



Burkina Faso

Carnet de Mission ~ Part III June 2013



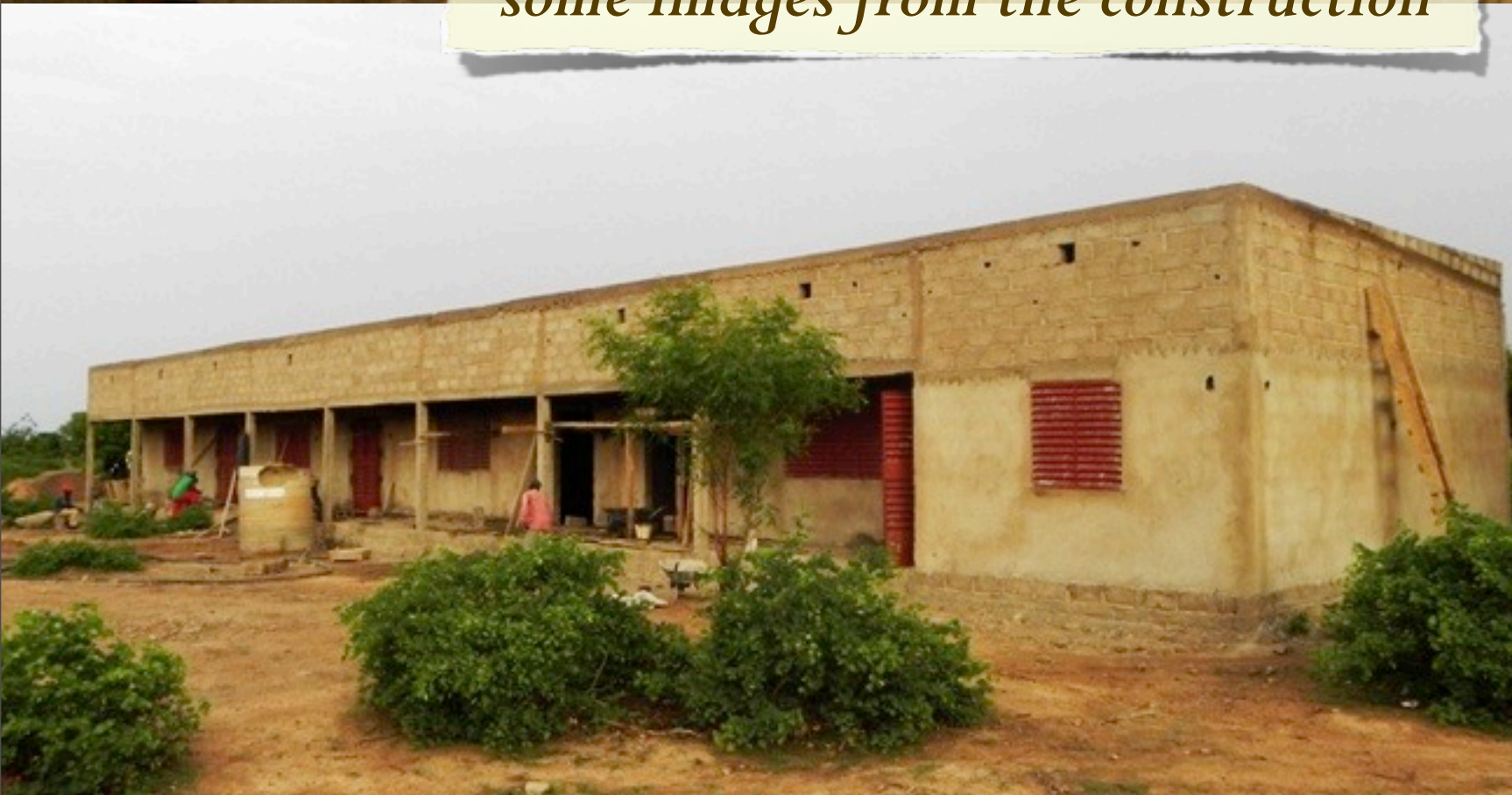
Ananda Marga Nong-Bzanga Secondary School



The Nong-Bzanga (*love for all*) Secondary School is becoming quite popular, and we haven't even started classes! Over the past few weeks, it has been a nucleus of bustling activity with women bringing carts of sand and drums of water to the worksite, so the team of mason could mold the bricks and bring up the walls. This building will serve as Bissiri village's first post-primary school. It is ideally situated on the Ananda Viirata master unit, only a 10 minute walk from the primary school. This school aims to provide a low-cost, neo-humanistic education, while helping to increase literacy rates across Bissiri; which are now at a mere 20%. Plans are to open the doors in October.



