

The Riimenze Community Newsletter - March 2024

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

Community Extension Workers

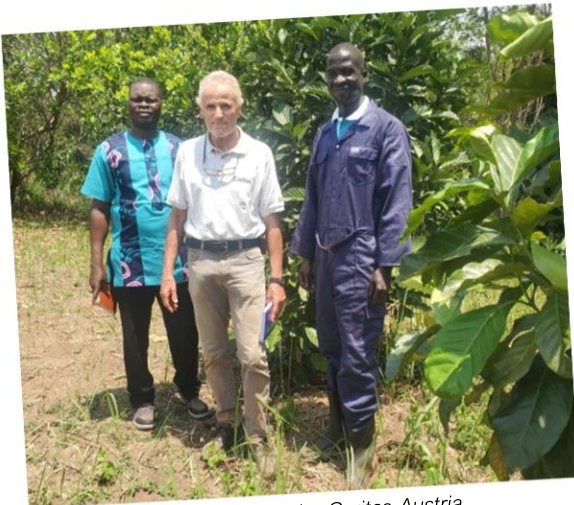
Seven Community Extension Workers were elected by community members in the six project locations and were sent to the demonstration farm for an intensive 3-day training conducted by the Livelihood Officer. The objective of the training was to prepare the workers to provide agricultural extension services to the wider farming community in their respective locations. The extension workers will train the farmers and collect agricultural production data.



The Community Extension Workers selected

Visit by Caritas Austria

Mr. Mathias Fettback, consultant of Caritas Austria, visited the SAP-R demonstration farm to observe the progress of the farm and to check the mango seedlings harvested for the families who received the energy-efficient cookers. These mango seedlings were grown at the request of Caritas, consistent with the requirements of the Sustainable Brick Production and Energy-Efficient Cooking for Vulnerable Households in South Sudan (SPEEC) project which Caritas funds. During his visit, Mr Mathias also observed and learned about other areas of the farm, such as the coffee and banana plantations.



Mr. Mathias Fettback - Caritas Austria

Vegetable nursery beds

As part of the sustainable agriculture project in Riimenze, a good number of vegetable nurseries were created in March 2024. In the photo, the project manager applies organic liquid manure to spray the seedlings in the farm's nurseries. Thus, the seedlings can be fully managed for healthy growth before they are transplanted into the main field. Here we do not use any chemicals to spray our vegetables and crops. We only use organic compost!



Application of organic fertiliser

Visit by ICM sisters

Two Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) came from Rome to visit Riimenze. They visited the demonstration farm to observe the diversity of our agricultural endeavors. The Sisters visited all of the other sectors, such as horticulture, animal husbandry, field crops—including coffee, the banana plantation, and the nutrition section. The Sisters were pleased and impressed with the broad range of activities and enterprises underway on the farm and thanked all of the staff for their hard work on behalf of the community around Riimenze.



Group photo with ICM Sisters

Staff Day

The leadership of the Solidarity Agricultural Project in Riimenze has dedicated very Wednesday as a Staff Day, during which all staff are invited to work on a specific project activity for the whole day. In the photo, staff are working on mango seedlings in the plant nursery.



Staff working on mango seedlings

Visit by Sr Mumbi

Sister Mumbi Kigutha, CPPS, president of Friends in Solidarity in the United States, visited Riimenze on 7 March 2024. Sister was very happy to see the progress that is being made on the farm, including the livestock section.



Group photo with FIS representatives



A training moment

Training of agriculture workers

Workers from the Riimenze Sustainable Agriculture Project participated in the intensive practical training conducted by the Livelihoods Manager. In the photo, they were instructed on how to build vegetable nurseries, including the recommended size of nurseries and the optimal spacing for planting different crops. These workers will in turn train farmers in the wider community.

Very committed teachers at Saint Dominic Kindergarten

In the Saint Dominic Kindergarten, in addition to teaching lessons, some members of the school staff perform other important tasks:

Teacher Richard is in charge of enrolment and is also in charge of the bursar's office; Teacher Emmanuel offers first aid to pupils in case of accidents and takes care of the kitchen supplies; Teacher Moses, together with another new teacher, takes care of the farm where every year the school endeavours to produce its own food, including maize, sorghum and sweet potatoes. Headmistress Magdeline, a

qualified teacher, takes care of academic affairs, assists the staff in preparing the scheme of work and lesson plans, helps teachers to improve their pedagogical skills, coordinates all school activities, and provides a daily report to supervisor Sister Elizabeth. The school in this way meets the needs of all the children and is kept clean and safe even in the playground. The children joyful and fully engaged in the learning process!



Saint Dominic Savio Nursery School children