

COMPASS South Sudan: Agricultural Show

Solidarity with South Sudan

Brief description of the experience / activity.

COMPASS South Sudan organized an agricultural show to its farmer groups on December, 13th 2017. The goal was to lead farmers towards improved and sustainable agricultural practices. Objectives are to bring farmers from two payams together to share knowledge, experiences and views on agricultural techniques; to create market opportunity for farmers to sell their agricultural products and to encourage farmers through the agricultural show to realize the importance of agricultural diversification.

What does this change regarding the situation of the target groups?

COMPASS SSD's small holder farmers work in groups to produce more food for their families and to create a surplus (for the market) in order to get income to pay e.g. for their children to visit school and for their family needs at large. The purpose of this agricultural show was to bring farmers from all the five localities of Makpandu, Kasia, Riimenze, Bodo and Bazungua together, to exhibit their agricultural products, learn and share experiences and have the opportunity to purchase new seed varieties. The other rationale was to create a market opportunity for these farmers to sell the produce to the audience. The exhibits brought by the farmers were all bought with a majority of the purchased done by SAP-R, esp. the new seed varieties. This motivated the farmers, as all their produce was sold and they earned income to support their families.



What is the “specialty” regarding this experience / activity?

The specialty of this activity includes the sharing of knowledge and experiences among the farmers. Also, local seed varieties which other farmers have lost were exhibited and in that process farmers who lost them had the opportunity to purchase them. The second specialty of this activity was that SAP-R gave prizes to farmer groups that participated in the show. Some of these prizes included tarpaulins and seeds of green-gram. Farmers also received special (lucky) gifts from SAP-R e.g. tarpaulins, buckets, jacks, bowls, saucepans, gumboots and mirrors as motivation to the farmers to double their effort to produce more in the next upcoming seasons. Farmers bought seed varieties which they were lacking and also SAP-R got the opportunity to purchase more local seed varieties for cultivation / demonstration in the farm to other farmers.

How does it work?

There are number of things that need to be considered for the implementation, such as:

- Other NGOs that support / implement food security / agricultural programs should be invited in order to share knowledge and have common experiences
- Governmental entities should also be invited in order for them to see and witness what COMPASS is doing in terms of supporting the farmers around the areas of its operation.
- SAP-R when organizing next agricultural shows would like to invite farmers from neighboring counties, such as Nzara and Ibba Counties, so that they can come to see and learn from their farmer colleagues who are being supported by SAP-R

This approach, for whom could it be interesting?

This approach could be interesting for all farmers and different stakeholders. It is an approach through which group farmers and individual farmers can see and share new experience and knowledge about agriculture. They can see the produce of others and learn from them and the ways they have grown certain crops. It is also interesting for other stakeholders to see how farmers use / grow various crops using different / similar techniques to obtain better yields.

COMPASS Senegal: Mini-well equipped with a solar pump

Caritas Tambacounda

Brief description of the experience/ activities:

Senegalese agriculture is very dependent on rainfall. The development and sustainability of activities, such as vegetable gardening, requires total control of water. The experience we are going to share is the one of the CBO of Sankabary Manding in the Makacoulbantang Commune and the installation of a mini borehole equipped with a solar pump.



What does this change regarding the situation of the target groups?

For several years, the members of the organization, all women, have been active in vegetable gardening with enormous difficulties regarding access to water. The only source is a century-old well that was used for drinking water, vegetable gardening and livestock watering. The overuse of the water point makes it dry up very quickly in the dry period, which leads to the cessation of vegetable gardening activities and also causes health problems related in particular to the quality of the water. With the installation of the mini borehole equipped with a solar pump by the project, the women practice the activity of gardening all the year by reducing the working time and by producing a considerable quantity of vegetables intended for consumption and sale .

What is the “specialty” regarding this experience/activity ?



Permanent access to water through the solar pump has empowered women through increased production and income from the sale of part of the production. They can, from now on, buy their own seeds, renew the small equipment but they can also take care of the maintenance costs of the pump. The food of the families is also improved by the access to the vitamins thanks to the consumption of vegetables. The internal organization of the group, its dynamism but also the charisma of its president pushed the coordination of the project to respond favorably to the request.

How does this work?

The lesson learned in this initiative is that water is an indispensable factor of production and its mastery is a guarantee of success for any agricultural development action. The permanent and participative dialogue with the community makes it possible to identify the difficulties and to find lasting solutions together.

This approach, for whom could it be interesting?

The diagnosis, the identification of the possible solutions, the planning and the implementation of the actions are done with the communities. This approach allows the appropriation of the actions but also their durability. It is interesting for all organizations involved in community development as the knowledge and practices of communities are valued and taken into account in the development of projects and programs. The proverb says it well: "*What you do for me without me, you do it against me*". In this sense the communities define the orientations of their own development, the partners have more information for a better accompaniment. It is also interesting for us insofar as it has strengthened us in the option of creating resilient and climate-resilient niche markets and facilitating women's work, especially in the field of market gardening.



