ECHO: NETWORKING GLOBAL HUNGER SOLUTIONS

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The purpose of the poster is to inform readers about ECHO and the services that they provide to development workers in the tropics.

ECHO, Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization, is a non-profit Christian organization based in North Fort Myers, Florida. ECHO’s mission is to prevent world hunger through the networking of ideas, information and seed to agricultural workers.

ECHO is a working tropical farm, demonstration area, and training and resource center. On the farm, training, study and tours take place for those interested in learning more about tropical plants and techniques that can provide solutions to the problem of world hunger.

The main training program at ECHO is the intern program. Six college graduates per year with an interest in working overseas work at Peace Corps level wages to receive practical education and training in many topics such as plant propagation, grafting, extension techniques and appropriate technologies.

ECHO also allows students, both from universities and development workers from the field to come and utilize ECHO’s resources such as the library, seed bank and demonstration areas. The study program is flexible and students may come for as short or long a time as they care.

ECHO also provides technical information to development workers overseas through books, publications, CD-ROMs and their Internet site, www.echonet.org. ECHO’s main source of information is their technical quarterly bulletin, *ECHO Development Notes* or *EDN.* *EDN* highlights appropriate techniques and plants for poor farmers with limited resources to try.

An annual conference takes place each year at ECHO in November, comprising of about 200 students, scientists, Peace Corps workers, missionaries and other development workers from all around the world. Much networking and sharing of ideas and experiences takes place at the conference, as well as practical workshops.

ECHO also maintains a seed bank of under-utilized tropical crops with promise for difficult areas. Trial packets of seed for food, forage and agroforestry are given to development workers to test in their areas.

ECHO is an important organization with a vital task of providing technical agricultural support and innovative ideas to development workers in the field who are often without the kind of resources that ECHO can provide.