



**GROWING
HOPE**
G L O B A L L Y

"Planting New Ideas for Your Growing Project"

Growing Projects are at the heart of Growing Hope Globally's commitment to growing lasting solutions to hunger. Below you can find a few ideas and resources from Growing Project Leaders on how they planted new ideas to enhance their Growing Project. This is just a sample of the ways that Growing Projects are innovating, but let them be inspiration for you on how you can plant your own new ideas for your Growing Project.

♥ **Offer a Blessing of the Seed Service - "I can't imagine starting out [the year] without the Blessing of the Seed!" - Patty Hurwitz (Myersville, Maryland Growing Project)**

- **Benefits:** It is an opportunity for fellowship for those participating in the Growing Project to kick-off the year. A lot of donations come in after the Blessing of the Seed.
- **Encouragements:** Invite participating churches. Use social media, flyers in local businesses, and local media to promote. Invite Growing Hope Globally Staff and Guests to participate.
- **Resource:** Blessing of the Seed (For more specific examples contact Growing Hope Globally Staff)
 - Welcome
 - Role Call of Farmers, Churches and Sponsors
 - Explanation of the Program
 - Hymns and Praise Music
 - Scripture
 - Short Meditation
 - Litany of Prayers
 - Location: Barn or Field
 - Fellowship with Food Afterwards

♥ **Visit an Overseas Program - "It was really motivating to meet in person those who are benefitting from these Growing Projects."- Ann Snipes (Yakima, Washington Growing Project)**

- **Benefits:** It makes the world smaller. It lets Growing Projects see where their resources go. It motivates Growing Projects to not only keep going, but work to expand. It offers an opportunity to hear stories first-hand to share with others to get them interested in starting or joining a Growing Project.
- **Encouragements:** Trips are well planned with a commitment towards learning and safety in mind. It is an amazing experience that will give you a better perspective. It helps to see how the Holy Spirit works through Growing Projects to bless Overseas Programs and how Overseas Programs bless Growing Projects in return.
- **Resources:** Visit the website to find out more about upcoming trips with Growing Hope Globally. <https://www.GrowingHopeGlobally.org/get-involved/visit-a-program/>

♥ **Get Inputs Donated - "It all adds up!" - Kenton Hofer (Mitchell, South Dakota Growing Project)**

- **Benefits:** It has the ability to impact your Growing Project and lead to more resources.
- **Encouragements:** Beck's makes it very easy with a one page document. Find out if there is leftover or discarded seed from local dealers who might be able to share it.
- **Resource:** This is a list of relationships that have yielded good results for Growing Projects. In addition local relationships and donations often make the biggest impact.
 - **Beck's Hybrids** offers \$60/acre for corn seed up to 60 acres and \$30/acre for soybean seed up to 80 acres per customer/Growing Project. A simple application must be completed. Contact your Growing Hope Globally staff person to learn more.
 - **Cargill** works with local communities around their facilities through Cargill Cares Councils. These councils are made up of local employees who review grant requests and make funding decisions and also facilitate volunteer opportunities for Cargill staff. Contact your local Cargill facility to learn more.
 - **CoBank** offers their Sharing Success matching program for donations of up to \$10,000 made by their customers to non-profit organizations. The application period is between April 1 and September 30 each year.
 - **Corteva Agriscience** invests in local communities by offering grant opportunities or seed donations for local Growing Projects. Growing Hope Globally has a Memorandum of Understanding with Corteva, supporting our efforts. Contact your local dealer to learn more.
 - **Michigan Agricultural Commodities** offers a matching donation for gifts of grain delivered to their locations for Growing Hope Globally.
 - **Nutrien Ag Solutions** does not have an official program to which Growing Projects can apply for support. However, specific locations have been incredibly generous in offering seed and other support.

♥ **Expand your Growing Project - "You have to keep thinking of new ideas all the time!" - Steve Seif (Byron Center, MI Growing Project) - "We all have different gifts and we need to figure out how to help each other. People are willing to help they just don't always know how or it is out of their comfort zone" - LaRaine Salmon (Moline, MI Growing Project)**

- **Benefits:** It keeps things going to diversify (e.g. dairy, chickens, beef sales, turkey) and it expands the opportunities for resources to be raised. It helps your Growing Project from not going stale.
- **Encouragements:** Meet several times a year to come up with new ideas, new people to reach out to, and other ways to engage. Connect with those who are not farmers as well. Some participation may be less about raising money, but instead about building community. By diversifying you can help people not burn out. Be creative in supporting the farmers. Find fundraising opportunities that don't ask more of the same people (e.g. cake auction, restaurant donations, sub sales, etc.).

♥ **Partner with Agribusiness - "We have gotten remarkable donations that have helped our [Growing Project]." Kevin Nelson (Ottawa, Illinois Growing Project)**

- **Benefits:** It helps Growing Project in raising more resources after developing relationships.
- **Encouragements:** Find what local agribusiness might have foundations or giving initiatives. Begin a relationship with someone in agribusiness before you look for donations. Show your passion and find someone else with a similar passion.

♥ **Utilizing Unexpected Land - "The answer is always 'no' unless you ask." - Dale Goodman (Seeds for Hope, Northeast Iowa Growing Project)**

- **Benefits:** It can become a touchpoint to get other farmers involved and often those we do not think of at first glance.
- **Encouragement:** The land is out there that might not be utilized! Talk to farmers to find out what land might be available (e.g. land a camp or church owns, cemetery land, etc.), as they are well aware of local land availability. Find ways to capitalize on the character of that land. As an example, EWALU Camp, which donated land that started a Growing Project, offered kids the opportunity to hold back when it came to purchasing more candy from the canteen and instead to donate that money to the Growing Project.

♥ **Other Resources available at www.GrowingHopeGlobally.org to help plant new Ideas for your Growing Project**

- FFA Resources
- Global Farmer Experience and Bible Study
- Information on Our Annual Summer Celebration
- Prayer Resources
- Success Stories and videos of our Overseas Programs

♥ **A Prayer for the Growing Season - Karon Speckman, (Hartsburg-Columbia, Missouri Growing Project)**

Almighty God,

As we enter the planting season, be with all busy farmers and workers as they hurry to beat rains. Help them slow down and stay safe. Help them slow down to see your beauty in the fields, trees and streams. Help them slow down to show love and appreciation to their families and friends.

As we enter the planting season, be with nonfarmers so that they appreciate the hard work of farmers and their families. Help them be thankful for their daily food. Help them be thankful for fields, orchards, vineyards and livestock. Help them be thankful for rain that may ruin their picnic but be a lifesaver for a farmer.

As we enter the planting season, walk beside all of us at Growing Hope Globally each day as we strive to feed not only our families but also families all over the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

**"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:18**