

**Project at a Glance:**

Partnering with CEFA to help equip its training center with a truck, a generator and a freshwater well.

**Location:** Central African Republic

**Project ID:** FOWM 196

**Goal:** \$75,000



Central Africans are fighting hunger and malnutrition

**Enabling Central African Farmers to Achieve Food and Nutritional Security**

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**Summary**

The Center for Experimentation and Formation in Agriculture (CEFA) has been established in the Central African Republic through the efforts of many, including Covenant missionary Roy Danforth.

The aim of CEFA is to help the region of the Mambere Kadei in the Central African Republic (CAR) achieve food and nutrition security, as well as to have an impact throughout the surrounding region in CAR and Cameroon.

CEFA will serve as a central location to conduct agricultural research relevant to small farmers. These small farmers are food insecure and are unwilling or unable to risk their time and efforts on unproven or experimental crops or practices that could fail.

CEFA will set up trials of new varieties of staple crops, vegetables, beans, fruits, animal husbandry, and fish culture in order to determine their suitability to local conditions. Successful varieties that partner farmers identify as valuable will be introduced to communities via farmer cooperatives. Farmer-to-farmer networking will be encouraged with the help



With the help of CEFA, Central African families can achieve food security.

of CEFA extension staff.

CEFA will also teach lessons on Christian principles for development, modeling the methodology of Community Health Evangelism (CHE), which integrates evangelism and discipleship with community based development. As the CEFA center is located in a rural area, we are seeking the aid of FOWM supporters to help with transportation, electricity, and water.

**Background**

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a country blessed with plenty of rain and fertile soil, yet it remains one of the least developed countries in the world. The majority of the region's population is made up of subsistence farmers, primarily engaged in growing cassava and peanuts with a variety of green, leafy vegetables produced in small amounts. Besides farming, men are engaged in artisanal gold and diamond mining, forestry and the production of cash crops such as coffee and cocoa. However, the production for these cash crops has been seriously hampered by disease, the lack of trade,

poor roads, and difficult access to profitable markets. The region of Gamboula has been severely hit by the recent economic crisis. When added to chronic underdevelopment in the region, it has resulted in emergency levels of malnutrition among children under five.

Since their evacuation from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) in 1997, Covenant missionaries have been working alongside missionaries from other sending organizations in CAR. After serving twenty years in DR Congo, Covenant missionaries Roy and Aleta Danforth are now ministering in the Central African Republic since 1998.

Aleta, a nurse, has primarily focused on compassion and friendship ministry among the Fulani people while Roy, an agriculturalist, has been working with Fulani, Bayaka (Pygmy), and other Central African tribal groups in the area of agricultural development. Roy's ministry has centered on agriculture and discipleship training, through the efforts of the Gamboula Agroforestry Center, which he established. Since the Agroforestry Center's work began twelve years ago, the program has reached out to over 100 villages in western CAR emphasizing agroforestry and Biblical principals. While the main focus of the agroforestry program has been the introduction of fruit trees to help with nutrition, farmers have been asking for help in improving their staple crops, vegetable production, and the rearing of livestock. In response to the needs of small farmers in Central Africa, CEFA was created in partnership with Roy Danforth, the Evangelical Covenant Church, Central Africans, and others interested in serving the needs of CAR.

CEFA was born out of the need for experimentation and trials for improved crop production and training for Central African farmers to learn and put into practice farming systems that will lead to healthy, well-fed families that are able to meet their own food needs. Once the center is established the work of CEFA can begin in earnest.

### Objectives

This project will provide:

**One medium-sized transport truck.** It is a 5-ton Dyna truck that will haul building and agricultural supplies as well as transport people in order to build



CEFA bases its programs not just on research, but also includes training



Many Pygmy families have now planted their own fruit trees

the center and to assist with training via village cooperatives.

**One 5-kilowatt generator** that will supply energy needs to the CEFA office, the training center, and to staff homes. This generator will provide electricity for lights, appliances, power tools, internet service, and the water pump.

**Solar equipment.** In order to save fuel costs during times the generator is off, solar power is also needed in order to maintain basic services in the CEFA office, such as, lights and internet.

**A drilled water well and a pump (with motor)** installed to fill a water tower that will then make water available to the center for the housing, garage, and plant nursery needs.

