

MARCH, 2018 FIELD VISIT REPORT

As it was agreed during and after the training of 28 Mbyo Anglican Lead Farmers of 7-9 August, 2017; Jean and I had a willingness to work with the Diocese to follow up the training with visits to farmers over the next few months, supported by the Church of Christ the Redeemer. This was done almost every month and towards the end of this period, the Church of Christ the Redeemer thankfully proposed to them (Jean and Innocent) to continue support the follow-up visits of the partners on their individual farms where I'm working as a local consulting facilitator while Jean will be helping in technical aspects related to the conservation agriculture (CA) and other sustainable farming systems that can help Mbyo community to become more food secure and self-reliant.

Therefore, this report includes the situation of the trained farmers in Mbyo Parish which has 6 local churches and these are Mbyo, Cyoma, Mukoma, Karisisi, Riziyeri and Kagako.

The field visits aimed at reaching individual farmer in their household to see what is taking place in their plots and 13 farmers from the 6 local churches were visited in March.

The visited farmers are putting in practice what they learnt from the training and the crops planted among the visited farmers were: beans, amaranths, maize, carrots, onions, African eggplant, cabbages, beetroots and cowpeas.

The sowing of the seeds were a bit delayed due to lack of rain in the area where most of the farmers started to plant in mid-march and the planted seeds are now in good condition where some crops are in nursery bed and others were transplanted.

PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE FIELD VISITS:



Photo 1: The status of the plots for the visited farmer Solange where cabbages were sown (left), weeding the beans (middle) and the amaranths ready to be harvested (right).



Photo 2: The status of Martin's plots where carrots were sown (left),cabbages in the nursery bed ready to be transplanted(middle) and he was weeding the beans and cowpeas (right).



Photo 3: Venuste's wife during the weeding of cabbages in nursery bed after preparing the plot where cabbages will be transplanted (left) and harvesting the amaranths for cooking (right).



Photo 4: This is Athanasie in her plot during the weeding of maize and beans



Photo 5: This is Florida in Kagako local church during the weeding of planted beans and cabbages in the nursery bed.



Photo 6: The status Callixte's plots where maize were mixed with beans (left), kitchen garden with amaranths (middle) and some cabbages ready to be harvested (right).



Photo 7: This is the status of Viviane’s plot where she planted onions and cabbages (left) ready to be transplanted in few weeks and during the weeding of planted beans and maize(right).



Photo 8: Emelyne during the weeding of the sown cabbages and onions (left) and the weeding of the planted beans (right).



Photo 9: This is Clementine taking care of her young baby but also combining it with farming activities like weeding of the sown cabbages, beetroot, onions (left) and weeding of the planted beans and cowpeas (right).



Photo 10: This is Jean Paul's plots with cabbages ready to be transplanted (left) and African eggplants ready to be harvested in few weeks (right).



Photo 11: This is Vestine, Pastor Eric (New Anglican Pastor/MBYO Parish) and his Wife at Pastor's garden during the weeding of the sown onions and cabbages ready to be transplanted and some germinated carrots with beetroots.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion therefore, most of the crops for the visited farmers are still in the nursery bed, others at germination stage and some were transplanted. The visited farmers confirmed that they hope to get more harvest in this season as this is the season that they expect to get more rain hence improved their daily diet. In addition to that, they are very happy with the partnership and follow up activities.

Respectfully submitted as March, 2018 Field Visit Report by Innocent SIBOMANA.