

The Riimenze Community Newsletter - July 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

Nutritional programme

Nutrition education and support for proper nutrition are one of the components of the Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze (SAP-R) implemented by Solidarity with South Sudan and supported by Caritas Austria.

As part of this programme, the nutritionist started the nutritional assessment, an activity that aims to screen children under the age of five to assess their nutritional status. Mothers and carers of children found to be



Weight screening for children



Processing groundnuts

undernourished will be enrolled in the programme, which includes nutrition training and the distribution of food additives to their children. This activity is conducted in six locations: Bazungua, Bodo, Bazumburu, Kasia, Makpandu and Riimenze. In the photo, nutrition workers are in the food processing room. They are peeling groundnuts so that they can be processed to make peanut butter to distribute to malnourished children and sell the surplus to the community. The machine used for this process is capable of cleaning about 2 quintals of groundnuts in an hour; it is not powered by electricity or fuel, but is totally manual, which helps the project reduce some of the costs of producing food additives.

Agricultural training for refugees

Solidarity's Sustainable Agriculture in Riimenze (SAP-R) project conducted a six-day training for 50 UNCHR-supported refugees on livelihood activities. The training included two main topics: livestock production and agribusiness in crop production. The objective was to equip the participants with the best skills in agriculture to enable them to produce food for their own consumption and market surpluses. The workshop was facilitated by SAP-R staff with support from the UNHCR Yambio Field Office in Western Equatoria State.



Moments of the training



Sacks of crops

Maize and groundnuts: a great harvest!

Workers at SAP-Riimenze are harvesting maize and peanuts and drying them on raised driers. We thank God for the good yields and the harvest obtained thanks to the optimal weather conditions received in the first season. The next harvest of the remaining maize and groundnuts will continue in August, followed by post-harvest handling.

Activities during the Staff Day

In Western Equatoria State, the two planting seasons are March to July and August to December each year. During the staff day held every Wednesday, project staff are prepared the nursery bed for the second season and pruned banana trees. This day is also an opportunity for all staff to participate in practical farming lessons, thus improving their agronomic skills.



Pruning banana trees

Nursery School's Agricultural Initiative

The St Dominic Savio Nursery School in Riimenze has implemented a community-based agricultural project. This initiative aims to provide a better diet for the children enrolled. Under the guidance of the headmistress, the school community actively participated in cultivating the land. Various seeds were planted and carefully tended to, resulting in a bountiful harvest of maize, peanuts, and beans. This agricultural success has also fostered a sense of community and the children enjoyed social activities, such as breaking peanuts for roasting. Looking ahead, the school plans to rotate crops to maintain soil fertility.



Children help with the harvest