COMPASS Burkina Faso: A well for watering

OCADES Kaya

Brief description of the experience/ activities:

The creation of a large-diameter well should assure the watering of animals, especially during periods of water scarcity. A young man, supported by COMPASS-Burkina for the establishment of a fattening unit, organized the digging of a large-diameter well for watering animals with his companions instead of increasing the number of people around the borehole and reducing the chances of households, because the drilling of the villages is not permanently operational. In the long run, the well will be of double use: it will water the animals and initiate a small market garden around the well.



What does this change regarding the situation of the target groups?

The target group consists of young Issaka Korogo, his companions and their wives. An elderly person assists them with childcare allowing the parents to dig. The goal of this activity is to have a sustainable water source allowing to draw water for livestock and market gardening activities by arranging at least 14 boards including 2 boards per couple, if the amount of water obtained is sufficient. The digging of the well has been nearly finished. Its depth is 11m and the water level is already 60cm. A deepening of the well is programmed in order to reach a better water level. Issaka's friends each have a few heads of cattle.

What is the “specialty” regarding this experience/activity?



The speciality of this project is that the initiative came from young Issaka Korogo and that he was joined by his friends and their wives. Another speciality is that the activity is carried out directly by the actors without the help of any other external structure, person or group. The digging is done by the men. The women help to scatter the earth and take roles to ensure the preparation of food for the workers. The availability of water will allow to ensure the watering of animals and of Issaka and his companions without much difficulty. In the end, the target group will be able to improve their breeding and market gardening will undoubtedly improve the nutritional

status of family members in particular and other households in the village in general. By developing livestock production and market gardening, this initiative contributes to the reduction of rural exodus, the rush to artisanal gold mining sites and all the risks involved. Finally, it can be a source of youth integration and will be a prove that together we are always stronger.

How does this work?

To achieve such an activity, these main aspects have to be taken into consideration: Have an initiative to solve a common problem; share your idea with friends and convince them of its relevance. Important moments are the joint decision, the definition of a deadline and a work schedule.

This approach, for whom could it be interesting?

The realisation of this well will not only demonstrate the group's commitment to be responsible of their own fate, but will also serve as a model to spread in the program area. It can also be used for study trips with other groups. This activity is also interesting for the program team as its intervention philosophy is to support the beneficiary populations in what they do and not to achieve everything for them. "Work with and alongside people". The program intends to support the group as soon as market gardening will be possible by making available the agricultural technician for the realisation of the boards and by providing seeds for market gardening.

COMPASS Ethiopia: Applying apiculture in Watershed Approach

ECC-SDCOM

Brief description of the experience/ activities:

The best practice of COMPASS Ethiopia program related to apiculture groups in the watershed/closure area. These organized group members have been undertaking construction of biophysical conservation structures in the closure areas to diversify their income by selling honey, grass cut and introducing a carry system.

What does this change regarding the situation of the target groups?

Environmental degradation problems and mitigation measures were discussed in detail by strong community participation. Accordingly, the decision was taken to maintain soil conservation measures by substantial treatment of land degraded by erosion. The main aim of organizing apiculture groups inside the closed area is to protect natural resources to meet present and future needs of the population. This allows sustainable natural resource management by integrating income generating activities. After the area was recovered and made conducive for bee keeping, the groups were provided 20 modern hives with full accessories so that it enabled them to start the business. Based on this, the groups provided two traditional hives with colonies (colony with bees). Out of the total hives provided, four modern hives were fully matured (ripened) & harvested on the first harvesting season. Accordingly a total of 60 kgs of honey were harvested and sold for 7,200 ETB.



What is the “specialty” regarding this experience/activity?

The specialty regarding this experience is that it combined land rehabilitation and management with income generating activities. This means that the groups are mainly focusing on protecting the area from animal and human interference, on soil and water conservation activities, tree seedling plantation and bee flora plantation to rehabilitate the area – additionally, bee keeping is pursued as an income sources. The other specialty of this activity is that it focuses on group benefit rather than individual benefit – this creates a different sense of ownership, for sharing experiences and burdens among the members.

How does it work?

COMPASS Ethiopia project applies an integrated watershed approach to implement all planned project activities. The principle is combing integrated watershed management and income generating principles in strong collaboration with government relevant sectors. In order to implement the approach, delineating the watershed area was the most important task undertaken. After delineating 40 has of land at Mukuye lemen of Dugda Kebele, farmers were selected. These selected farmers are those who are living around the enclosed area, have interest of working on soil and water conservation activities, tree seedling plantation, have interest to work in groups by respecting the rules and regulations, who have experience on traditional beekeeping and are willing to be organized into apiculture groups.

This approach, for whom could it be interesting?

The *integrated watershed approach* is a rational utilization of all the natural resources and this fulfils present as well as future generation’s needs with minimal degradation of natural resources such as land, water, and environment. The purpose was mostly for implementing natural resource conservation and integrating apiculture group for income generating activities. Therefore, this approach is most interesting for vulnerable rural households living nearest to the closed / delineated area and who have experience on bee keeping and the area which has different types of bee forages/flora/plants.

