

The Riimenze Community

Newsletter - June 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

SARDI students and multiple garden

Students from the SARDI (Sustainable Agriculture Rural Development Institute in Yambio), who came for their internship in Riimenze, actively participated in the growth of the multiple vegetable garden, which was introduced by the livelihood manager for these students as part of their learning. This is used when there is a shortage of land for the vegetable garden; soil was brought in from somewhere to grow this garden. The vegetables planted here are sukumawiki and onion. The students were very happy to have learnt this method from Solidarity, where they were for their two-month stay, as one of the requirements of their institute



SARDI Students learn the multiple vegetable garden method

Exchange of agricultural experiences

Farmers (SAP beneficiaries) from Bazumburu Boma were taken to Bazungua Boma for an exchange visit to learn new farming techniques and methods from other farmers in the area. This exchange visit was very useful for the farmers, who were very happy to see how other farmers practised horticulture in other localities. As a result, some of them became interested in the vegetable garden after seeing the fruits of the Bazungua gardens, which enabled them to pay school fees for their children and more.



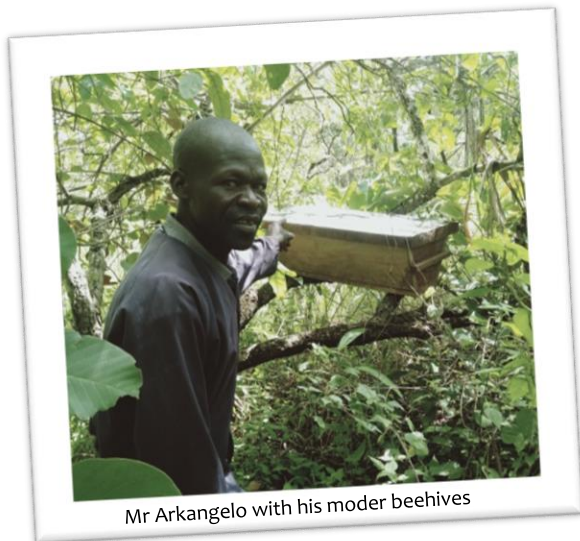
Visiting farmers in Bazungua Boma



Photo group of the SAP-R workers

End of project meeting

An end-of-cycle meeting of the SAP project was held, bringing together all project staff, including casual workers. The project director and manager also attended, who thanked everyone for their hard work in making this project a success, which has helped the entire community around Riimenze. Thanks to our valuable donors, it will be possible to continue the activities and staff will be recalled according to their individual performance at work.



Mr Arkangelo with his modern beehives

Beehives

One of the beneficiaries of the project, Mr Arkangelo from Makpandu Boma, received two beehives and hung them all; after a week they had colonised and he was inspecting them to see if they were ready to be harvested.

Honey production is one of the activities of the SAP-R and training is planned to educate farmers in the area. In 2023, 30 families have already been trained on honey production, management and processing, so as to provide them with a general knowledge before receiving their beehives. Each family received one beehive, for a total of 30 beehives distributed. These are modern beehives commonly known as KTB (Kenyan Top Bar).

End of internship

The students (4 men and 2 women) completed their internship at Solidarity as part of the sustainable agriculture project, where they stayed for two months and gained more skills and experience in most of the practical agricultural work they had not tackled at their institution. They appreciated the Solidarity management for taking care of them and were very happy to have learnt from Solidarity and said they are now ready to return home and develop their community.



Group photo of SARDI students

Welcome to Madam Madeline

In June 2023, St. Paul Nursery School welcomed Madame Madeline a graduate of STTC with Diploma in Education. This is the first time a graduate from STTC is being involved in teaching at our school. She arrived on 4th of June and on the 5th she had an orientation at the school whereby, she met and interacted with the other teachers and the pupils. Sr. Josephine was teaching the children in the baby class or the beginners and Madeline has taken over to continue from where Sr. Josephine had reached. So far, she has done marvelous work in the school by transforming the classrooms with beautiful learning materials adding on to what was there before. She gets on well with the other teachers and she is generously sharing her skills with them which the other teaching staffs have embraced with open mind and heart in order to help educate the young children to grow and develop mentally, physically and

spiritually for their wellbeing. Madeline is a wonderful woman, a mother who is concerned about the wellness of the children she is teaching. She has tailoring skill which is paramount to our school because the school uniforms are sewn within solidarity premises. She is taking the initiative to mend uniforms that have open seam.

Madeline is a health worker and she can administer first Aid to the children before taking them to the hospital. The school has a provision of First Aid Kit.



Madame Madeline teaching children to write