some images from the construction





Agro-Processing in Bissiri

- Facilities nearly complete
- Initial focus on moringa, lemongrass & oils
- Income generation by adding value to locally grown products

Moringa Update

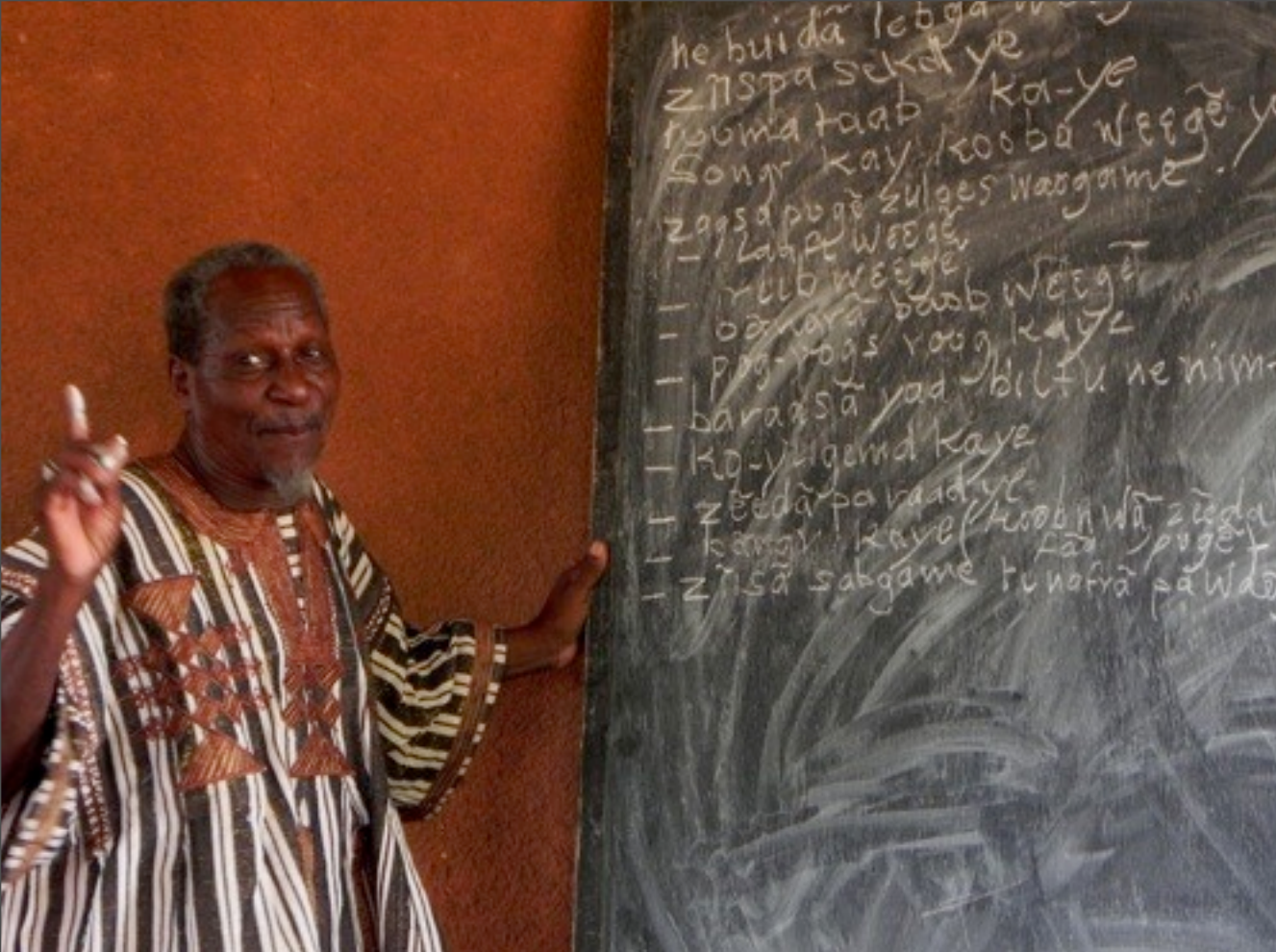
- More than 150,000 seeds made available to community for planting
 - Processing and packaging activities to commence
- (photo on title page is a local moringa garden)