### Anticipated Impact

The anticipated impact of CEFA is to transform the lives of Central Africans, from one of hopelessness and hunger to one of a future full of possibilities for health and happiness and a solid faith in Jesus Christ.

There are few functioning non-government organizations (NGOs) in the country and even fewer with a focus on agriculture. Researching and experimenting with new methods of farming and raising animals, trials involving new plant and animal species, all for the eventual training of Central Africans, can have a tremendous impact on the improvement of food security and health not just for today, but for future generations. This training is not only focused on agricultural principles, but also places importance on training Central Africans to work cooperatively as a community; to have ownership of their problems and to be the principle players in working out the needed solutions. Spiritually, they will be learning about who Jesus is and how their belief in Him can transform their lives, not just personally but for the betterment of



Transportation is hard to come by in CAR

the community. Local churches will be equipped and empowered to reach out to the community in new ways via agriculture development projects.

**Testimonies**

**Fulani woman:** Her child was malnourished and needed hospitalization. She arrived at the Gamboula hospital where she knew she could get help. Her family no longer had enough cattle to supply milk or yogurt to her child because armed bandits had taken many of the Fulani's cattle. Her child got help with nutritious foods that the agroforestry program had grown and contributed to a nutrition center for malnourished



Potable water and electricity are needed



A group of Fulani women at a teaching session

children. More importantly, this woman, along with other women with sick children at the hospital, went to the nutrition garden and learned from the garden staff how to raise vegetables and beans. Once her child was well, she returned to her village, and, excited about what she had learned, she formed a cooperative of Fulani women and has since started teaching them what she had learned – to help prevent malnourishment from happening again. She is already putting CEFA principles in practice.

**Bernard Bekosso:** His fervor in his remote village is to reach the Fulani for Christ. The Fulani are difficult to witness to, so he decided to open up his tailor shop to teach Fulani how to use a sewing machine. As he helps teach them a new trade, he shares Christ with them on a personal level. On hearing about the agroforestry program, Bernard decided to also reach out to the Fulani by helping them with fruit trees and gardening. He formed an agroforestry cooperative with members of his church and Fulani from the community.

The Fulani respect him because he has a heart to help them. Assisting them has earned him the right to present literature and Scripture recording openly to them and to even read from the Bible about Jesus. The Fulani are open to his questions and to his stories about Jesus. They are also eager to try new means of raising food other than livestock. The Fulani in this village are a people ripe for the harvest.



Bernard Bekosso (left) has great friendships with the Fulani

**Use of Funds**

Purchase of a 5-ton Dyna truck	\$45,000
Purchase of a 5 kilowatt generator	\$ 6,000
Purchase of solar equipment	\$ 4,000
Purchase of a drilled water well and pump	\$20,000

**TOTAL \$75,000**

## Friends of World Mission

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## Follow-Up/ Evaluation

As soon as the funds are raised, they will be used to purchase this equipment. A progress report will be submitted in one year.

## Affiliations and Partnerships

**Covenant missionaries Roy and Aleta Danforth.** They serve in the Central African Republic in the areas of agriculture and ministries of compassion.

**Covenant World Mission.** The World Mission Committee, which belongs to the Executive Board of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), approved this CEFA project in March of 2009.

**Covenant World Relief.** Has partnered with the former Gamboula Agroforestry program in the past.

**Women's Ministries of the ECC.** Women Ministries has partnered financially with a project to help women and children receive training in family care, nutrition, and gardening.

**Local Covenant churches and individuals.** Local churches and individuals that had previously partnered with the Gamboula Agroforestry program are now partnering with the CEFA project. Local Covenant churches that are involved in FRB also partner with CEFA.

**Foods Resource Bank (FRB).** The ECC is a contributing member of FRB which has supported the Gamboula Agroforestry program over the last several years.

**New Mission Systems International (NMSI).** Through missionary partners, NMSI continues to support the work of CEFA in the area of nutrition and health.

**HOPE International (Canada).** HOPE has supported agroforestry work among the Bayaka in previous years.

CEFA is actively seeking other organizations within CAR and in North America with which to partner.



CEFA's goal is healthy families.

## To contribute to this project

Please send checks to: Friends of World Mission, 5101 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, IL 60625. Please note on memo line: FOWM Project 196.

## Covenant World Mission

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