

HEALTHY SOIL HEALTHY FOOD & AGROECOLOGY SUCCESS STORIES

Pioneering agroecological initiative flourishes at “Le Jardin D’eden” in Benin

To bolster food security and empower small-scale farmers, the “Le Jardin d’Eden” agroecological project in the commune of Allada, Benin, continues to make strides in promoting sustainable farming practices. Initiated in 2018, the project has emerged as a beacon of hope and resilience, benefiting the agrarian communities spanning across 12 villages in the region.

Guided by the mission to augment the resilience and food security of small-scale farmers and vulnerable groups, the initiative encourages an uptick in agricultural production through the adoption of agroecological practices. At the heart of the venture is the commitment to train farmers on climate change adaptation techniques and foster a nurturing ground for agroecology.



KOTO Christine from the village of Agbanou. Photo by Théophile wuemenou

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In a significant move to cultivate a sustainable farming environment, the project vehemently discourages practices that have adverse effects on the ecosystem, including burning, herbicide and pesticide use, and unwarranted tree felling. As an alternative, it accentuates soil fertility management and embarks on a series of activities that resonate with the principles of agroecology.

From grooming small farmers to become agroecology ambassadors to encouraging youth entrepreneurship in the sector, the project has broadened its horizons. It is notably involving farmers in applied farm research, innovative on-farm developments, and conservation of



Makdalin showing Esther Bett how her avocado crop is doing very well after application of bokashi, super magro and ash brew.

native seeds, coupled with training on the medicinal plants and the ingenious use of dry latrine products.

The endeavour has also paved the way for breakthroughs in soil fertility management. A noteworthy practice is the compost production utilizing waste from animal and human latrines. Farmers have embarked on experiments with various organic materials to produce liquid compost, with pigeon droppings showing promising results in enhancing yields, followed by rabbit and human excrement. The initiative to use urine as a natural fertilizer has also marked a positive uptick



in crop yields.

Furthermore, the farmers have adopted a unique method of traditional latrine construction, facilitating the easy collection of organic waste for crop fertilization. This pioneering approach, paired with crop rotation and the incorporation of maize and legumes like lentils in agriculture, showcases

the transformative potential of agroecological innovations in the precincts of the “Le Jardin d’Eden” farm.

As the project continues to flourish, it stands as a testament to the synergy between nature and sustainable agricultural practices, fostering a brighter, greener future for the communities in Benin.

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