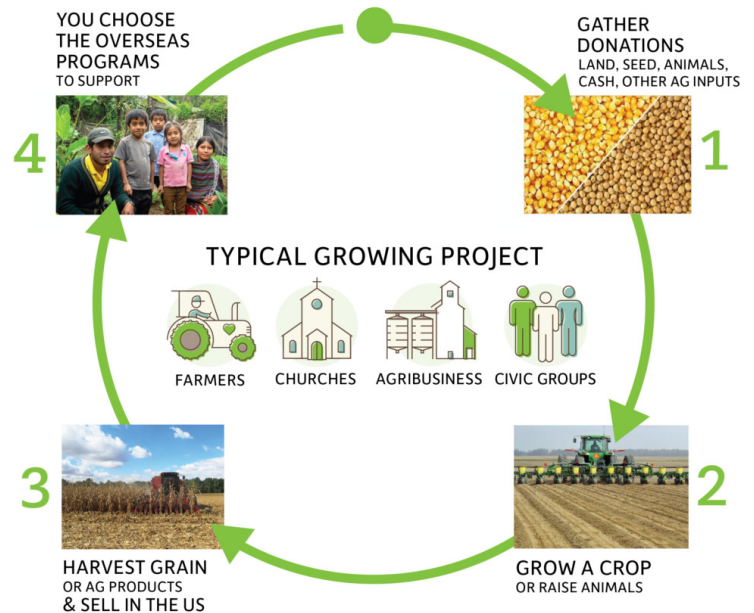


Growing Hope Globally gives US communities the opportunity to respond to global hunger from right where you are through our unique Growing Project model. Growing Projects leverage local assets and create space for learning, spiritual growth, and community building.

Gathering Donations: Most crop-based Growing Projects begin with the donation of the use of a piece of land and the commitment of one or more farmers to grow a crop. The field may be owned by a farmer, landowner, or a local business. It is important to know the number of acres being farmed and what inputs are required so that others in the community can be invited to participate. Inputs might include seed, fertilizer, spraying services, grain hauling, drying, and more. Donations can be in-kind or cash. Churches, civic groups, and agribusinesses are usually happy to help when they know what is needed.

Growing a Crop: The farmers in the project coordinate with the landowners to grow and care for the crop. If multiple fields are being farmed, it is a good idea to hold a pre-planting meeting to determine who will care for each field. Some groups hold an event or worship service in the spring to pray for farmers and for a bountiful crop.

Harvest: Farmers harvest the crop and may work with others to haul, dry and sell it. Coordination is particularly important if there are multiple fields. The local grain handling facility may be willing to contribute by waiving drying or storage fees or offering a premium price. Some groups hold a harvest celebration. It can be a good opportunity to raise community awareness of the project, and encourage non-farmers to learn more about agriculture. It is also a great way to thank donors and members of the community that supported the project.



Choose the Overseas Program to Support: Visit GrowingHopeGlobally.org/programs for a list of all of the overseas programs currently in need of funding. You decide how your donations are used. Donations can be given to support specific programs or church related partners, or the overall work of Growing Hope Globally. It is important to let supporters know how their donations made an impact through e-mails, thank you notes, or newsletters.

If you are interested in making a lasting difference for people suffering from hunger, please contact us. We want to welcome you and provide you with support to help your project be as successful as possible. Together we are living out our faith, loving our neighbors, and growing lasting solutions to hunger.

Huron County MI Growing Project

Field Crop Model Example

In Pigeon, MI, a group of 18 farmers works together to grow crops on 350 acres of farmland. By working together and each person doing their part, this group has been able to raise more than \$1.8 Million in support of Growing Hope Globally!

The group got started in 2003 with 32 acres that the Laker High School FFA used as a land lab. They decided that the Growing Project team would plant and harvest the crop, and the FFA Chapter could still use it as a learning opportunity. Now, the Growing Project markets the crop and uses the proceeds to fund Growing Hope's mission, minus a rental payment to offset the income loss for FFA.

The group has since expanded their efforts to do these kinds of small-parcel projects throughout the county. They farm municipal property that is not being utilized, other property is donated by businesses, churches, agribusiness, and even the hospital, which is holding land for an expansion. Most of the parcels are 7 to 15 acres and are farmed rent-free. The owners don't have to worry about weeds and the farmers care for the land just like they would their own ground. Several different churches support the cause. Their goal has always been to have all the seed, fertilizer, chemicals, labor and land donated. Each spring the Growing Project team meets to decide what is being planted where and who is farming each piece of ground. They meet again in fall to coordinate harvest. Each person does their part and the results are truly inspiring!



Getting Started

1. Reach out to us at Info@GrowingHopeGlobally.org to get connected with a local staff person. You can also find upcoming opportunities to learn more at GrowingHopeGlobally.org/events
2. Brainstorm a list of names of other people in your community that might be willing to be part of your Growing Project Team. Farmers are critical to the success of a project, but so are people that can manage outreach efforts, track receipts, seek donations, or coordinate events like harvest celebrations. Get together and see what ideas you can develop.
3. Once you have a plan for field(s) you are going to plant, and have a list of the necessary inputs for your crop, reach out to community members for support. Churches, local agribusinesses, agricultural associations and civic groups are all good places to start.
4. Most importantly, get a crop planted this year. Nothing creates excitement like a plan that is in motion, especially when it is going to support a great cause.