



CHURCH
PARTNERSHIP
SCHEME

Food Security in Burkina Faso ODE and Reseau MARP October 2009 Update

As both Reseau MARP and ODE are working on food security in northern Burkina Faso the updates will cover both partners, but please be assured that your money is going to the project you signed up to support.

The last couple of months have been a busy time for us: twenty four churches and groups have signed up to support ODE and three have now pledged to raise funds for Reseau MARP; four members of UK staff visited both the projects and we have had lots of materials printed to help your fundraising efforts. All this in addition to the fundraising being done by churches and groups all over the country and, of course, the food security work of the project itself!

In Burkina Faso



Photo: Christian Aid/ Matt Grady

Dominique Sankara is a farmer in the ODE project area. He has seen the rains get later and later every year and the amount of food he is able to grow dwindle. The cereals his father and grandfather used to plant in this land are no longer suited to the environment.

Poor communication, education and physical infrastructure means that without the intervention of organisations such as ODE it is virtually impossible for people like Dominique to find out what he can do to improve his situation.

It is a big risk to leave behind what generations before you have done, especially when, with so little food around, there is no margin for error. But ODE are working with communities to show them the difference changing seed varieties can make. In a test run one third of the villagers were supplied with new millet seeds, tools and techniques.

Dominique was one of those who took part in the test run and has seen the benefit:

“With regards to the local seeds which our ancestors used – we don’t have enough rain any more. Sometimes we have plants but not enough harvest to take home. Thanks to improved seeds, every person has something to take home. Previously each person would make 50,000 CFA from their harvest. Now each person can make 350,000 CFA.”¹²

¹The Burkina currency is the Communaute Financiere Africaine, or franc. £1 =700CFAs

² Passore and Zandoma Provinces have been lucky this season and not suffered from the flooding that has affected much of West Africa.

On The Ground

ODE

- 443 growers including 251 women have attended a 5 day course in vegetable production.
- 110 sites have been identified as suitable for the new crops.
- 60 seed producers received training from INERA (The National Institute of Education in Agricultural Research) so that they can carry out their own research; learning how to identify the best growing seeds and how to control pests.

Reseau MARP

- 116 producers from ten villages are now working in cowpea production. They have been trained in growing and are receiving support to help them register the groups with the local government authority.
- About 160 rice plots of 625 m² each have been established.
- 108 farmers from the villages of Pella and Ridimbo have benefited from training in rice production, fertilization and pest control.
- 8 farmers have been trained in the techniques essential for producing 'improved seeds' – ones which are better suited to withstanding flooding and climate change.
- A total of 4 sites have been developed for the production of improved cowpea and sesame seeds.
- 50 poultry farmers have visited a poultry farm in Gourcy to see how they are managing their business. They will be supported as they implement the lessons they have learnt.

In the UK

The Materials

By now you should have received a pack containing country, partner and project briefings; accounts and paying-in sheets; posters and leaflets and DVDs. If any of this didn't arrive, you would like more or there is confusion over paying money in etc please do contact Kat or Max. Contact details below.

The Website

The Church Partnership web-pages are being updated and are now home to some introductory information and film clips from projects that are being supported through the scheme. You can visit the pages at www.christian-aid.org/churchpartnerships.

There is also a "hidden" page just for churches and groups who are giving to the church partnership scheme. It can be found at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/fundraise/church-partnerships/resources/updates.aspx> and should be 'live' from Wednesday 4th November. Here you can find PDFs of all the materials you have been sent plus past and current updates. We will continue to add to them so do bookmark the page – it is just for you so will not show up on the search function.

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) or Kat. It could kick start your efforts or be a way to mark the half-way point.

If your church has any queries – please contact Kat Birch, either by emailing kbirch@christian-aid.org or calling on 020 7523 2015 or Max Khanna on mkhanna@christian-aid.org and 020 8123 7523

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