

### **COMPASS Ethiopia: Participative needs assessment & Improvement of livelihoods**

ECC-SDCOM

#### **Brief description of the experience / activity.**

Ato Merdasa Dodota is one of the seed beneficiaries in Dugda woreda. He lives in Mejaf lalu peasant association with all his household members. He received 75kg of wheat seeds on a half hectare of land in the 2017 production season. He attended the training of ecological production by the COMPASS project which is provided to all the seed beneficiaries before they are given the seed of their choice. Based on the training, he sow 0.25kg of the wheat in raw and the remaining in broadcasting method. He was able to harvest nine quintal of seed which was better than the previous year's harvests, even if the village suffered from the shortage of rainy season in the harvest year. Merdasa sold all of the production at once with the price of 890 ETB per quintal. Having gained this supplementary money, he bought a solar installation with its full materials as power source and now he can access the power at his home. In the meantime, he was able to create a job opportunity for his son, opening a barber house in the village. Merdasa also happened to be introduced with the supplier of solar installations and got to act as an agent in selling solar materials in the village. This created him another opportunity of business, selling photo cameras, to diversify his income sources.



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

The training helped Merdasa in farming and to improve his and his families' livelihood. He has been able to diversify his sources of income based on the seed the project gave him and which helped him in realizing his ambitions. He was even able to engage his family members in business, in supporting his son win his life.

#### **What is the "specialty" regarding this experience / activity?**

Understanding your beneficiaries and their potentials is vital. The special thing the project team learned from this experience is the issue of targeting and monitoring. It is believed that the right person in the right place principle matters a lot: Merdassa was the right person for the benefit category of seed in the project intervention. He was able to diversify his income source based on what he was given by the project which is the ultimate goal of the project. Yet, it is not merely targeting the right person, but also close monitoring of the progress and assisting him/her with technical support which leads to the desired result.

#### **How does it work?**

Select beneficiaries according to pre-defined criteria. Then try to validate the appropriateness of the selection in the presence of all the targeted kebele community if possible, as to settle transparency in the process and develop trust at the community level. After this process, again try to jointly assess the need of the beneficiaries – this way they start to take part in the project intervention and sense ownership. Finally, the appropriate service will be delivered and monitored by the experts very closely.

#### **This approach, for whom could it be interesting?**

The approach works for all who want to work on the development of communities, it is interesting and replicable by development organizations. It also helps academic institutions and researchers as to conduct their research on the approach of demand and its identification process. More than all, it helps the donors evaluate how helpful the approach and the intervention are in implementing such development activities.

## **COMPASS Burkina Faso: The production of organic manure from the three pits**

OCADES Kaya

### **Brief description of the experience / activity.**

In the experiment, it is a production of organic manure in three pits in 60 days, turning over every 15 days on average. This is done by using the pits, transferring the contents from one pit to another. More precisely, the first two pits are filled (e. g. pit A and B) and then - when the day of turning it over comes - pit A is emptied into pit B and pit B into pit C. For the next turning, pit B is emptied into pit A and pit C into pit B. And so on and so forth. In the end, ripe compost is obtained. This method is similar to the *Indore pit method*.



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

The target group for this activity is all village households benefiting from COMPASS agricultural activities. Soil improvement is a crucial factor in agricultural production, as it helps to maintain soil fertility and provides plants with sufficient nutrients which they need for good maturation. This activity has made it easier for producers to produce large quantities of organic manure, restore their degraded soils and make them productive again. Each well-filled pit can produce between 1-2 tons of well-decomposed organic manure. In year 3, COMPASS supported 77 producers in stabilizing 231 pits with cement. These 77 producers were able to produce 199.4 tons of well-decomposed organic manure.

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

The particularity of this method is that the dimensions of the 3 pits are smaller (3m long, 1-1.5m wide and 0.5m deep) than those of the conventional manure pit (3m long, 3m wide and 1m deep). This method reduces the difficulty of turning over which is observed with the conventional pit. The frequency of turning and its ease allow a mixture of different elements (animal defecation, plant debris and ashes) and thus accelerate decomposition. Also, by this method, well decomposed organic manure is obtained after 60 days compared to 90 days for the conventional pit. Many producers who use conventional pits no longer turn the materials and so decomposition takes longer.

### **How does it work?**



With the continuous degradation of soil fertility, COMPASS raises awareness among producers about the construction of pits and the production of organic manure during the Group Work Activities (GWA) conducted by the project's agricultural manager. The method was unknown in the locality. The program has set up demonstrations in each Working Group (WG), by digging, filling and turning organic manure (when maturity is completed) during the GWA. The important moments in the realization of this activity are: implantation, digging and stabilization of the manure pit, filling, turning and control of the humidity and watering of the organic manure. The strategy chosen to get producers to adopt

this new technique was to sensitize them and set up demonstrations. Afterwards, the agricultural manager technically assists producers wishing to carry out this technique during his monitoring and farm visit activities. Then, he consults the list of producers who dug the 3 pits so that the program can support them with cement for stabilization.

