

The Riimenze Community

Newsletter – May and June 2026

Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



Health is Wealth: Assessment and Distribution of Nutritious Additives

It is said health is wealth, a better health brings smiles in the face of the children and their parents. In recent months, the Nutrition officer of SAP-R has distributed additives to the children in the four locations involved. The initiative started with the assessment of children with malnutrition condition to know whether they qualify for receiving the additives. This was conducted by the officer using the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) technique and by measuring the actual weight

of the children. Children who qualified were served and received their nutritious additives, which included moringa product, peanut butter, and soya-paste (soya butter). These additives are very



important and contribute to the improvement of the nutritional status of the vulnerable children. Having distributed the additives to the malnourished children, the Nutrition officer conducted a monitoring exercise to assess the weight of the children after having received the nutritious support. A great improvement has been realized from this intervention, and the health of all the children has responded to this exercise.



Seed Distribution to Horticultural Groups

At the Demonstration Farm of the Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze, fieldwork continues unabated to promote local development and food security. Under the constant guidance of the Farm Supervisor, Br Godfrey Wambugu, the farm employees and casual workers from the community actively collaborate in all stages of cultivation, using exclusively organic techniques. Among the main activities carried out recently are the implementation of the beautiful Mandala garden and the preparation of seedbeds for nutritious and marketable vegetables such as cabbages, eggplants, tomatoes, green peppers and okra, which are perfectly suited to the local climate.

Other key activities include the potting of different seedlings, such as pawpaw and coffee; the latter is kept in pots for about



two months to allow the plants to gain enough nutrients and mature before being transplanted into the field. At the same time, work extends to field crops with the row-sowing of sorghum and the careful weeding and manual management of three feddans of organic rice. The application of good agricultural practices, such as early weeding and sowing in line, proves to be a valuable opportunity for hands-on training, demonstrating the effectiveness of an ecological and collaborative farming model.

Installation of additional beehives

The production of pure honey is one of the activities carried out by the Nutrition Department of the SAP-R demonstration farm. Over the past month, the farm has installed more than 20 beehives, thereby increasing the number of beehives already in place. The farm currently has capacity for over 30 beehives; the aim is to reach 100 beehives, which will enable it to produce enough honey for sale by next year.



Food additives production process

The Nutrition Program stands as one of the key interventions implemented by the SAP-R project. Within the Nutrition department, additive products are processed entirely organically and kept for either distribution to vulnerable children or sold for commercial use. To ensure all products are perfectly fit for human consumption, the team maintains the highest levels of standardization and strict hygiene, following a rigorous protocol, fully applied when processing, mixing, and packaging the organic food. Today, the SAP-R Nutrition department boasts a diverse variety of packaged organic products. The specialized range produced here includes moringa, peanut butter, soya butter, lantana camara, organic coffee, and pure honey, all processed with the utmost care to support both community health and local sustainability.

Growing Pig Population

The piggery sector at the SAP-R farm has experienced a remarkable period of success in this month of June, marked by a significant increase in the birth rate of piglets as several pigs successfully delivered. These new additions are being exceptionally well taken care of by the farm's abled animal attendants, who manage the animals through proper feeding and strict hygiene. To ensure a healthy environment, the pigs are fed twice every day, beginning in the morning and evening, and their pen (houses) are swept diligently every single day.



However, this rapid boom in the piglet population has brought the farm's total count to 70 pigs, encompassing males, females, and piglets alike. To accommodate this growing number of animals, there is now an urgent need for the expansion of the piggery and the improvement of worn-out parts of the piggery house. This structural upgrade is specifically aimed at making more space to give comfortable room for pregnant pigs and the newly arrived piglets. Additionally, the expansion plans include the creation of a crucial isolation room to properly cater for sick animals at the farm, ensuring that high health and biosecurity standards are maintained across the entire herd.

Empowering Communities: SAP-R Outreach Program

The SAP-R outreach program is achieving great success as local horticultural groups - particularly highly active women's groups - engage in agricultural activities that significantly boost their household economies. Supported by dedicated field staff, beneficiaries carefully nurture the seeds distributed by SAP-R to ensure none are wasted. In the picture, CEW (Community Extension Worker) Mr. Jackson Andrew is guiding a group member on planting



in rows. By strictly following these best farming practices, including row planting and early weeding, the groups have achieved thriving fields across all locations involved. Currently, crops such as tomatoes, eggplant, capsicum, cabbage, Sukuma wiki, and onions are doing exceptionally well, promising an abundant and successful harvest for the community.

Needs assessment in Nangere

In May, the Project Manager and the M & E Officer visited Nangere village (James Diko Boma, Bangasu Payam – Yambio county), which hosts about 500 households, to assess community needs. Residents highlighted critical challenges, including a lack of clean water, health care, livelihood opportunities, and better nutrition for children. The Project Manager thanked the community and the Sub chief for attending and sharing their challenges, assuring them that their concerns will be shared with the relevant line management for decisions and potential livelihood support.



CEWs Trained in Soil and Water Conservation

In June, a comprehensive three-day training program was conducted to equip Community Extension Workers (CEWs) with essential skills in sustainable soil and water conservation, enabling them to effectively guide community beneficiaries. The primary goal of the training was to demonstrate practical knowledge on minimizing water loss from the soil surface to better support plant growth. The initiative, which brought together CEWs representing all six locations,

began with an interactive theory lesson conducted by the Project Manager. Following the classroom session, the CEWs participated in practical lessons to directly demonstrate key water retention practices. Through these hands-on exercises, it was clearly observed that mulching is a highly effective method, as it successfully retains the soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth.



Training beneficiaries on livestock

Our beneficiaries receive regular refresher training every three months to equip them with new and better knowledge on how to manage their animals. The training covers sustainable management practices, focusing on hygiene, feeding, and medical treatment using drugs issued by SAP-R to the Community Extension Workers.



SAP-R Radio Talk Show on Tomatoes

SAP-R holds a radio talk show every month on the local station, Radio Anisa FM radio, 92.0. This monthly broadcast helps reach the wider community of Western Equatoria, extending agricultural messages far beyond the standard SAP-R operating areas. The latest talk show was conducted by the Project Manager, who discussed the crucial topic of the Cost/Benefit Analyses of Tomato Production in Western Equatoria, with a specific focus on Yambio.

During the program, the Project Manager elaborated on the benefits and economic importance of tomato production. The broadcast successfully engaged listeners, some of whom called in to share their gratitude and express their appreciation for the program.

Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala Visit

In another moment of joy and happiness, our beloved bishop, Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, paid a visit to the farm for the second time following his visit in February. During the tour, the Bishop was deeply impressed by the diverse progress achieved by the farm team. During debriefing, he expressed his appreciation to the staff members and the management for a good work well-done, encouraging them to replicate what they learn from the farm in their own farmlands. Eventually, he prayed for the staff, giving his blessings to them and the farm.



Food Security Cluster Meeting

On June 18th, 2026, the Ministry of Agriculture held a food security cluster meeting with National NGOs and International organizations to share reports and strategic plans. Our Project Manager attended the session, briefing the members on the latest activity report and the upcoming work plan for July 2026.