

The Riimenze Community Newsletter - August 2022

Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



The monthly newsletter is one of the tools used by the Solidarity Community in Riimenze to share and report on ongoing activities.

Selection and Training of Progressive Lead Farmers

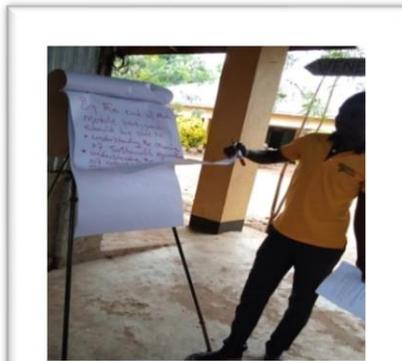
7 Progressive Lead Farmers (PLF) who have been selected from 6 project locations of Riimenze, Makpandu, Kasia, Bazumburu, Bodo and Bazungua received briefing on their roles and responsibilities in the new project that has just started in July 2022 and will end in June 2023. After being briefed the 7 PLF were enrolled on intensive training for 3 days on the concept and techniques of sustainable agriculture including best agronomy practices.

Progressive lead farmers are farmers and members of the community who are willing to transfer the acquired knowledge and skills to other small holder farmers in various fields of agriculture and environmental protection. The other roles of these progressive lead farmers are to facilitate the process of identification and selection of the target beneficiaries for all the project components.

At the request of Solidarity each progressive lead farmer is being selected by his/her own community members in a contested and democratic process.



PLF receive training on cabbage seedling



PLF attending intensive 3 days training...



...on sustainable agriculture and agronomy



... at SAP-R demonstration farm



Saving Scheme Workshop for women – Group photo in Kasia village

Workshop for Women in Saving Scheme

In April 2022, Solidarity extended its support to 100 women in 10 groups in the 6 project locations. Members of each group were trained in business skills and saving scheme and were given startup to be used in self-identified small or micro business. The intention is to help the women involve in income generating activities that can boost their personal incomes and contribute to the general economic growth of the target locations. Most of the micro business activities being carried out by the groups are buying and selling of food items such as rice, beans, cooking oil, sugar, onion, salt, soap etc. Testimonies from beneficiaries indicate that the use of saving scheme is highly beneficial for poor women in the rural areas.

Organic Pesticide

Organic pesticide is one of the types of pesticide used to suppress, eradicate and prevent harmful organism from causing damages to crops, livestock and fruits on the farm. Pests are destructive living organism such as insects, weeds and other animals that attack crops, food, livestock etc. The activities shown in the below pictures indicate how Mr. Onyango Samuel, the livelihood/livestock officer and his assistant Mr. Adel Abdallah prepare the organic pesticide for test at the demonstration farm before transferring the knowledge to the farmers



Why do we need organic pesticide?

We need organic pesticide because it is not so harmful to human life and it is cheaper to prepare from the locally available resources. Other reasons why we use organic pesticide are as follows:

- ✓ The government of South Sudan encourages the use of organic pesticide than the chemical pesticide
- ✓ The use of organic pesticide helps to maintain healthy environment
- ✓ It maintains biodiversity (unlike chemical pesticide, organic pesticide is specific as it does not kill the beneficiary insects like bees)
- ✓ Protect the soil
- ✓ Produce health food like vegetable
- ✓ Cheap to prepare



Mama Sara Bullen with her grandchild

Support to Women

Mama Sarah Bullen 51 year's old women, in 2018 she joined women group called Aninangera in Bazumburu village and with other group members were trained on vegetable production and were given some seeds to start with. In that year the group members were able to produced enough vegetable for their family and for the market. However, in 2020 their vegetables were repeatedly being stolen by thieves in the area and they could not make any gain anymore, as such the vegetable business was stopped. Today Mama Sarah is thankful to Solidarity SAP-R once more for receiving a startup capital which she has used to revive her business. She started with the production of tomatoes and other vegetables at the backyard of the compound. She has also invested some of the capital in the business of buying and selling rice at home and on market days. Mama Sarah uses the gains she makes to take care of her grandchild and other family members as you can see in the picture. She is optimistic that by the end of the year 2022 she is going to make more money that she can invest to expand the production and change her life completely.

News from the Kindergarten

The new academic year began on 9 May with the registration of pupils and learning resumed immediately. The kindergarten registered 207 pupils, 75 of whom are newcomers. They are divided into baby class, middle class and top class. Sister Josephine is responsible for the beginners and her task is to teach them the basics of language development. This means that all children at St. Paul's kindergarten go through her classes. Since the previous academic year 2021/2022, 15 pupils who attended the Top class were promoted to Primary. Most of them enrolled in St. Paul's Primary School, which is located nearby.



Sister Josephine teaching