

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO MBYO ANGLICAN PARTNERS, FEBRUARY 2018

Rationale:

9 August 2017- 10 February 2018 - Half a year (6 months) after the training on sustainable agriculture in Mbyo by Erwin Kinsey, from ECHO East Africa supported by co-trainer Jean TWILINGIYUMUKIZA, CA Technical Officer of MCC& CFGB and Innocent SIBOMANA, Local facilitator.

The training was for 28 cell leaders from six churches in the Mbyo Anglican Church and two other participants from the southern province. This training was financially supported by Christ the Redeemer Church in Norfolk, Virginia. The invitation was facilitated by Rob Slaughter from Virginia and Pastor Andrew KAYIRANGA from the local Anglican Diocese. The training which lasted for three days went very well, various topics were touched on consisting on indoor training sessions as well as hands-on demonstrations.

Jean and Innocent accepted 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 to support the follow-up visits of the partners on their farms.

Therefore, Jean and Innocent met again and made their first extension visit and carried out the following activities:

Activity 1: REFRESHER TRAINING

Jean facilitated a review of the last training subjects. It was very impressive to have all the Twenty-one (21) Participants attending remembering some main subjects including and not limited to Conservation Agriculture/farming God's way, Kitchen garden, Nutrition...! And revising some details like the CA principles, six (6) different types of kitchen garden we learnt, and so on. The facilitators emphasized on the role of vegetables in human nutrition and in improving food security status.



Photo: Participants to the training of 10 Feb 2018 in Mbyo

Activity 2: UPDATES ON FAMILY FARM ACTIVITIES/PROGRESS

“We’re no longer going to markets to buy vegetables, we produce them ourselves”

“We share the kitchen garden produce with our neighbors”

“The nutritional status for my family members has improved, I’m here to testify this”

“We give thanks to God and warmly thank our American partners for their invaluable support and especially yours (John and Innocent)—you all saved our lives”

These are a few quotes from so many encouraging words/testimonies that both of us (Innocent and Jean) have heard and witnessed from the Mbyo Partners.

All the participants were given time to tell us about their individual farms. Relevant updates on what they planted, how were the yields/successes and constraints/challenges they faced.

The common planted crops listed by the participants were Amaranths, Chaya, cabbages, carrots, onions, papaya, eggplant, cauliflower, beetroot, nightshade, maize and beans.

They all benefited from these crops where they had enough vegetable to eat in their homes—family consumption, some were given to their neighbors—good culture of sharing and other have taken some to the market for money.

Rainfall has been erratic and many of the participants highlighted lack of/insufficient water for watering their gardens. Some cases of pests and diseases were also reported, but not serious ones.

Activity 3: JOINT-PLANNING: 6 MONTH WORK PLAN

Basing on a projected farming calendar of our partner farmers and as we did the last time, we also discussed and finalized a six (6) month concerted action plan.

Work plan for Feb-July 2018

#	Planned Activities	Period/2018						Responsible
		Feb	Mar	Ap.	May	June	July	
1	Regular monthly visit to the farmers/households ⁱ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Innocent& Jean
2	Quarterly meeting for exchange and experiences sharing at parish level	✓			✓			Jean
3	Team building/Trainings on selected topics:							
	1.1 Plant Pests and diseases management		✓					Jean& Innocent
	3.2 Income Generating Activities (IGA)					✓		Jean& Innocent
	3.3 Balanced diet				✓			Jean& Innocent
4	Study tour and CA visit to Burera				✓			Jean

***Household Follow up- Field Visits Plan from March to July 2018**

Group name	Period-2018					Group leader	Contact
	March	April	May	June	July		
Kagako	Week 1	Week 1	Week 1	Week 1	Week 1	Callixte	0782939253
Mukoma	Week 1	Week 1	Week 1	Week 1	Week 1	Venuste	0783335885
Cyoma	Week 2	Week 2	Week 2	Week 2	Week 2	Damascene	0784255808
Karirisi	Week 2	Week 2	Week 2	Week 2	Week 2	Emelyne	0782577716
Mbyo	Week 4	Week 4	Week 4	Week 4	Week 4	Jean Paul	0788257180

NB: Every group leader will let us know about the day of the exact visit at least a week in advance

For easy follow up of the trainees in their households, the 26 trainees from Mbyo Parish were grouped into small groups according to/basing on how they are closer to each other, and as follows:

Group names and their respective members

Kagako Group	Cyoma Group	Mukoma Group	Karirisi Group	Mbyo Group
1. Callixte	1. J.Pierre	1. Martin	1.Viviane	1. J.Paul
2. Florida	2. Jeanne	2. Solange	2.Emelyne	2. Silas
	3. Dominique	3. Therese	3.Clementine	3. Vestine
	4. Venuste	4. Athanasie		4. Samuel
	5. Thacien	5. Venuste		5. Ntamuturano
	6. Damascene	6. Sebanani		6. Anne Marie
		7. Jacqueline		7. Reverien
		8. Jeanette		

Activity 4: SEED SHARING AND DISTRIBUTION

- As promised last time, Jean shared with the participants the cowpea seeds that he produced in his kitchen garden in Kigali.
- To support continuous vegetable production initiatives and, especially to encourage the partner farmers, the facilitators have helped to buy a few seeds. The seeds purchased and distributed are of: Cabbages, Carrots, Onions and beetroots.



Photos: Seeds distribution to the participants

NB: after distribution, Jean briefly explained on every seed/crop, its importance, origin, edible parts and nutrition value. Innocent facilitated discussion on how to grow all of them.

Activity 5: VISIT TO WATER COLLECTION SITE

After the training / meeting, participants visited one of the neighbors who managed to collect the rainwater from the house. This is used to water gardens as well as some domestic uses.



Photos: Visit to house rainwater collection technology in Mbyo on 10 Feb. after training

The majority has criticized the technology saying that it is not affordable to everybody as it requires some building materials a bit expensive.

CONCLUSION

The Mbyo community food situation is improving. Partners are very happy with the partnership and follow up activities. They are eager to produce more food and surplus for the market. They requested us to convey their greetings to all of you Mzee Erwin, Rob and other USA folks.

God's work, our hands!

BLESSINGS

¹ See next table on Household visit plan for details