

“Small Farm” SolarFlex Dryer at SOFDI, Western Kenya

Sponsored by A Better World, AG, a Swiss-based charity, this dryer is part of their School Outreach Program. They are drying African Leafy Vegetables (ALVs) that include Amaranth, Black Night Shade, Crotalaria, Jute Mallow and Spider Plant. These are the vegetables whose supply is very low during the dry season, but they are high in micro-nutrients, have medicinal benefits and are resistant to pests and diseases.



As a strategy to promote the consumption of dried vegetables, they are intensifying drying during the rainy season when the supply of the vegetables is high and packaging for storage and distribution during the dry season when supply is highly depressed.

The dried vegetables will be distributed to parents, children and farmers during the dry period. <https://sofdi.com/>



SoyaKit Pilot Project Launched in Ghana

Sponsored by MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Assoc.) this project is tied in with their GROW (Greater Rural Opportunities for Women) program in Northern Ghana. www.meda.org



In May, MM specialist Hart Jansson, arrived along with 30 SoyaKits which were previously consolidated in Accra. In the town of Wa, eleven trainers were trained in the use of the SoyaKit, to make about 7 L of soymilk per hour, and also derivatives such as yogurt, tofu and porridge. Some of these trainers then began a schedule of each training about 4 or 5 home-based entrepreneurs. This will be done over the course of two months, leading up to the dry season, following this current farming season, when they will be more focused on this new home-based side business. These farmer / entrepreneurs are each paying about \$150 for their kits, which is approximately half of their expected “retail” value when available commercially in future. Each SoyaKit contains 12 components, including several key items such as manual grinder, heat retention cooking

bags, commercial grade nylon filter bags, food grade plastic container (HDPE) and other required small-scale food processing items. Many of the kit components can also be used for other food processing.

The SoyaKit was developed with sponsorship from long-term MM supporter, Alpro CVA, Europe’s leading soyfoods producer. www.alpro.com

Three SolarFlex Dryers for Haiti School Project

Sponsored by The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, this project will function as a complement to the new school initiative with Sr. Maria Marciano, a well-known and much-loved missionary. She was recently awarded an honorary doctorate from Marquette University in Wisconsin. The school, which has 18 classrooms for 480 children was recently completed in the mountainous area in Tiroly, near the border with the Dominican Republic. The area has no electricity, and the local population of about 15,000 previously had only one four room school. The new school is equipped with solar panels for lighting but little or no power for other electrical needs. The three new “Small Farm” models of dryers, which will be installed by September, will be used to dry various types of fruits and vegetables to allow some food storage in the absence of refrigeration and freezers.

