



Women SME Accelerator Programme



MENTEE

Aminata Karankay

CEO, Sorogbema Agricultural Company, Sierra Leone

Aminata Karankay is the CEO of the Sorogbema Agricultural Company. She is a graduate in financial accounting with a diploma in farm finance. Five years ago, her and her family created and registered Sorogbema to work with rural women in Sierra Leone. For almost four years now they have been assisting women to produce marketable food crops for sale through small micro-credit revolving loans. Sorogbema is a limited liability company whose shares have been bought by rural women, and every year profits accruing are shared among shareholders while assisting various communities with some socio-economic needs such as solar electricity and small health grants (only in project communities). It is a grass root organization in Western Sierra Leone that works with community women and assists them in their various agricultural activities ranging from crop production, value addition and marketing and capacity building. Its head office is at Waterloo city, in the Western Rural District. Address is No 72 is Freetown-Waterloo Highway at a community known as Five/Five (55) in Creole language, the most popularly spoken dialect in Sierra Leone. The company is fully registered with the corporate affairs Commission, the District council, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and the farmers' federation of Sierra Leone. Currently, the company works with women in the community to implement self-sponsored village savings and loan associations (VSLAs). It also engages in food-crop production such as rice, cassava, sweet corn, and varieties of vegetables. The company is also involved in processing cassava into gari supplementary food for sale. Waterloo city is about 20Km From Freetown, the main city in Sierra Leone on the main highway from Freetown to Bo city in the Southern region of Sierra Leone. The main occupations of the inhabitants of Waterloo city are farming and small-scale trading and the two sectors attract almost the same number of the youth and women population. However, most of are engaged in both trading and vegetable gardening. Going through the aftermath of CONVID-19 pandemonium, women have recently organized themselves into development-oriented FBO groups supervised by the Sorogbema Agricultural Company.



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Adrienne Mollor

Farmer and Grower-Owner, Ocean Spray Cooperative in Southeastern Massachusetts

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