

Report for the Farmers' Clubs Program

For the period January to September 2011



GAIA MOVEMENT



ADPP GUINEA BISSAU

Name of the project: FARMERS CLUB
 Organization: ADPP GUINEA BISSAU
 Report period: JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2011

Project activities:

- a) Training the farmers in jatropa production with different topics. The training was for 2 days with participation of 200 farmers from the 40 clubs in the Farmer’s Club Project financed by AECID (Agencia Española para Cooperación Internacional de Desarrollo) e FPP (Fundación Pueblo para Pueblo) Spain. The topic was about all methods of harvesting the seeds of high quality by following the calendar. The best period of harvesting is from July to October. The farmers learned how to conserve the seeds.
- b) Identification of more areas with jatropa plants, as e.g. in Binar, Mansoa and Patche Yala. Approximately 23.000 plants grow around the houses as fencing.
- c) Pruning the jatropa plants was done on 41.000 Plants in 40 clubs and the plantation in Vocational School in February and March. This helps the plants to be strong and to have more branches and this will contribute to harvest more seeds later.
- d) Planting jatropa as cuttings. In 2010 3-5 farmers in each club planted as fencing. This year the goal is that each club plants 1500-2000 plants.
- e) In the jatropa nursery in Vocational School we multiplied 35.000 plants. 9 clubs established nurseries. This was done in May and June where we distributed plastics sacks for planting the seeds. The total number was 60,000 bags including the Vocational School nurseries.
- f) Mobilize and Purchase seeds in Guinea Bissau were carried out from August to October and in order to start to collect seeds in good time and buy them.

The effects of the project activities:

From the activities implemented during this period, the project has had these effects:

- Farmers have learned the importance of jatropa plants. At first they were only using for fencing the houses, but now they are planting for the purpose of producing oil.
- They have also learned how to fence the horticulture field.
- Farmers have also theoretically learned that Jatropa can be used to produce Soap.
- Farmers have gained experiences from other countries through the video which was shown.

Attachment 1: The Project in Numbers

| Farmers club in Oio region | Planned January-September 2011 | Achieved January – September 2011 | Difference |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| N° of farmers having their fields fenced with Jatropa | 200 | 120 | -80 |
| N° of Jatropa plants ready to produce, planted by the project | 43.000 | 28.000 | -15.000 |
| N° of plants planted this year | 40.000 | 33.500 | -6.500 |
| N° of people per club involved in Jatropa production | 200 | 230 | +30 |
| N° of clubs with their model | 40 | 52 | +12 |

| | | | |
|--|--------|-----|---------|
| fields fenced with jatropa | | | |
| N° of Kgs of Jatropa harvested this year | 25.000 | 100 | -24.900 |
| N° of Jatropa plantations opened | 2 | 1 | -1 |
| N° of trainings about importance of use of Jatropa | 5 | 2 | -3 |

COMMENTS:

So far the plan has not been achieved due low germination rate of 32%. This meant that people interested in getting plants, did not get it. We need to get more experience in which local plants produce high germination rate seed, collect more seeds and know how to separate good seeds from poor seeds before planting.

We had the plan to harvest 25 tons this year, but did not reach this because the conditions for doing this were not secured in time, so many of the seeds, which fell during the rainy season started to germinate on the ground. We need to improve on planning in due time.

We planned earlier that we will have two plantations, one with 10 hectares and one with ½ hectare as a model field at the Vocational school.

We planned to have 40 clubs with fencing, but reached 52, including the 12 clubs started in 2008. The number of people involved in the jatropa plantation was planned to be 200 but we reached 230 farmers.

Attachment 2:



Pruning of the plants



Jatropha as fencing



Training in jatropa production and harvest



Nursery with jatropa and pest control



Transport of the plants to the community



Training in harvesting good seeds



Seed selection and conservation

Attachment 3: CHALLENGES

The main challenge of the jatropha project is proper planning in due time, especially in harvesting period. This we have to improve on. Constant rain some time contributes negatively not to give time for seeds harvest. The result is that the more seeds are germinating while on the plant. In addition to that the regular weeding of the demonstration field is crucial for the plants to grow the maximum. Lastly we need to improve on selecting quality seeds and separate good from no good seeds, so that we only sow the good.

Attachment 4: PLAN FOR THE NEXT NINE MONTHS

1. Continue mobilizing the farmers to harvesting the seeds in good time

2. Continue fencing the fields for the individual farmers with jatropha plants
3. Open a nursery for 50.000 plants
4. Conduct a demonstration for oil production
5. Conduct a demonstration for Soap production
6. Continue with sensitization throughout the whole region about the use of Jatropha seeds.
7. Conduct researches about the existence of Jatropha throughout the country.