

# The Riimenze Community

Newsletter – April 2026

Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



## The Success of Field Crops at the Demonstration Farm

At the demonstration farm of the Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze (SAP-R), field crops such as maize, groundnuts, and soya beans grow well, especially during the rainy seasons when water is plentiful for better yielding. This is thanks to our able farm supervisor, Br. Godfrey Wambugu, and the community casual workers who provide an able labor force. Maize and groundnuts have been weeded successfully. This is among the best field practices employed at the SAP-R farm: early weeding to avoid the competition of weeds with crops and also to kill the life cycle of pests. At the demonstration farm, only organic farming practices are being implemented,



where organic matter such as animal waste is used, and plant matter is used for mulching.

## Successful Livestock Beneficiaries

Livestock is truly a life-changing blessing for our beneficiaries. There is nothing quite like the joy of a farmer watching their animals thrive and prepare to give birth! Headman Erneo from Bazungua village couldn't hide his excitement as his two female pigs are now nearing delivery. He expressed his deep gratitude to SAP-R for the support, as well as to our dedicated Community Extension Workers. Acting as the vital bridge between our office and the community, these workers provide essential, on-the-ground care: from routine spraying and vaccinations to administering critical medications when animals fall sick. Together, we are building a healthier, more sustainable future!



## Seed Distribution to Horticultural Groups

Our horticultural groups are always kept busy in all seasons, and with the arrival of early rains, the distributed seeds have been planted on seed beds, waiting to be transplanted to the main garden. All thanks to our Livelihood Officer for having trained all horticultural women groups on sustainable field practices. These practices include planting in rows, mulching seed beds, early weeding, and thinning of seedlings, among others. This gives hope that these women's lives will improve, as they will have access to more nutritious food and, thanks to the income generated from selling the harvest, will be able to buy what they need.



## Coffee: Tradition and Care

Coffee remains one of the most vital traditional cash crops in our community, backed by a large market and strong, consistent demand. To protect this valuable asset, our dedicated community casual workers play a critical role in farm maintenance, regularly clearing bushes and weeds to ensure the coffee plants thrive in a clean environment. Looking to the future, the SAP-R demonstration farm is actively expanding its production through strategic propagation. Coffee is carefully raised from seeds into seedlings under optimal germination conditions. To date, SAP-R has successfully transplanted 600 coffee seedlings across 3 feddans of land, with a second phase of planting scheduled for July. In addition to coffee, our nursery beds are currently raising mango seedlings, which will soon be ready for grafting. This incredible progress is a direct result of the teamwork between our farm supervisor and committed casual workers, who continue to provide maximum care for the young plants.



## SAP-R Participates in the Monthly FSL Cluster Meeting

SAP-R recently joined fellow agricultural organizations for the monthly Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) cluster meeting, organized by the State Ministry of Agriculture. The session was chaired by the Honorable Bruton Nagomoro, State Minister of Agriculture for Western Equatoria State. During the meeting, participating organizations shared updates on their respective activities across Western

Equatoria, while the Honorable Minister provided strategic guidance on key issues. SAP-R was represented by its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, who presented a detailed overview of the project's ongoing field operations and shared the upcoming monthly work plan. This proactive sharing ensures the Ministry remains fully informed of SAP-R's vital role in promoting sustainable agriculture throughout the region.

## Sustainable Livestock Management

The SAP-R demonstration farm continues to advance sustainable livestock management, hosting a diverse range of animal species including cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, rabbits, donkeys, and ducks. Our dedicated livestock attendants ensure the highest standard of care, managing daily feeding, housing hygiene, and veterinary treatments. Thanks to an excellent care environment, reproduction rates are rising sharply. The current stock comprises: 64 pigs (including 42 piglets), 23 ducks, 6 goats, 6 cattle, 4 rabbits, 2 sheep and 2 donkeys. With several animals expecting, the number is set to grow further in the coming weeks.



## Pathway Clearing at the SAP-R Farm

The Sustainable Agriculture Project Riimenze (SAP-R) farm spans several acres, cultivated with a diverse range of field crops managed according to our supervisor's strategic agricultural plan. To ensure optimal organization, these crops are separated by a network of dedicated pathways. Beyond facilitating smooth movement and access throughout the entire farm, these clearings serve critical agricultural purposes: they enhance visibility, eliminate potential hiding spots for pests and diseases, and disrupt the life cycle of invasive weeds. This significantly reduces competition for vital nutrients, allowing our field crops to thrive. We extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated casual workers and to our farm supervisor for their excellent planning and execution.

## The Power of Early Weeding

Early Weeding Boosts SAP-R Crops and Empowers the Community. At the SAP-R demonstration farm, early weeding, combining uprooting with local tilling tools, is successfully protecting our crops from invasive weeds. Even better, our amazing community workers have mastered this best practice and are now applying it to their own private fields, multiplying the project's impact across the region.



## Sweet Success: Expanding Sustainable Beekeeping

In South Sudan, honey is highly valued both as a lucrative commodity and a nutrient-rich food source. Recognizing this immense potential, the SAP-R demonstration farm has successfully integrated beekeeping into its operations, focusing on the production of 100% pure, organic honey. This initiative serves a dual purpose: it generates sustainable income for the project and provides an essential, energy-rich food source with natural medicinal properties for the local community. The success of our apiary relies heavily on strategic management. By ensuring the hives are placed away from noise, positioned close to water sources, and provided with adequate shade, our farm supervisor has optimized conditions for the colony.



Thanks to this careful planning, our current hives are thriving, full of honey, and officially ready for harvest.

To maximize profits season after season and boost overall honey production, the project leadership took a decisive action step. Following a meeting chaired by the Principal and the Project Manager in March 2026, a plan was launched to address the farm's capacity limits through the rapid construction of 20 additional modern beehives. This expansion is made possible thanks to our esteemed donors for their continued funding of our demonstration farm activities.

In the picture beside: Michael Thomas, a skilled local carpenter hired by the project, is seen constructing and assembling the new modern beehives.