### **This approach, for whom could it be interesting?**

This technique can be applied by producers in all villages of COMPASS-BF because they live the same realities, namely: increased soil poverty and poor production. All producers who are using manure pits can also experiment with it. In addition to restoring and amending the soil, organic fertilizer - by modifying the texture of the soil - allows better water retention from the soil. The use of organic manure is a sustainable alternative to the use of chemical fertilizers by producers.

# Compass

Improved chances for smallholders

## **COMPASS South Sudan: Fodder conservation method: silage**

Solidarity with South Sudan

### **Brief description of the experience / activity.**

COMPASS SSD has lacked green conserved fodder to feed animals during the dry seasons. The problem has tremendously affected the growth and reproduction rate of the animals. Silage making was identified as the best way to conserve fodder for even longer periods. The silage can stay for up to a year or more if properly conserved and managed during feeding process. The silage making helps the COMPASS / SAP-R farm animals and would be of great support to the farmers. The project team is testing a pilot initiative on small scale in-door piggery rearing and the beneficiaries of this project are the farmers within COMPASS target locations.



These farmers will be trained by the trainees on silage production, which will give them the technical know-how of feeding their animals especially during dry seasons, aiming at higher returns for the farmers.

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

The activity shall help the farmers to be able to run an in-door pig rearing without having challenges of feeds for the animals during off-seasons: the silage making will encourage farmers to keep pigs, knowing how to feed them especially during dry season. Traditionally, pigs are known to be eating a lot, but with the modern feeding combinations, a pig can be feed on less than 2kg of silage in a day. A farmer therefore does not have to worry about the quantity of the feed but is concerned about its quality only.

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

Initially, livestock have been fed on roughages, greens plants, leftovers, peels etc. – this has proven very hectic and tiresome. COMPASS SSD initiated training on silage processing as an improved means for livestock feeding. It is made from green plant materials that are chopped into smaller particles. Successful silage is made from sweet potatoes leaves, potatoes or cassava tubers. A solution of sugar mixed with salt is sprinkled on that mixture and the combination is tightly packed into a polythene bag or barrel, making sure no air gets in. The combination is left for 21 days and then fed to the animals. This silage described above carries all the required nutrients needed for animal growth and maintenance.

### **How does it work?**

Firstly, livestock keepers should know which green fodder is required for the feeding of each type of livestock.

Knowing the type of livestock will enable them to prepare the silage. Silage from sweet potatoes leaves and roots or cassava tubers is fed to pig and is stored for 21 days before it can be fed to the pigs, while for cattle and goats it is prepared from maize stalks and leaves and left for 45 days after which it can be fed to them. Example of feeding: a piglet is fed on ½ kg of silage per day whereas a weaned piglet eats about 1 ½ kg of silage. Each sow or boar eats 2 kg of silage in a day. The advantages of the silage is that it can be preserved for dry season use or if well preserved, may last for two or more years.



### **This approach, for whom could it be interesting?**

This approach is interesting to all the livestock keepers in the rural communities of Bazungua, Bodo, Bazumburu, Riimenze, Kasia and Makpandu and beyond. This experience is equally important and beneficial to CBOs and NGOs supporting farmers in the livestock sector to ensure high production of livestock products in the Yambio and South Sudan at large. This is also interesting to the government and any other development organizations and research institutions who would wish to conduct further researches on the experience.

# Compass

Improved chances for smallholders

## **COMPASS Senegal: Creating savings and increasing resilience**

Caritas Tambacounda

### **Brief description of the experience / activity.**

This is an activity developed by the Women's Promotion Group (WPG) of the village of Ndogo Beuleup wolof in the Commune of Ndogo Babacar. Through the sale of part of the market gardening production, the women were able to obtain groundnut seeds for the 2019-2020 agricultural season.



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

Family producers are often anxious as winter approaches. Many of them have difficulty accessing quality and timely groundnut seeds despite the efforts of the government. This initiative has provided the WPG with scarce financial resources at this time of year to access groundnut seeds early, plant early, diversify crops and expect higher yields. Through this experience, it is the women's contribution to community resilience, autonomy and decision-making power that is strengthened.

### **What is the "specialty" regarding this experience / activity?**

What is special is both this commitment and the individual and collective awareness of the women in this group to take care of a real need of farming families. On a surface of less than ½ ha of market gardening, they manage to produce, consume and market their products and are thus able to build up pre-winter savings, which shows that they are ambitious and resilient.



### **How does it work?**

At the beginning of each market gardening campaign, the members of the group consult with the extension worker's advice to plan and choose the different specifications. Each member has three 100 m<sup>2</sup> boards that it operates and is required to pay an amount fixed by mutual agreement into the group's fund. Thus, for the 2018-2019 market gardening campaign, the women of the group were able to mobilize the sum of 275,000 francs CFA in savings on income from their market gardening activities. This enabled the group to purchase vegetable and groundnut seeds for the 2019-2020 season.

### **This approach, for whom could it be interesting?**

This initiative could be of interest to all the other groups supported by the project. It should be popularized through inter-group exchange visits. For Caritas, this is an experience to be capitalized on. It shows the degree of maturity and ownership of the project's actions by community-based organizations (CBOs).