The Riimenze Community

Newsletter – January 2026

Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



The success of horticulture in Riimenze

At the demonstration farm of the Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze (SAP-R), work never stops, especially during the dry season, when horticultural activities require greater effort. Thanks to a constant irrigation system and careful coordination by the supervisor, casual workers are busy caring for the crops every day. Tomatoes and eggplant are watered twice a day, in the morning and evening, to combat the intense heat that threatens to wither the crops. This tireless effort not only ensures the survival of the plants, but also promises healthy and abundant harvests. It is a practical demonstration of how proper land management and the dedication of casual workers can transform a climatic challenge into an opportunity for food security for the community.





In the photo on the side are Minaiida Christine and her friend, casual workers, picking coffee berries during the harvest season. Coffee is one of the most profitable activities of the sustainable agriculture project, contributing to the sustainability of the farm.



Bishop Edwardo Hiboro Kussala visit

The year began with a special visit to the SAP-R project demonstration farm: His Lordship Bishop of the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, Edwardo Hiboro Kussala, honoured the workers with a tour of the estate, expressing great joy at the results achieved. The bishop was particularly impressed by the coffee harvest, a symbol of the success of agricultural diversification. The coffee is currently undergoing drying, threshing and storage, awaiting the ideal moment for marketing. Thanks to a careful selection and classification process, the highest quality beans will be sold on the local market, thus supporting the area's economy. Coffee is one of the most rewarding activities in the Sustainable Agriculture Project, supporting the sustainability of the farm. Bishop Hiboro blessing and support confirm the importance of this project as a model of development and redemption for the entire territory.

Nutrition and Community

The Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze extends beyond the land, directly entering families' homes to combat malnutrition. In the photos, Christine and Juliana, two nutrition workers at the farm, are processing soybeans: the soybean powder is carefully sieved to obtain a nutritious, high-quality soya paste. This product is packaged in jars and distributed free of charge to mothers with malnourished children. Part of the production is sold to the local community, thus supporting the farm's economy.



In addition to soybeans, the farm produces and distributes other natural supplements, including groundnut paste, moringa, and lantana camara. These products are carefully packaged and sorted on shelves, ready to reach those who need them most. Recently, the assessment and distribution activity reached three key locations: Bazungua, Kasia, and Riimenze. Here, children in need of supplementary nutrition received soybean and groundnut paste. The joy of the mothers in receiving these precious food additives is the most beautiful testimony to the impact of the project: concrete help that restores health to the little ones and serenity to their families.



Regenerate soil fertility

In recent weeks, casual workers have been busy collecting and transporting manure to the fields, a crucial step in preparing the soil. This year, 10 hectares of land have already been tilled and, thanks to this natural fertilizer, will benefit from greater fertility when the first rains arrive. This integrated approach not only guarantees richer harvests, but also demonstrates the project's commitment to sustainable and circular agriculture.





Livestock farming

Despite the challenges posed by the severe climate of the dry season, pig farming at the demonstration farm continues with determination. Although the intense heat and reduced availability of food require constant monitoring of the animals' health, the activity remains a fundamental pillar for the entire agricultural ecosystem.

Pruning banana trees

During this dry season, work on the demonstration farm continues without pause thanks to people like Alice, a local casual worker who is involved is involved in the cultivation of plantain (banana) trees, which cover approximately one hectare of land. Pruning is a fundamental operation at this time of year: the dry banana leaves that are removed are not discarded but strategically reused for mulching. This technique protects the soil from intense heat, maintaining the moisture necessary for the plants to continue to grow healthily despite the arid climate.





Getting ready for the rainy season

At the demonstration farm, seedbeds are being prepared for the cultivation of jackfruit. The activity is planned to take advantage of the arrival of the rains, the optimal time to ensure the successful transplanting of young plants into the open field. This intervention is part of an agricultural management strategy based on biodiversity: alongside jackfruit, other varieties such as eggplants are also grown. This not only optimizes the use of space but also improves soil resilience, ensuring diversified and sustainable production.