

THUNGURURU INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (FARMING GOD'S WAY) - JUNE 2021

The Project Officer Julius Kimondo reports:

February 2021 started with a continuation of sunshine and in fact hot sun inherited from the previous month. This condition has been conducive for continuing to dry the harvested field crops especially cereals. One practicing farmer confessed that she harvested 8 sacks of 90kg each from her farm after practicing Farming God's Way. A farm which she used to harvest 2-3 sacks in the past before she joined ADS (Anglican Development Services) training. This is very encouraging especially during the last season when most farmers had hardly any or very little harvests due to the prolonged drought that hit the project area. All the farms of the practicing farmers could easily be distinguished from the rest since there was a remarkable difference in crop performance. This has attracted many farmers to join in the ADS training and the officer in charge has started to organize them into freedom from hunger groups ready to start sustainable agriculture trainings and now seeks to widen the area of operation to reach more and more farmers.

The month of May started with a hot spell which started towards the end of the first week of the month. We thought the rains would resume soon but it was not so. The hot spell continued until the end of the month. The crops in the field really need some rain. Most of the other farms apart from those implementing Farming God's Way are evidently suffering. A great positive difference again is evident in the practicing farms as can be seen in the photographs below. However, we pray to the Almighty that the rains resume especially in the month of June. This would make the non-practicing farmers to at least harvest something and also increase the harvests to the practicing farmers. However, the program officer has continued to emphasize on tree planting along with other 'Farming God's Way' practices as a long term solution to drought problem in the project area.

Activities of note:

In February 3 new 'Freedom from hunger' groups, with an average of 15 farmers each, were formed in three new sub locations and started training on how to construct a multi-storey garden as an important technique of intensive kitchen gardening.

4 groups of farmers with an average of 20 farmers each have been trained on different methods of crop pest management both organic and conventional, including safety precautions when dealing with conventional pest control. All the trained farmers have deployed one or more of these pest control measures in their farms especially during this time of high intensity of fall armyworm attack.

4 groups with an average of 20 farmers each have been introduced to tree planting and care of young tree seedlings. 50 households have started their tree nurseries and set materials in place to continue the activity. This should lead to increasingly stabilized rains in future.

2 new groups with an average of 20 members each have been introduced to the water tanks purchase program. A group of 20 previously introduced members have finished their contributions and will receive their tanks on Thursday 17 June 2021.

Funding:

Thanks to many generous donations, support from Exeter Diocese has enabled funding for the project to continue until the end of 2021. Any further gifts will help to enable this to be extended.



A new farmers' group is introduced to FGW/sustainable agriculture



An FGW practicing farmer displays samples of her last harvest



Farmers continue to learn and establish organic vegetable kitchen gardens



A group of farmers learn how to make yoghurt using goat or cow milk for economic empowerment



A maize crop planted using 'Farming God's Way', after a dry spell broke in, in the project area, in the beginning of May



A maize crop planted the normal way in the project area. (Planted same time as the crop above)

Julius Kimondo's humble prayer is that, if the program continues for another one or two years, he believes that this will bring a great relief to God's people in the project area through integrating improved tree cover along with other techniques of 'Farming God's Way', hence improved long term solution towards drought resilience in the area, hence a more food secure community.

For more information see the Overseas Links page on www.exeter.anglican.org or contact Thika Link Secretary thika.link@exeter.anglican.org