

Against adversity

I am a Venezuelan, my country lives a tremendous humanitarian crisis, where 2 million people eat from the garbage and people are dying for the lack of general lines in the sanitary and medical systems.



The military and government go out and kill anyone, you are afraid of the thief and the police because with the current situation of my country, they are robbing the population as well.

For my part I always see things differently, I was never the brightest student in my school, I never felt that they were giving me a quality education and studied on my own things that I liked and that did not seem like my teachers, Came to mention that he even had learning problems.

But I think it's because of the way I see the things that surround me, I always try to see things in the long run and from its root from the most basic to the most complex.

And that way I define myself a little, I always tend to isolate myself from people since I do not sometimes have issues in common to talk about, and that inspires the fact of wanting to participate in the challenge, I think in this way I can express how I am more naturally, and so I can meet more people, so for this reading I hope you enjoy, the story, which is supposed to have already begun.

I always accompany my mother to make purchases, when food and supplies are found, in the middle of January and February of 2016, the situation in my country was quite grievous from the health field, the drought generated a much reduced water management. Which caused a collapse in many hospitals, which unfortunately led to the deaths of people due to lack of medicines and clean facilities.

The natural habitat was destroyed, and the crops stopped coming out with the same quality, adding how difficult it is to get food since the government expropriates everything and distributes it as they want.

At that moment I lived the incredible impact it brings in a society, a drought like the one experienced at that time, and more in a country where I come where there is no measure, to counteract it and support the population with the tremendous crisis that We already have, so much worse the poor quality of life that we already have the majority of the country.

In spite of everything many still do not care this, since despite having protested against this regime to be able to get out of this crisis, it has been useless until now and if you start to protest the military leave with their weapons, and they come to kill To several colleagues.

So when I thought about the drought I thought I could do something and lighten up this other effect against the crisis, but when I asked for help, what I got was mockery.

Many thought that it does not matter, others do not seem to care about the situation in the country and they do not care what happens. They only take it as a joke and it is a bit stubborn, to see the lack of interest in what happens.

At that moment I realized that I was alone, my mother my father and my brother feel that they are the only ones who support me to achieve the things that I propose and as I am.

In those moments is that you have to have a strong mentality because I thought about giving up for many moments but I decided to continue my research and my goals, after a while I read and validate many, many investigations, about the Creation of hydrogels that can retain a lot of water for times of drought, and of biodegradable fertilizers that can be produced industrially.

After spending some time learning about basic chemistry, I got to create my first Polymer, as a theoretical model to solve the drought.

When I try to demonstrate the results of my research, they also made fun of me from colleges, the state, other researchers, and the general public. They did not believe me and thought it was impossible for just 17-year-olds to create an organic, biodegradable Polymer that could be a hydrogel and fertilizer at the same time.

No one paid attention to me despite my attempts, where I tried to go I was rejected was very frustrating I get to feel much more rejected of the common.

So I ignored the criticism and ridicule and started to validate my polymer:

Nevertheless, the first trials did not go very well.

The first experiments did not take more than a few days for the polymer to lose its initial properties.

That demoralized me because it made me think that people were right and that I was wrong, seeing that not more than a week passed for each trial to lose its property.

I was intrigued to know what happened and I could not understand it. I did not have the tools to explain them, it was just someone in their room experimenting, with very few resources.

Only the same resources of my house and the raw material of the waste of the farmers and merchants.

I did not have the computers to know that I was failing, only the things I was learning were applying them.

Until I simply had common sense and I realized that the water was not circulating because of the lack of aeration that gave the samples and being an organic compound that will transmit nutrients. But nothing to transmit or nourish was useless.

So I went out to the community yard where I live and take a plant, and I applied the Polymer and the results were incredible.

I kept replicating them in other plants and small variations and the results were much greater after seeing these results when studying them and draw a conclusion.

My Polimero was almost 15% better than the one sold industrially. That sadly do not come to my country because of its high cost and the low income we have in the population.

With these results I ran to the university to prove them at that time I was studying at the ULA- Universidad de los Andes, and to my surprise despite the tests they kept rejecting me and thought that I invented all the data, and that what I did Was to gain 5 minutes of fame.

Which kept me feeling pretty bad since what I had achieved was something that basically has no cost compared to what is sold today. I offered the patent to the university so that in another drought does not aggravate the crisis that we already lived in the country and thus the university gain prestige, but in spite of what they said to me was:

What you are doing is meaningless and lacks innovation

I went to the state so that for some time in its history of mandate they really helped the population and they never answered or gave me the face.

I went to the university managers mentioning the impact of my Polymer, for the help in the best sanitary and hospital management, with diseases related to dehydration, the improvement in the natural habitat, at the environmental level and they did not respond to me either.

I went to look for the teachers personally and they only wished me luck and it is not really innovative and does not cause any benefits.

From the disappointment I decided to leave (University of the Andes-ULA), and I started on my own to distribute the polymer locally, causing great changes in the community.

But it was not enough that he wanted to make an impact and help the community at a global level, he was very dissatisfied with the small number of people he was helping, and the large number of millions who suffer from the effects of the drought on a daily basis, Millions according to (FAO).

So I was referred to a Bayer event on innovations to improve the quality of life.

And the help they give to keep advancing with ideas, and I thought perfect, I sent the results and what I was doing.

The detail was that I was not the minimum age to compete, which I could leave outside, so I sent the project with the name of my older brother

Since he did meet the minimum age requirement, shortly afterwards Bayer called us and told us that we won the first place.

Contesting with: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru.

The innovation seemed fascinating to them, and they invited us to expose the idea in a forum of innovations for the improvement in the quality, of life.

As I was the age to travel alone and the project I sent him in the name of my brother, he traveled and presented, the idea in the forum to the board of Latin America Bayer.

Which was highly prized. And my brother was named among the most innovative young people in Latin America, which some people think is unfair despite being the one who developed in Polimero, but I do not really care, I know that we are closer to achieving that impact than Both desire at a global level.

At present we are working to improve the polymer and begin its distribution in a much more massive way.

We will shortly present ourselves before the OAS to take and expose innovation against drought and its distribution model for global distribution.

Which I will leave free so that any entrepreneur who is in a population of so low resources with a humanitarian crisis as in which I live, can also have an impact on the community.

Nowadays

I left the (University of the Andes-ULA) since I felt that they were not teaching me anything and It was not a good education.

At the request of my family, I enrolled in the (National Open University-UNA) since its method of education is remote and so I can learn on my own everything I want, if its educational model is as damaged as in the ULA).

My brother is committed to me and is supporting me in creating the franchise to distribute the method globally and so everyone has access to this tool.

After winning the Bayern Young Community I take a little more serious, and I want to show that no matter where you come from or what your income, anyone can make the world a better place, because if I failed I would not regret it, I would regret it Of not having tried.

The challenges at present is the little connection to the internet "Hahaha" although it sounds so pathetic the simple fact of doing any operation with the internet, is very difficult, even the use of social networks is extremely slow, which has cost me to finish Upload the page with the methodology to a server.

Since I learned to program a little to be able to create the page and distribute my method and reach the global level.

I hope even so do not win show that no matter where you are equally you can change the world in a better place and inspire more people to join this cause and make a better world.

Thank you very much for your attention.

And never give up.