



SOLIDARITY with South Sudan

TRAINING FARMERS

“Agricultural potential in South Sudan is very high with about 90% of its total area considered suitable for agriculture; however 30 years of conflict has seriously compromised agricultural production. Presently just 4% of arable land is cultivated and as many as 4.7 million people are at risk of food insecurity of whom approximately 1 million are estimated to be severely food insecure.” (The Annual Needs and Livelihoods Analysis 2011/12 report, UN/WFP).

OVERVIEW - CURRENT PROGRESS

Solidarity with South Sudan helps develop agriculture through training of small farmers. *Solidarity* aims at bringing people back to farming, increasing community agricultural production and supporting a market-oriented approach for sustainability. In addition we expect to be able to support the Solidarity Training Institute in Yambio through agricultural production and sales. Crop production and cultivation is presently done almost exclusively by manual means with rudimentary basic tools. The area of land cultivated is determined by family labour availability (principally women) and by the minimum acreage required for assurance of basic household food supply.



The challenges facing the development of South Sudan's agricultural sector are many – ranging from lack of seeds, irrigation and fertilizers, to poor rural infrastructure, illiteracy, and limited extension services, to mention a few. In spite of these difficulties, Solidarity with South Sudan has already piloted a five hectare community agricultural project in Riimenze Parish. This project helps women and youth groups to address critical food needs in the area.

Solidarity is now working on expanding this initial 5 hectare pilot project with the creation of a larger scale sustainable market-orientated agricultural production system using the 50 hectares of land generously donated by the Diocese of Yambio. The time frame for the project is 3-4 years. The project trains local families, especially women, to grow new crops, explore ways of water harvesting and processing food for sale in the local market.

Community agricultural workshops will be conducted, which will “reconnect” the local population to the land, and promote the enormous benefits of long term sustainable agricultural systems in the local community. It is envisaged that the Riimenze community itself will be empowered to eventually take over the management and running of the agricultural project, once they have acquired the necessary skills to do so.

A small experimental agricultural plot in Wau is providing food for the Catholic Health Training Institute. Gardens currently are managed within the Institute compound.



Improved Agricultural productivity will enable the first stages of community recovery, skills development and a new prosperity for South Sudan. Domestic agricultural production will be an essential component of poverty alleviation and food security for the rural poor.

SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH SUDAN

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