# The Riimenze Community

## Newsletter – October 2026

Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



## Processing of Nutritional Additives

The Nutrition Department registered great success this month in scaling up the production of nutritional additives, particularly Moringa powder, thanks to the relentless efforts of our dedicated nutrition staff. Moringa leaves offer numerous health benefits, including boosting immunity, improving appetite, and enhancing skin health. Harvested directly from the farm, the leaves are dried under controlled room-temperature conditions to preserve their essential nutrients. Once dried, they are processed using a blender, as shown in the picture. All value-added SAP-R products are processed following standard hygienic procedures to ensure they remain 100% organic.





## Packaging Nutritional Additives

In addition to Moringa, our Nutrition Processing Site produced and packaged high-quality peanut butter and soy butter, prepared for distribution to children identified as at risk of malnutrition. Following recent re-assessments conducted by our Nutrition Officer, these nutritional supplements will be distributed to eligible children to boost their immunity and support their recovery.

## Progress of the Naangere farmers group

Naangere is a recent SAP-R operational site hosting a pilot project focused on Horticulture and Nutrition. Project implementation is progressing smoothly across all scheduled activities. Overseen by the officer in charge, the Nutrition Program successfully distributed agricultural tools, seeds, and watering cans. Furthermore, the Nutrition Officer conducted comprehensive training on nursery bed management. In the picture the group members are demonstrating the management practices taught by their Extension Worker and Livelihood Officer during our weekly monitoring visit.





## Visit of Solidarity Legal Advisor and Quality Assurance Manager

Staff members across Solidarity with South Sudan warmly welcomed the visit of our Quality Assurance Manager (QAM) and Legal Advisor. Their visit brought transformative energy, boosting staff morale and enhancing overall project operations. The management team conducted interactive training sessions, ensuring all staff members gained a clearer understanding of their roles. Additionally, the Legal Advisor clarified performance expectations, emphasized strict adherence to safeguarding policies, and announced salary adjustments approved by the Juba Head Office.

## Celebration of World Food Day

SAP-R joined key Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) implementing partners and the State Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources to celebrate World Food Day under the theme "Innovate Today and Nourish Tomorrow." SAP-R staff actively participated in the event, with our Nutrition Officer conducting a live culinary and nutrition demonstration. The celebration brought together state-level government officials and international development partners. We extend our gratitude to the project administration for enabling staff participation and supporting these activities financially.



## Distribution of goats

Under the Livelihood Program, SAP-R distributed goats to 12 vulnerable households across seven operational locations, including Naangere. This recently approved donor project targets the most vulnerable community members. Beneficiaries were selected through community-based vulnerability criteria, with each location receiving livestock support.





## Visit of Dativa Associates

In another major event this month, SAP-R hosted expert consultants from Dativa Associates (Uganda) alongside Solidarity Program Manager, Mr. Samuel Ading. Their visit focused on enhancing professional standards, performance, and operational efficiency for all Solidarity Riimenze branch staff. Key training modules covered Financial Management, Human Resource Management, and professional work standards tailored for the SAP-R line management team.

## Success of horticulture operations

Horticultural management has become a routine mastery for our casual farm workers. From establishing seedbeds and sowing to transplanting and systematic irrigation, our dedicated field staff now carry out daily horticultural operations with minimal supervision. As the dry season approaches and market demand for fresh produce rises, the SAP-R demo farm is well-positioned to supply local markets and generate project revenue.



## Harvesting of green gram at the demonstration farm

In another major event this month, Green gram, a high-yield leguminous crop, continues to prove successful at our demonstration farm, where it is cultivated across both rainy seasons. Taking an average of three months to reach maturity, the crop was successfully harvested this month. In the pictures, casual workers Mary and Suzan are hand-picking mature pods.





## Rice harvesting activities

Field monitoring was conducted during the seasonal rice harvest at the demonstration farm. Typically planted between April and July, rice is harvested from October to December in Western Equatoria State. While local farmers possess indigenous knowledge of rice cultivation, the SAP-R demonstration farm cultivates rice primarily for commercial seed production and income generation. Harvesting involves hand-cutting stalks using a sharp knife or a sickle , followed by traditional threshing and sun-drying.

## Daily livestock feeding and care

Demo farm attendants oversee daily care routines for swine, goats, and cattle. Animals are fed three times daily, and pens are cleaned every morning. Sick animals are immediately isolated for specialized treatment by the Animal Health Worker and Livelihood Officer. Additionally, livestock undergo monthly pest spraying, and daily feed rations are carefully mixed or cooked by the animal attendants.



## Sustainable livestock management and veterinary care

Sustainable livestock management relies on proper nutrition, timely medical care, and strong community support. At the demo farm, in the absence of commercial feed, our Animal Health Worker and Livelihood Officer locally grind yellow corn into nutritious maize bran for livestock and poultry, while providing immediate veterinary care whenever signs of illness arise. Extending this commitment to the wider community, our Project Manager officially





commissioned a new supply of veterinary drugs to Community Extension Workers this month for outreach livestock treatment. During the handover, high standards of service delivery and strict accountability were emphasized, reinforcing that all treatments must be provided to beneficiaries free of charge, in full alignment with head office directives.

## Mothers' training on enhanced nutritional practices

The Outreach Nutrition Department engaged a specialized consultant to conduct training workshops for mothers across Bazungua, Bodo, Bazumburu, and Riimenze. The sessions aimed to improve infant and young child feeding practices, balanced dietary intake, and food group preparation. Participating mothers engaged in practical food demonstrations, marking a significant milestone in local nutrition awareness.



## Outreach training for horticulture farmers

Under our inclusive outreach commitment, follow-up training sessions are provided for beneficiaries who miss scheduled workshops due to unavoidable circumstances. In the photo, our Livelihood Officer is training 12 beneficiaries from Kasia who were unable to attend September's workshop). The training covered core horticultural practices, including raised seedbed preparation, transplanting techniques, and soil mulching.





## Radio talk show on Anisa FM 92.0

Reaching the broader community remains a key priority, facilitated by monthly radio broadcasts hosted by our Livelihood Officer, Mr. Philip Bullen, on local station Anisa FM 92.0. This month's episode focused on Nursery Bed Management, covering essential topics such as seedbed preparation, transplanting techniques, weeding, and crop selection. Mr. Bullen also highlighted the financial and nutritional benefits of small-scale horticulture, encouraging local farmers to establish household gardens to improve livelihoods and food security.

## From Survival to Dreaming Big



Two years ago, families fleeing conflict in Western Equatoria sought refuge at the Riimenze parish, arriving with young children who couldn't speak a single word of English. Today, thanks to St. Dominic Savio Nursery School, these children are experiencing a profound transformation, moving from the trauma of displacement to the joy of learning. Overjoyed parents share that their children can now speak English, write their names, and recite prayers. They have also developed a strong sense of pride and self-care: every afternoon, they carefully wash their single school uniform, brush their teeth, wash their hair, clean their fingernails, and bathe before heading off to class. This joy of education has rippled across the displacement camp. At home, the children sing songs and teach their younger siblings by writing in the dirt, shifting their families from mere survival back to dreaming big: "*We truly hope and dream that our children will finish school and go all the way to university.*"