

# La Comunità di Riimenze

## Newsletter - June 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

### Caritas Austria visits the Riimenze Farm

On 20 June 2024, the sustainable farming project in Riimenze received a visit from a 20-member team led by the Secretary General of Caritas Austria, who was joined by another team from the Caritas headquarters in South Sudan, based in Yambio. Caritas Austria is one of the main donors of the project. Thanks to their contribution over the years it has been possible to implement all the main activities that have made the demonstration farm a local model of sustainable agriculture and community development. These include horticulture, chicken and cattle breeding,



Group photo with the Caritas Austria team



Meeting with women casual workers

beekeeping, the nutrition programme, agroforestry and cash crops. During their visit, the members of Caritas Austria were also able to interact with some of the direct beneficiaries of the project, including casual workers who work on the farm on a daily basis. Among these casual workers are many women who, thanks to their work on the farm, have acquired new skills and updated their agricultural techniques that they will then apply in their home gardens and small family farms. Moreover, with the money they receive for their daily work they manage to pay their children's school fees and any medical expenses.



## A model for UNHCR

On 24 June 2024, the Solidarity with South Sudan agricultural project received a team from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), led by the head of the UNHCR office in Yambio. The main objective of the visit to Riimenze's demonstration farm was to learn techniques for implementing a sustainable agriculture project in order to promote small-scale farming in the Makpandu refugee settlement in Yambio. The UNHCR team was accompanied through all the different units on the demonstration farm, including to the nutrition project section, where all the prepared food additives are stored and which will then be distributed to mothers with children suffering from malnutrition or sold to people who need to supplement their diets to strengthen their immune systems.



UNHCR visit the farm and nutrition department



Spraying crops with organic pesticides

## Field care

Weeding and sanitising the fields is one of the farm's good agricultural practices. This helps keep pests and weeds away from the farm. Regular inspections are carried out to check the health of the fields. Pest control and mitigation promote high yields and healthier vegetable production. On Solidarity's farm, only organic pesticides are used to keep off pests and prevent plant diseases.

## Food support for the elderly

Food parcels are distributed monthly to the elderly living around Riimenze to help them support their nutritional needs. The food packages include rice, beans, sugar, salt, cooking oil and more. The elderly are always satisfied with the support they receive from Solidarity. The photo shows the elderly waiting for the food distribution.



Distribution of food to the elderly