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Have you got a story or an event for the next newsletter? If so, we want to hear from YOU!

Picture: Participants from the Agricultural training in Chargel, Sare Demba Dado and Njolfen
FIOHTG ON A STUDY TOUR TO THE SONGHAI CENTRE IN BENIN

Late October Mr. Bubacarr ML Camara, Head of Community Development and Mrs. Jainaba Teeda Sarr, Head of Human Resources went on a study tour to the Songhai Centre in Benin. The centre is a Sustainable Food Security model that puts the people at the centre of their own development. “We want to help restore the dignity of the Black Man, restore confidence and hope, and offer Africa a new image by taking it out of the cycle of poverty and placing it in charge of its own destiny” said Father Godfrey Nzamujo, founder of the Songhai initiative.

The concept aims to bring about sustainable development through an innovative and integrated food security system using primarily locally available resources in order to reverse the persistent phenomenon of food insufficiency in Africa, the current African rural exodus and brain drain, an import-dependent economy, environmental degradation, loss of hope for the future among young people, subsistence agriculture, and devaluation of the opportunity that comes with excessive population growth. In Songhai the approach is systemic as everything is interconnected. The approach believes in the synergies that develop from several relations; livestock, crop production, energy production, and aquaculture energize each other. This goes even further with other services - marketing, innovation, research; this Interconnection makes Songhai an Effective Integrated System.

The centre also provides short and long term training opportunities to young people in the various disciplines of integrated farming system for food self-sufficiency. Many countries in Africa including the Gambia are replicating the concept in order to create a critical mass of people championing the cause of self-reliance and sustainable development. Read more about the centre on their webpage -- click here!
CONSTRUCTION FOLLOW UP AFTER ON YEAR

After one year, the construction unit of FIOHTG travels up country to evaluate and repair defects that may be found on previous built projects. Restoration of defect on constructions is inevitable since the buildings will naturally get affected by weather or other factors which calls for reparations and renovations. It is also a requirement we need to meet from donors before any final payment is done.

The repair of defects in Barrow Kunda (LRR), Madina Angally (LRR) and Kumbija (URR) was supervised and coordinated by program officer Cherno Jeng of the construction unit.

TRAINING ON HRBA AT THE FIOHTG OFFICE

On the 1-2 November staff of FIOHTG participated in training on Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) compliance at the office conference room. The training was coordinated by Jainaba T. Sarr from the Human Resources office with facilitators from various backgrounds; Human Rights activist Madi Jobarteh, Gender specialist Fanta Jatta Sowe from Action Aid, Legal practitioner Dawda Jallow and Womens Rights activist and cofounder of the Girls Agenda Oumie Sissokho.

The training reminded the participants of the concepts, principles standards and obligations of Human Rights, which includes to respect, protect and fulfil Human Rights for both duty bearers and right holders.

Having in-dept knowledge of HRBA improves the professional skills of the staff and will enhance the implementation of HRBA in their projects. The training was very successful and was an arena for rewarding discussions on power imbalances, democratic processes and advocacy for creating political change through social awareness. One reoccurring objective in multiple parts of the training was the importance of mutual top-bottom accountability, both governmental and social.
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING WITH CDU

Between the 5 – 9 November the Community Development Unit led agriculture trainings coordinated by program officer Omar Cham, intern Jeanna Isacson and a brief visit from Kristina Lundahl, chairperson from FIOH Sweden. Workshops were held in Chargel (region 5), Sare Demba Dado (region 6) and Njolfen (region 4) with the objective to follow up on the Moringa tree nursing that was planted earlier in 2018 and to establish community vegetable gardens.

The vegetable gardens should preferably be placed near the village with access to adequate supply of water, fertile soil and quality seeds for increased production of yield. The training combined theoretical lectures with practical work and consisted of establishing nursery beds directly in the soil, creating seed boxes in containers and testing beans/ corn if they are fit for growing.

The seed used for demonstration was lettuce hence it is a suitable vegetable for the winter season since the climate is getting cooler.

The participants also prepared a natural insect repellent and constructed an organic compost which is made of coose stalk, vinegar, sugar and urea fertiliser mixed with water and black sand which is easy accessible material. The preparation takes only 15 minutes, then the process needs 15 days until the compost is finished and can be used as fertiliser for the soil and crops. Overall the workshop was a great success with positive participation during training. The next step now is to pursue guidance on vegetable preservation and storage so the yield do not get spoiled when the harvest is too big and so it can be used for a longer period of time.