

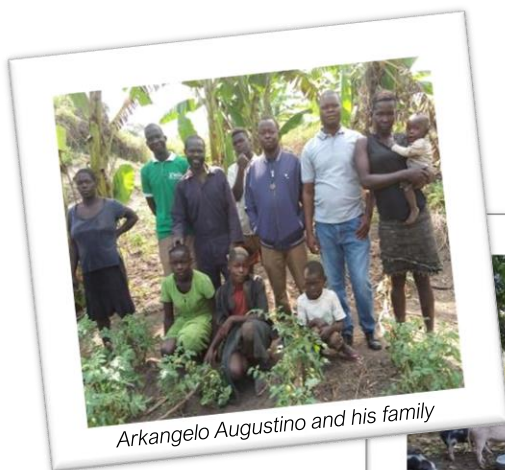
The Riimenze Community

Newsletter - January 2023

Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



Monthly newsletter is one of the tools used by the Solidarity Community in Riimenze (Agricultural Project, Kindergarten Project and Elderly Project) to report on ongoing activities



Arkangelo Augustino and his family



Amos Valerio in his farm

Monitoring visits to the farms of the progressive lead farmers

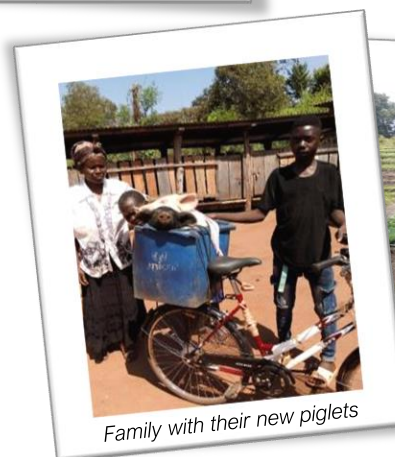
The project team, including the director, Brother Joseph, conducted field visits to the individual farms of the progressive leader farmers.

In the first photo, Mr. Arkangelo Augustino, a leading progressive farmer from Makpandu, who uses his knowledge and skills to help his family members producing vegetables for family consumption and for the Makpandu market. He also helps other farmers to do the same, especially during this dry season.

Mr Amos Valerio (second photo) is the progressive farmer leader in Bazungua; he has 18 pigs, 22 goats and 6 chickens. In the last growing season, in 2022, he planted 2 hazelnut beans and 2 maize beans. According to him, the harvest was good, but he is still working on the records.

Local farmers and extension services

Local farmers continue to benefit from extension services. Either in terms of sustainable agriculture, as seen in the photo where the Naduru 2 farmer group in Bazungua is taking care of cabbages and egg plants in the farm. And also for livestock: new households received two piglets from SAP-R this month, which they will raise for breeding.



Family with their new piglets



Cabbages in Bazungua



Casual workers attending the workshop

Capacity building on environmental protection and climate change for casual workers

On 26 January 2023, at SAP-R farm a total of 25 casual workers, 20 female and 5 male, attended one hour training on the impact of climate change and how it can be minimized by planting more trees. SAP-R will provide fruit trees to the participants in the coming agriculture season from March 2023.



A young girl learns how to smear cow dung on the jackfruit tree

Natural pest prevention
 Smearing cow dung on the stem of jackfruits is an excellent local method to repel and prevent pests that can damage the fruit!

Visitors received at SAP-R

In January 2023, SAP-R received many welcome visits. On 5 January, Sister Elizabeth from the Solidarity Teacher Training Collage in Yambio visited SAP-R and was introduced to the various activities on the farm by the livelihood officer.

Brother Tony, Superior of the Franciscan Brothers and director of Barak Agricultural College in Kenya, visited SAP-R on 23 January. He was accompanied by Brother Boniface Kyalo from CDTY and Sarah Oclis from Ireland. Besides visiting some of the farming operations, Brother Tony held a brief meeting with the staff and management of SAP-R and encouraged them to continue working hard to provide quality services to the local community of Rimenze and neighbouring villages.

Finally, Father Jim Greene, Executive Director of Solidarity, arrived on 26 January. He conducted a short meeting with four new staff members, visited the demonstration farm and was introduced to one of the kitchen gardens.



The livelihood officer shows a kitchen garden to Fr Jim



Presentation of the project to Sr Elisabeth



Group photo with Brother Tony



Br Tony visiting the farm



Margaret and her niece preparing rice

Elderly programme: Margaret, a great woman!

Margaret (not her real name) is one of the active members of the community and at her age builds brick huts for her grandchildren who live with her and are her support in the family. She does casual work to get some money to send her grandchildren to school. She is mindful of their future and encourages them to go to school to study. She can only offer them education by paying school fees and this will make their future brighter. In the photo she is busy with her granddaughter preparing a meal. The little girl is helping her to pound and clean the rice ready for cooking. Margaret is also a potter. She is indeed a gifted woman.