

# The Riimenze Community Newsletter - May 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



*Group that received seeds in Riimenze*

## Distribution of seeds

After a training on agricultural production, assorted seeds were distributed to 6 groups of vegetable growers consisting of 10 households each for a total of 60 households in various locations. Specifically, 15 men and 45 women participated in the programme. The aim is to help them start producing vegetables themselves, so as to improve their nutritional status and food security, and they can also sell them to increase their family income.

## Internship for SARDI students

The pictures beside show the practical work done by the agricultural students who arrived on 3 May 2023 at SAP-R for a two-month period. These students come from the (SARDI) Sustainable Agriculture Rural Development Institute in Yambio, which is one of the colleges run by the Tombura-Yambio Diocese of the Catholic Church of Sudan and South Sudan. They are a total of 7 students, 2 women and 5 men. On this day they worked on both field crops and horticulture, preparing the nursery bed for the vegetables and inspecting the crops. The Livelihood Manager guided them in this practical work after the theory. The main objective of this internship is to equip them with practical knowledge and skills, as required by the Institute prior to graduation.

*Students preparing vegetable nursery bed*



*Students caring out crop inspection at the farm*

## Debriefing Meeting with William Keyah

A debriefing meeting was held at the farm, chaired by William Keyah, the technical advisor from the Baraka Agricultural College in Kenya, with the objective of evaluating and monitoring the sustainable agriculture project implemented by Solidarity with South Sudan in Riimenze, and to provide guidance to the project staff to work towards achieving the project's goals and objectives. His visit was very fruitful both for the implementation of project activities and for the staff; he shared the strengths of the project staff, their weaknesses and his recommendations or action points for the future, and finally shared some of the tools that can be used to keep records and documentation of project activities.



*Mr. Keyah holding debriefing meeting with all the project staff*

## Father Jim at SAP-R

On 18 May 2023, Father Jim Greene, Executive Director of Solidarity with South Sudan, visited Riimenze for the second time since the beginning of the year. He was accompanied by members of the Riimenze Sustainable Agriculture Project Steering Committee, who held a management meeting with the project leadership. They then moved to the farm and had a brief discussion with the field staff, spending their time visiting all the activities that take place on the farm, including the livestock, the nutrition unit and the coffee plantation, where there are 5 feddans for coffee production. Farther Jim, together with members of the SAP-R steering committee, also visited the nutrition food additive shop. Everyone was very pleased to see how much variety of food additives is available in the shop. Particularly to be commended is the processed and improved honey, which is of excellent quality and has a higher food value that can improve the malnutrition status of children and adults. The officer in charge explained how they collected the honey and processed it without mixing it with water and sell it at a very low price compared to the market price.



*Fr Jim with the SAP-R staff at the nutrition food additive store*



*Participants and the Livelihood Officer in a group photo in Bodo*

## Outreach program

On 15 May 2023, the Livelihood Officer, Mr Anyanga, conducted a training to individual household farmers in Bodo Boma and participation was very good with 90 participants, both women and men, from different farmer groups in the area. Topics covered included agronomy, horticulture, beekeeping and others.

## Nutrition activities

In the food additive processing area, Brother Joseph, the director of the Riimenze sustainable agriculture project, showed the women working in the nutrition unit how to clean the Moring leaves before drying them, taking them to processing and packing them in containers ready for distribution or sale to people who need Moring powder.

*Br. Joseph explains how to clean Moring*



*Nutrition unit at work*

*The instructor demonstrates how a walking tractor works*



*A woman learns how to operate*

## Training for women

Training was conducted for 12 women, 2 from each locality, on how to plough with a walking tractor. The training was purely practical and was done to provide them with the skills on how to operate a walking tractor, so that in the near future they will be able to borrow the tractor from the office and operate it themselves, without the office sending machine operators.

## Pig breeding

In the breeding area of the Riimenze farm, one of the female pigs gave birth to 11 piglets on 15 May 2023 and all piglets are in good health, as is the mother. These piglets will have to be breastfed for the next three months.

Pig breeding is one of the activities that SAP-R promotes, distributing piglets to families. One of the beneficiaries of the project, who was given a pair of piglets, has taken good care of them and now the female is gestating and will soon give birth. She expressed her gratitude to Solidarity for supporting her with these animals that will change her living conditions. The livestock will be used for consumption and the surplus will be sold to pay for school fees and medicine.



*The sow with her piglets at the Riimenze farm*