

LANGUE VIVANTE IIEpreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupeANGLAIS

## Helping rural communities

5 “If you had come here five years ago during this season, you would not have found me”, says Ngor, a small-scale farmer in a small village called Patar. “I used to go away as long as six months of the year to Dakar, hauling loads at construction sites. I don’t have to do that anymore. I can live together with my family and our land gives enough to feed us through the year”.

10 On the dry, rocky landscape of Fatick, the local crops of peanut and millet yield poorly and often fall due to erratic rainfall. Until recently, migration to distant cities was the only way out this predicament. But the harsh necessity of migration has been eased for Ngor ever since he joined YFA (Fatick Young Farmers’ Association), a self-help group formed with assistance from Outreach, a non-governmental organization working for rural development in West Africa. YFA gave Ngor a small loan, which he supplemented with family savings, to cultivate rows of shrubs<sup>1</sup> whose leaves feed his brood of silkworms<sup>2</sup>, which yield a much higher income than peanuts. Other farmers in **his** self-help group have taken loans to buy other farms supplies, livestock and even to finance their children education.

15 Although self-help groups have now become an established part of rural areas in the countries where Outreach operates, getting started was not easy. An Outreach field coordinator remembers the hostility and suspicion with which he was initially greeted in the area. Villagers had earlier been cheated by an NGO that had promised a get-rich-quick scheme and then disappeared with their savings; People were wary of Outreach, and it had to work hard to build trust. Another challenge was the people extreme poverty which made them believe that they did not simply have the resources to improve their situation. Their first question often was : “what will you give us ?”

20 Outreach began in 1992 with an ambitious idea. Instead of distributing aid, it would seek to realize poor rural communities’ potential for creating assets themselves. Convinced that villagers overlook their most powerful resource, their collective strength, Outreach has focused on channeling **this resource** for rural development.

25 The improvement of individuals’ privately owned fields is only one part of Outreach’s watershed program. Villagers who have gained some benefits from soil and water treatment on their lands are now more motivated to work on public lands. They identified for instance which patches of degraded forests on the hill slopes led to erosion. And now, the vigorous regeneration of the natural environment is visible from miles away.

Adapted from Ford Foundation Report, Summer 2002, pp 49-50.

Notes : Shrubs : arbustes

A brood of silkworms : un élevage de vers à soie

To haul loads : travailler comme manœuvre

**I. COMPREHENSION (08 marks)**

**A. Say whether the following statements are true or false and justify your answer by quoting relevant passages from the text (03 marks)**

1. Before he joined YFA Ngor could feed his family without having to leave the village.  
.....
2. The loan Ngor got from YFA was not enough to finance his agricultural project.  
.....
3. Outreach received a warm welcome from the villagers right from the beginning.  
.....

**B. Find in the indicated paragraphs words similar in meaning to the following. (01.5 marks)**

4. difficult situation : ..... (par. 2)	7. money put aside:.....(par.3)
5. a quantity produced: .....(par.2)	8. something of great value: ..... (par.4)
6. confidence : ..... (par. 3)	9. to neglect: ..... (par.4)

**C. Complete the table using information from the text (02.5 marks)**

Outreach challenges	10..... 11.....
Outreach main objective	12.....
Two outreach achievements	13..... 14.....

**D. What do the following words refer to in the text ? (01 mark)**

15. **His**, par. 2 (...other farmers in **his** self-help group....) .....
16. **This resource**, par. 4 (...Outreach has focused on channeling **this resource**....)  
.....

**II COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)**

**A. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the words given in brackets (01.5 marks)**

Before the ..... (to arrive) of Outreach, Ngor and the other villagers were

17

facing a lot of difficulties. The NGO made them become ..... (awareness) that

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united, they were stronger and could achieve ..... (to wonder) things.

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**B. Complete this interview meaningfully with questions and tags. (2.5 marks)**

**Journalist** : I heard that you have decided to leave the village, 20.....?

**Mor** : Yes, I have.

**Journalist** : 21..... ?

**Mor** : Because I can't take care of my family while staying here.

**Journalist** : 22.....?

**Mor** : I have been married for approximately five years.

**Journalist** It's a pity you have to leave your family. If you could earn your living here, you'd stay, 23.....you?

**Mor** : For sure. But unfortunately there is no way out..

**Journalist** : 24..... ?

**Mor** : At my uncle's, Birame. He owns a house at Thiaroye.

**C. Use some of the following connectors to complete this passage (02 marks)**

**Despite – unless – instead of – also – thus – in order to**

Before joining YFA Ngor had a lot of problems to feed his family. .... he had to

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go to town.....get additional money.

26

Outreach helped him improve his situation. He could now stay with his family .....

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being away from them for six months sometimes.

Outreach was convinced that ..... peasants were organised, they could never

28

find a way out.

**II. WRITING Choose ONE topic and write 150 words (6 marks)**

1. Can we develop our country by relying on foreign aid? Give your reasons.
2. Your friend Aladji wants to leave his family and go to Dakar for better living conditions. You are warning him about the dangers of such a decision. Write down your conversation.