

Title: Using Sustainable Appropriate Technologies to Help Subsistence Farmers in Developing Countries and How ECHO Can Help

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Abstract:

Using Sustainable Appropriate Technologies to help subsistence farmers in developing countries and how ECHO can help. The vision statement of ECHO is "To bring glory to God and a blessing to mankind by using science and technology to help the poor." Over the past 27 years ECHO has fulfilled this vision by specializing in helping others (missionaries, churches, non-profit organizations, national development workers, Peace Corps volunteers, and scientists) to be more effective and innovative in their work with the poor. This power point presentation will briefly introduce the audience to our Tropical Agriculture Training Center in SW Florida and describe the various ways ECHO is finding to carry out this vision from its subtropical farm in SW Florida: (1) Researching and providing current documentation and training in sustainable technologies appropriate for developing communities and incorporating representative working models of Appropriate Technologies into ECHO's Global Farm. (2) Operation of a seed bank of underutilized tropical plants that are not widely known but have special potential for some difficult farming conditions. (3) Development of an educational farm that has the widest collection in the United States of both common and lesser-known tropical crops. (4) Offering specialized training (internships, for-credit courses, informal study) for those doing or preparing for such work. (5) Seeking out and presenting to this "overseas network" new options that they might consider in their work with the poor.