

The Riimenze Community Newsletter - September 2022



Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



Monthly newsletter is one of the tools used by the Solidarity Community in Riimenze (Agricultural Project, Kinder garden Project and the Elderly Project) to communicate about the be-monthly activities being under taken.

Capacity building of Local Farmers

With continues support from Solidarity Local farmers in the project locations (Riimenze, Bodo, Bazungua, Bazumburu, Kasia and Makpandu) in Yambio County have established 6 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) one in each location. Each FFS is organized and managed by a Progressive Lead Farmer who is a member of that particular community. He or she conducts trainings to the rest of the farmers on daily basis. Between July 2022 – June 2023 a total of 517 individual men and women will continue to participate and benefit from various agriculture trainings, techniques and other inputs such as seeds and hand tools



Training of local farmers

Use of Threshing Machine

Victoria Angelo and Josephine Samuel are among the casual workers who have been trained on how to shell and clean the maize corns using the manual equipment. Working under the veranda at the SAP-R demonstration farm the 2 ladies are able to clean a quantity of 50 kg of maize grains within a period of 4 hours per day. They also train other farmers who are interested in learning such new technology. The use of machine for shelling the maize corns is very new in this part of the world as it is faster compared to the common traditional way of using free hands.



Victoria and Josephine shelling and cleaning maize

Response to Nutrition Need

About 125 children 58 boys and 67 girls have been assessed with signs of malnutrition and are enrolled for food supplement in the project area. Each child is given 200 - 400 gram of soya paste/groundnut paste to be administered for at least 7 – 14 days. Thereafter the condition of the child is reassessed. After receiving the food supplement the mothers of these children are engaged in intensive training on preparation of food and nutrition using the local food stuff for their family members.



Women with their children after soya paste distribution

Helping farmers to increase production and minimize postharvest losses

Nanvugo farmer group is one of the hard-working farmer groups being supported by SAP-R in Kasia village, Riimenze Boma Yambio County. Formed in 2014 the group has 12 members 4 female and 8 male, they have group farm of 12 acres planted with cassava, maize, millet, plus g/nut in the first planting season of this year 2022. From the harvest the group was able to get 2000kg of g/nut and 1500 kgs of maize respectively. They are waiting for a better time to sell the produce at an increased price. Like the other groups, Nanvugo gets all the technical trainings from SAP-R through the extension services



Maize harvested by the Nanvugo farmers' group

Meeting with Mike Williams of Misan Cara

Mike Williams is a consultant sent by Misan Cara, one of Solidarity's main donors, to conduct an assessment of the sustainability and real impact Solidarity projects have on the society of South Sudan and links with Local Church. In September, Mike Williams conducted a series of meetings and focus groups with institutions and beneficiaries variously involved in the SAP-R project: from the Director General of the Ministry of Animal Resources Fisheries and Tourism, to casual workers and the most influential local leaders of Riimenze.

He also had the opportunity to meet with groups of farmers and women from Bazungua, one of the 6 project locations, and also visited the individual farms of two progressive lead farmers from Riimenze.

Mike Williams was assisted in these meetings by Elias Kubayo, the project manager, Brother Thom the deputy project director and Madam Suzanne Liyong the quality assurance manager based in Juba.



One of the meetings of Mike Williams with the beneficiaries of SAP-R

Diversifying Agricultural Production

Mr. Martin Dazanga is one of the Progressive Lead Farmers from Bazunguru Village who has acquired so many training skills on Sustainable agriculture methodology at SAP-R. Like other small farmers he received a pair of piglets from the project in 2020 and now he has managed to raise up to 15 pigs. Small amount of poultry (chickens) is also included on his farm. About 1.5 acres of land is planted with rice and maize altogether in this current planting season, other food crops such as groundnuts, cassava and millet are also planted by him. Tomatoes, egg plants and green papers are among the types of vegetable he likes to grow so much as the main source of the food nutrients for his family. He sometimes sells out small quantity of these vegetable in order to get some basic items such as salt and soap. Martin is planning to expand his farm in 2023, according to him, he will use the rice brand and maize stock to feed his pigs during the yearly dry season (January –March), and from the pig dung he will make manure to grow more and healthier crops in the subsequent seasons in 2023 .



Martin Dazanga on his plantation