

A year of bumper crops in Burkina Faso

May 2010 update

With the help of churches such as yours, our partners ODE and Reseau Marp are improving the availability and quality of food for thousands of people in Northern Burkina Faso.

Partnering with ODE in Passoré Province



Zougrama Minata (left) is 55 and has five children. With training provided by ODE her harvest is producing more than ever before. The new farming skills she has learnt have enabled her to introduce nutrients to the dry land so when it rains the production will be good. Zougrama has passed her knowledge on to other farmers. Before learning these skills she did not always grow enough food to feed her children. Now she has enough for the family and to sell at market to pay school fees.

With your support, ODE has helped train 1,266 farmers -- including 635 women such as Zougrama -- in vegetable production technology. These courses have improved their farming skills and shown them how to adapt when the rains fail. The current bumper crop of cabbages, potatoes and tomatoes are testament to this.

Farmers have also been supplied with fertilisers and pesticides. A management committee was organised to purchase and distribute the fertiliser. Once the harvest has been sold the management committee will collect money from the farmers for the fertiliser and prepare for the next production. This will ensure a permanent fund for fertiliser and pesticides.



As well as learning how to grow crops, the farmers have been taught the importance of storage, conservation and commercialisation of their market garden produce. To this end, 42 hectares have been cultivated for seed and 25 tons of seeds were produced. Excess seeds will be sold this month to other producers, projects and NGOs.

ODE's work doesn't stop there. To guarantee food all year round for the community, ODE took the farmers on 'study' tours to show them the advantages of storing vegetables and how to do this successfully. This knowledge will be of great benefit and will be

used immediately after harvest.

As you can see from the picture above, the farmers are managing and maintaining their market gardens and some of the crops are now ready for harvest. All 123 wells are now drilled and operational, and the 16 gardens are producing potatoes, cabbages and tomatoes.

Partnering with Reseau Marp in Zondoma Province

Recent achievements in Zondoma Province include:

- 58 groups have been trained in how to grow beans. As a result they harvested twice as many beans in 2009 as in previous years
- Volunteers were selected to assist in drilling two wells to supply market gardens in the village of Rondolga, and two other wells in the village of Ridimbo
- Over 120 farmers were helped to grow rice which will increase the range and availability of food for themselves and their families
- Nearly 2,000 chickens were distributed to farmers
- The project team has provided technical support to vegetable growers to help them with site preparation, planting, watering and maintaining plants. Production is underway and the crops of onion, cabbage and potato are growing
- A study tour was organized by the project team for 50 poultry farmers (including 23 women) from 10 villages to learn how to get the best from their livestock
- Following sessions run in 10 villages in July 2009 to teach about hygiene and nutrition, a survey was conducted on the effects of these meetings. This showed a significant increase in hand washing before and after meals, preparation of enriched porridge for children and more varied diets. Similar sessions were run in other villages in January and February.

Partnership growth

Christian Aid has been delighted with the success of the ODE Partnership scheme. In total 30 churches and church groups have signed up so far and pledged to raise more than £140,000 for this project in Passmore, Burkina Faso. Due to this fantastic result the Partnership team has now sought further EC-matched schemes to get involved with -- another ODE project in Burkina Faso helping the communities in Seno and Qudalan provinces and a project in Matabeland, Zimbabwe.

The website

Don't forget to visit the Partnership web pages at www.christian-aid.org/churchpartnerships, and the 'hidden' page which can only be accessed by churches and others who are giving to the partnership scheme: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/fundraise/church-partnerships/resources/updates.aspx>. Here you can find PDFs of all the materials you have been sent plus past and current updates. You will also be able to read about the other projects that the Partnership scheme supports.

Organising a talk

If your church or group would like someone from Christian Aid to come and give a talk, please contact your local area office (www.christianaid.org.uk/aboutus/contact).

If your group has any other queries, then please contact the Partnership team by email: partnershipscheme@christian-aid.org or by phoning Max Khanna on: 020 8123 7523

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