

OUR PROJECTS



MENDESORA VEGETABLE GARDENING PROJECT

Progress has been so far achieved by "Mendesora United" SILC group. The only disappointment is that of the non viability of some of the seeds. Notwithstanding that, the group has planted many varieties of vegetables, difficult to find on the local market: cucumber, okra, watermelon, few tomatoes, maize and now embarks on the transplanting of lettuce. Pepper and garden eggs seedlings are almost getting ready for transplantation. Our hope is that a successful production will allow the farmers of "Mendesora United" to sell some of the products left over from the village internal consumption to the local market.

> MORINGA PILOT PROJECT

Unfortunately the results of the first phase of the Moringa pilot project are not as good as expected. In particular, the common fields are not doing well with the exception of a few that still have the stems standing without leaves. An overall assessment of the common fields can be estimated around 45% of the transplanted seedlings survived and are thriving. Some of the factors that might have contributed to the poor growth of these fields are: 1) Late transplantation. 2) Slender seedlings due to poor nursery practices. 3) Destruction by Grasshoppers, 4) Poor collaboration on the side of the community/group.

According to our monitoring experience, the Moringa trees demonstrate better growing performances when individually transplanted close to houses than when they're growing in common fields. **Solutions and recommendations:** Nurseries will be raised again by all 23 participating communities and a workshop on Moringa utilization organized as well. The MAFFS (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security) has been alerted on the issue of Pest damage especially grasshoppers in the District.

New!

In addition to the vegetables, Mendesora United secured 300g of 90 days rice seeds variety (CCA) to be planted in some of the plots that still hold water. They are already nursed and transplanting has started at the end of February. For the first time, the farmers of Mendesora have decided to experiment with new high-performance seeds, using the SRI System.

< Figures on the Moringa cultivation...

- A total of 8,273 seedlings were transplanted in all the common farms, 55% of them are lost leaving 45% on the field.
- A total of 1,622 seedlings were individually transplanted within the different communities. 456 of these seedlings are also lost leaving a total of 1,576 seedlings. These 1,576 seedlings are however doing extremely well as compared to those in the fields.



A SUCCESSFUL STORY
SILC secretary excels

Mohamed Sesay is a twenty six year old resident of Mabethor Village.

He will soon graduate as a Community Agent in the SILC (Savings and Internal Landing Community) to supervise the activities of five SILC groups in the Mabethor and Royeama Villages in the Buya Romende and Marampa Chiefdoms. Mohammed started as secretary for the SILC group "TAWOPANEH", the first group ever created by Gerald Aruna and was motivated to attend the SJVI (Saint Joseph Vocational Institute) foundation course as he only reached JSS3 and had not even attempted the BECE. He realized his dream and graduated at the SJVI with a certificate in Carpentry and Joinery. Mohamed now owns a workshop in Mabethor village; He now serves the communities when in need of furniture, repairs to doors and windows of houses, which in the past can only be provided by outside carpenter.

Mohamed's incomes come now from his workshop and a 5% income from the profit realized in any group whilst initiating Income Generating Activities to maximize the profit realized in the SILC. One such group now undertakes a vegetable production project with technical backstopping provided by ENGIM. Mohamed's action has also led to eleven other youths in the two villages been enrolled at the SJVI- Lunsar in various vocational fields of study.



WORK IN PROGRESS...



The first round of digging of the Water wells 2014 has been completed in all seven communities in the Chiefdoms of Koya, Lower Marampa and Maforkie. Depths of these Water Wells in all the different locations have all already been taken. The involvement and responsibility of local communities is always a requirement for ENGIM that is why the collection of additional local materials for the water wells construction (sand, stones etc.) is in progress. The transportation of sand in these areas already started and is ongoing, thanks to the activity of the truck inherited by ENGIM.



ENGIM STAFF

ENGIM Country Director attends a workshop on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa: Program and Training of Trainers at the Songhai Centre, Porto Novo, Benin, February 17th – 19th 2014



l-r: Gerald Aruna, Daniel Saidu, Margaret Abu, Sheik Rogers, Dr. Erika Styger, Samuel S. Harding, Devon Jenkins and Peter Kaindaneh

The Regional Workshop “the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa: Programming and Training of Trainers” was convened as a follow-up of the technical and launching meetings held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Saly (Senegal) in 2012 and 2013. The initiative is a commissioned project that is implemented within the framework of WAAPP (West African Agricultural Productivity Program) by all the 13 participating countries. The project is promoted by key actors along the rice value chains in each participating country including producers, extension officers, researchers and private sector. Each participating country has a focal institution, focal point and a network of SRI champions. The aim of the program is to develop and scale up the system of rice intensification in West Africa against that background of the methodology’s potential to raise rice yields to between 7.5 and 11 t/ha⁻¹ compared to yield levels of 2 to 5 t/ha⁻¹ obtained from for conventional practices. The following were also achieved in the workshop:

- < The participants were informed enough on the content, technical, financial and institutional modalities for the implementation of the SRI regional project;
- > Participants were provide necessary tools to ensure training and follow up/accompaniment actions for scaling up SRI extension/adoption un their home countries;
- < Develop an action plan and budget for scaling up SRI extension/adoption during the 2014-2015;



For further info on ENGIM’s activities or to make suggestions, please contact
aruna.gerald@gmail.com (076 781 747 / 076 614 041)