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Images for this press release can be found at [www.growbiointensive.org/Senegal](http://www.growbiointensive.org/Senegal)

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**Willits Area Couple Raising Support for Sustainable Farming in West Africa**

*Young farmers from local non-profit to travel to Senegal to deliver tools, supplies and training*

Renee Bussenger and Eric Buteyn are staff members at Ecology Action, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing sustainable agriculture education and based in Willits, CA since 1972. They are seeking funding to travel to Senegal to provide tools, books and training support for a new non-profit organization focused on promoting sustainable agriculture in West Africa.

The new organization, Oasis GROW BIOINTENSIVE (OGB) is based in Senegal and was founded by Lamine Diawara and his wife Ndeye Fatou, both recent alumni of Ecology Action's internship program. Lamine and Fatou are using the education they received from Ecology Action and their extensive network in West Africa to share valuable sustainable farming practices throughout the region. Their goal is to reduce hunger in West Africa by training as many people as possible to grow more of their own food in a truly sustainable way.

In many parts of West Africa, it is difficult to grow food due to high temperatures and little rainfall. Small scale sustainable agriculture can significantly increase food sovereignty in the region, where currently over 90% of food is imported (and thus expensive). The highly efficient, soil-building GROW BIOINTENSIVE sustainable mini-farming system helps farmers responsibly use and conserve the precious rainfall that comes to the area, while improving yields. This system of farming was developed over the last 43 years by Ecology Action ([www.growbiointensive.org](http://www.growbiointensive.org)), the non-profit organization that Eric and Renee work with.

Renee and Eric – trained Biointensive farmers – hope to raise funds to cover the cost of a support visit to OGB this spring, as well as the cost of important tools and educational materials to give to the organization. The training support and supplies will greatly increase OGB's ability to reach and teach those who need it most: the hungry and poor of West Africa.

More information can be found, and tax-deductible donations can be made through the following website:

<http://communityfunded.com/projects/ecologyaction/sustainable-farming-in-west-africa/>

Alternatively checks can be sent to Ecology Action... with "Senegal" in the memo line.