

Assessing the Potential for Establishing 4-H in Belize to Preserve Agricultural Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

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Olivia Murphy-Sweet

Who am I?

- 2016 Graduate from The Pennsylvania State University
 - Major in Agricultural Extension and Education
 - Minor in International Agriculture



1,732 miles
later and a
little help
from Penn
State...



What is this project?

- A REAL World Application
 - Integrating classroom practices to research objectives
- Examining the NEED for Agriculture Education on a Global Level
 - Connecting Youth to the Community
- Creating University and Outreach Partnerships
 - CELA Belize
 - Mopan Technical High School
 - National 4-H Center of Belize in Belmopan

What is this project?

- **Conducting research to see:**

- Youth's prior knowledge of agriculture
- Youth's interests in agriculture
- Feasibility of 4-H program establishment



What were the steps/ methodology ?

- Interview with current 4-H club leaders and members in Belize
- Interview a minimum of six community leaders in San Jose Succotz
- Conduct a focus group with local youth in San Jose Succtoaz
- Conduct a focus group with community leaders in San Jose Succotz
- Create a research reflection blog
- Observation of an existing 4-H club meeting of an existing club

I became an investigator...



What I found:

- Lack of a foundation in Agriculture Education in communities that **wanted more information**
- **Huge support** from the community and teachers to implement a youth program
- Leaders in the community who were **READY** to initiate this program

Example Plan to Initiate 4-H Program

Initiation of Agricultural Youth Program in San Jose Succotz

Target local community leaders and members that have indigenous agriculture knowledge to become leaders.

Invite students from San Jose Succotz and Benque to participate in a agriculture program

Create an Agriculture Summer Workshop to gain interest and support initiative for youth.

Reach out to the Belize National 4H Organization to help in creation of year-long program

Create a curriculum for youth based on their interests in agriculture that is to be used year round.

Utilize local community leaders to participate in selection of curriculum based on need in the community.

Share knowledge with other communities to help initiate their own programs



Outcome of the research?

- Creation of a logic model showing the impact of the implementation that the 4-H could have on a community
- Creating connections within different demographics on the universal topic of agriculture
- Understanding desired key agricultural topics:
 - *Sustainability*
 - *Food security*
 - *Nutrition*
- Personal growth through reflection
 - *Oh So Sweet Mission Blog*

What's
next?!



Traveling to Senegal for my 27 Month
commitment in the Peace Corps as a
Sustainable Agriculture Agent!

Want to
connect?

- Contact me through:



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