Tree Nursery & Planting in Bissiri

Focus on fruits and
native nitrogen fixers
for economy &
environment



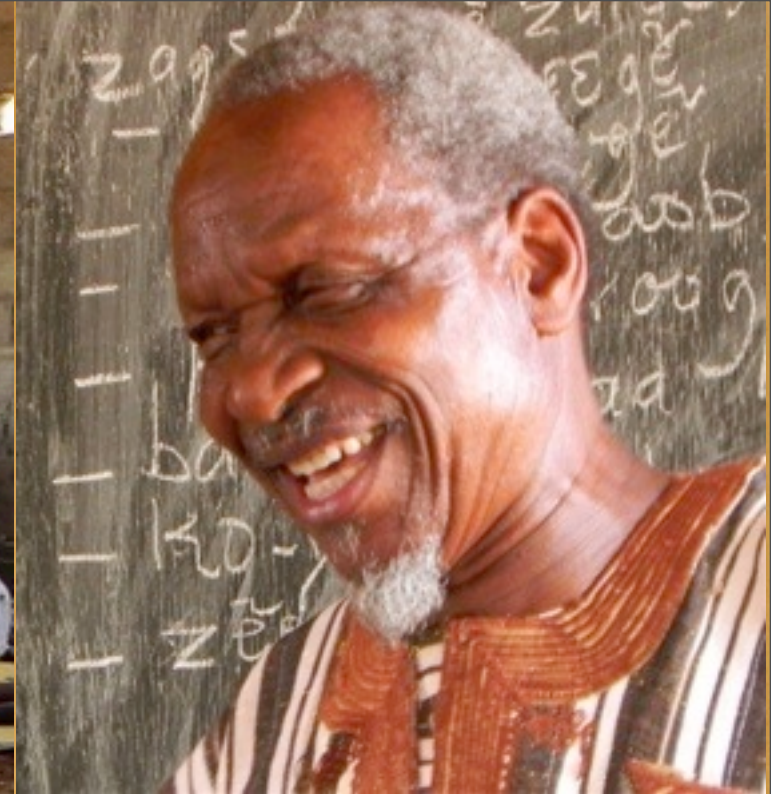
Acacia trees around our school border



La Vie Cher (The Expensive Life)

The title of a 2 day participatory,
educational program given by
veteran Burkinabe agroecologist:
Kolorgo Nikiema

Bissiri Village - May 2013



MR KOLOGO Nikiema is head of the AVAPAS ~ The Association for the Popularisation and Support for Agroecologists in the Sahel. Their mission is to control desertification, support reforestation and soil restoration and promote self-sufficient food security.

Day 1: Interactive discussion about the internal and external causes of an “expensive life.”

Day 2: Discourse about local, agroecological solutions to rural poverty and dialogue about future community action.

Immediate outcomes:

- Local animator was elected to become leader in agroecology in Bissiri
- He will help each family in community to design and implement a “paag poogo” or “wife’s garden” where all the needs of the family are met

What is a *Paaga Poogo*? ~ a bio-diverse sustenance garden

Our wish is that every family in Burkina Faso should have a one.

Below is a peek into our urban paaga poogo in Ouagadougou...

Currently growing: eggplant, hot peppers, spinach, swiss chard, 3 different varieties of local greens, green leaf lettuce, lots of okra, sweet potatoes, beets, lemongrass, basil, tulsi, artemesia, moringa, papaya, mango, pomegranate, lemons, custard apples, passionfruit, night jasmine & lots of other flowers. We're also drawing water from a well which sustains our day to day water needs. More paaga poogos to come...





Bissiri Community Day - March 3, 2013

*During the dry season, villages throughout Burkina Faso have community days to simply have fun and promote a sense of togetherness. The 4km womens bicycle race and donkey race bring lots of smiles and are among the favorite activities. Winners are awarded!
(donkeys included)*





Both the youth and adult football matches ended in penalty shoot-outs.

Friends from AMURT Italy were present to referee the matches and distribute prizes for all the competitions.

Women gathered to dance near the football pitch





We recently celebrated the wedding of Rasmani & Adjiaratu Kabore. Rasmani has worked as the AMURT program manager in Bissiri for over 8 years.

Adjiaratu comes from Nanimi village, and is now living with us in Bissiri. We welcome her and wish them both all the best in their union.



SHG coming to Burkina Faso...

A continuation of AMURT Haiti's successful Self Help Group (SHG) movement, we are currently in the process of establishing the program in two regions of Burkina Faso. The approach positions rural, grassroots women as active participants in a systematic process of bottom-up community organisation resulting in well structured networks, a representative leadership and a self-sufficient savings and loan scheme. Empowerment and gender equality represent a vital starting point for rural communities working together towards a sustainable and common ideal. Visit the AMURT Burkina Faso blog to read about Dinakar's experience learning the approach in Haiti.

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