

How do Growing Projects Work?

Specialty Crops or Products 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.

Gather Donations: Most specialty crop or product Growing Projects begin with the establishment of a Growing Project leadership team and the commitment of one or more farmers to donate a portion of their produce. Depending on the crop or product and the type of inputs required, other community members might be invited to participate by donating. Inputs might include seed, fertilizer, spraying, crop care, harvesting, processing or storage. Donations can be in-kind or cash. Churches, civic groups, and agribusinesses are usually happy to help when they know what is needed.

Harvesting, Processing, and Selling:

Some specialty crops or products need to be processed further after harvest while others are consumed raw. The easiest way for the wider community to get engaged might be by joining in the harvest or processing of the product. In other cases, the best way to be involved is by purchasing the final product. Sales might take place at a special event, farmers market, school sporting event, or even after a church service.

Celebrate and Educate: Growing Projects provide a wonderful opportunity to educate the larger community about how their food is produced. A Farm Day, Harvest Celebration or other special event can be held to generate continued interest in the Growing Project and encourage non-farmers to learn more about agriculture. Depending on the crop or product, there may be opportunities for participants to get their hands dirty as they volunteer for 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.

Yakima WA Growing Project

Specialty Crop or Products Model Example

The “Sharing the Harvest” growing project in Yakima, WA is making a global difference while participants enjoy delicious Washington Apples. The process begins with several generous apple growers committing to share a portion of their harvest.

In August, Growing Project leaders send pre-purchase order forms for ten-pound bags of apples to churches across the Pacific Northwest. Three varieties are offered: Fuji, Gala and Golden Delicious. Each bag is \$10.

On a Saturday in late October, members of all the participating churches come together at Wiley Heights Covenant Church in Yakima to sort and bag the apples. The day includes a meal, cider pressing, activities for children and the opportunity to enjoy some time in the country.

Participants transport apples back to their home churches where individuals can pick up their pre-ordered apples the next day. The proceeds go to a Growing Hope program selected by the leadership team. For many years, the group supported a program in Central African Republic that included training for fruit growers.

Other Growing Projects have had success with maple syrup, honey, almonds, popcorn, olive oil, and sweet corn. Consider the resources you have available in your community and let your imagination soar with the possibilities.



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. Get together and see what ideas you can develop.
3. Once you have a plan and a list of the necessary inputs for your crop or product, 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 started this year. Nothing creates excitement like a plan that is in motion, especially when it is going to support a great cause.