

Association of Agricultural Technicians of Limbe (ATAL)



Department: North

The Association of Agricultural Technicians of Limbe (ATAL) is an organization located in Calumette, in the North Department. Its objective is to promote community reforestation and increase the productivity of local farmers. They have also developed a small womens micro-lending program.



What can other communities learn from ATAL?

- * Tree nursery management and reforestation
- * Starting up womens micro-credit programs

The farmers were expected to give a certain amount of seeds back to ATAL in order to allow it to reach even more farmers the next season.

ATAL also includes a small micro-credit program for women in the community. In light of the lack of access to credit, ATAL reinvested some of the profits from the nursery to give out small loans with very low interest rates to 5 women at a time. Thus far, ATAL has lent money to over 60 women to start or reinforce their small businesses. ATAL hopes to scale up this small lending program.

It is important to note that ATAL has also begun to branch out and scale up their activities beyond their community. It has established partnerships with community tree nurseries across the commune, and has formed a Federation with rural organizations across the commune.





What can other communities learn from ATAL?

ATAL is clearly skilled at tree nursery management and reforestation, as this is the basis of their organisation. Their knowledge is extensive and built by many years of practical experience. They also have a great deal of knowledge in improved agricultural techniques, especially on cultures such as yams and beans.

With its women's group, ATAL has begun to experiment with its own model of community micro-credit within women's cooperatives.

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