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AMURT Burkina Faso



With almost half of its population living with less than USD 1 per day, and a literacy rate of only 21.8%, Burkina Faso is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. It ranks 134th on a total of 137 according to the Human Development Index of the World Bank/United Nations.

Approximately 80% of the 16 million inhabitants live in rural Burkina Faso and among them 50% are children under 15 years old. AMURT's activities currently focus in three localities:

- **Bissiri** : 40 km south of Ouagadougou
- **Kiedpologo** : 25 km west of Ouagadougou

Bissiri's Master Unit – Ananda Viirat'a:

Agro-ecology operation

In collaboration with local farmers, we have implemented agro-ecological cultivation techniques of vegetables and trees in our 3 ha plot of land. These are eco-friendly practices of agro production, such as using local compost and manure as fertilizers, neem based products as pesticides and trees growing within cultivated areas which aim at:

- regenerating the soil and decreasing harmful and costly inputs;
- optimizing the infiltration of water and the productive potential of each crop;
- generating resources in the short, middle and long term on each plot.

Water pump and dripping irrigation systems are utilized to increase the productivity and save water for out-of-season farming. We now also have a water tower attached to our bore hole to supplement it. Efforts continue to develop the infrastructures, set up better organization and offer free agro-ecology trainings to local farmers.

Our achievements include:

- 3 families cultivate 3 ha;
- 1 to 2 agro-ecology training a year;
- Arboriculture: 500 fruit tree orchard (tangelo, tangerine, papaya, grapefruit, lemon, cashew nut, sweet apple) and thousands of Moringa trees;
- Vegetable cultivation: onion, eggplant, tomatoes, koumba (local type of eggplant), sorrel, zucchini, cucumber, ladies finger, etc;
- Subsistence crops (rainy season crops): corn, pea nut, millet, sorghum, bean, etc.



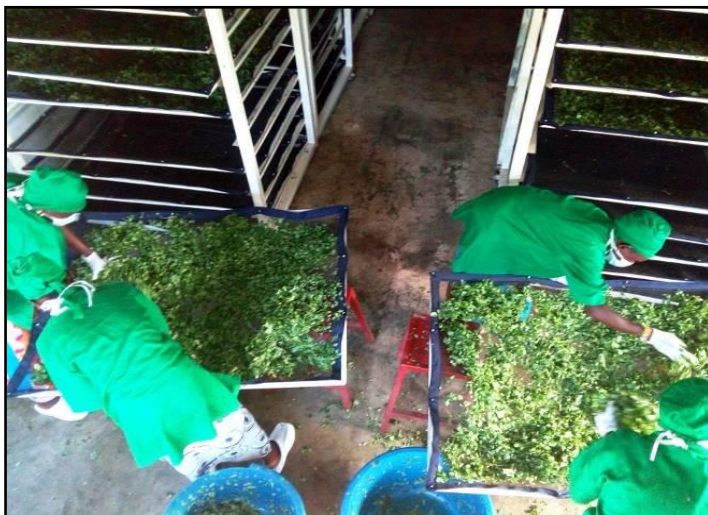
Moringa

Moringa is a fast-growing tree, highly resistant to drought and keeping its leaves throughout the year. Nutritional analysis showed that Moringa leaves contain, among others: 2 times more protein than yogurt, 3 times more potassium than bananas, four times more calcium than milk, 7 times more vitamin C than oranges, 4 times more vitamin A than carrots and 8 essential amino acids.

Moringa leaves, when dried and grounded into powder, produce an extraordinary food supplement. AMURT has worked the last 6 years to develop a project that aims at producing, processing and distributing moringa based products. This program has multiple benefits including:

- Promoting permaculture and agroforestry principles in the gardens, where moringa trees, lemon grass and hibiscus plants are produced;
- Generating stable revenues for the cultivators, while inputs needed for this culture are very low;
- Empowering and generating revenue for a group of Fulani women who process it;
- Promoting local economy in an innovative way in one of the poorest rural area in the world, hence setting a model of rural development;
- Promoting general health by making available - and affordable - a local super food that will particularly benefit pregnant women, children and numerous people who lack sufficient nutritious and balanced food.





AMURT's moringa project' achievements include:

- 20 families are guaranteed an income through the selling of moringa, hibiscus, lemon grass and mint leaves;
- 1 team of 22 women + 3 workers employed in processing operations;
- over 6000 moringa trees cultivated at Bissiri in agroforestry;
- 2 tons of dry moringa leaves produced this year (plus over 700 kg of lemon grass, hibiscus and mint);
- 7500 moringa herbal tea and moringa powder bags sold in Ouagadougou shops this year. Starting exportation of our moringa based products.
- In Addition, production of handmade sesame and moringa seed oil (about 50 liter/year both)

Primary health Care center:

Since 2010 AMURT subsidizes a primary health care center. It operates under the Ministry of Health and services are modeled on those of the CSPS (government primary health posts). Medicines are purchased at the regional district of health.

This center treats cases of malaria, diarrhea, infection, wound, etc. Often, when families can't afford treatments, AMURT take responsibility for the patient as it can come to a matter of life and death.

AMURT's primary health center at a glance:

- 2 nurses employed;
- 300 patients consulted per month on an average;
- open 24/24 hours, 7/7 days ;
- essential free services provided to patients with acute cases.



Education: implementing a school in Bissiri

In Bissiri many children used to discontinue education after primary term. AMURT has been able to construct four classrooms in 2013 thanks to our Italian's branch sponsor. AMURT then started Bissiri's junior high school. In 2016 the school expended, AMURT built 4 more classrooms because of growing number of students. In the primary public-school classes are over crowded and the standard of education is poor. Seeing how well AMURT cares for the students the local community asked us also start with primary school in our campus, dream which became reality in 2019 with the building of 6 classes and the opening of the primary term. AMURT subsidizes the school fees, uniforms, school books and noon meals, and initiates annual free medical checkups for the students. A program of sponsorship for the children in dire need has been arranged. Education extends its jurisdiction to drawing, music, yoga, meditation, tree nursing and reforestation programs.

AMURT School at a glance:

- 12 classes + library/computer room + administration building + kitchen + sport ground + tree nursery set up;
- 300 students, 15 teachers and 5 administrators;
- 115 students sponsored;
- School fees, noon meals and school books subsidized;
- Medical support for the students whenever necessary;
- Tree nursery training and reforestation programs;
- Music, reading, drawing and Yoga/meditation in program for the students.





Ko Nere Program

The aim of “Ko Nere” (“good water” in local language) is to ease access to water and strengthen women association in their endeavor to generate income.

Our integrated Ko Neere approach is the result of a decade of diverse experience working in rural communities in Burkina Faso. The approach is simple: we begin by surveying village water access and level of community organization. Then we meet with village-based associations and traditional leadership to exchange knowledge. From these surveys we draw a step-by-step progressive implementation plan: a flexible plan which may adjust itself according to changes of place, people, evolution of needs as time passes and available funds. We facilitate implementation while providing ongoing follow up and training to associations based on need. Most follow up modules center around community and family sustenance gardens, watershed management and self-help methodologies.

Ko Neere is an adaptable, low input program with obvious, tangible benefits for rural communities!

Ko Nere at a Glance:

- 10 wells (boreholes) equipped with manual pump in Tanghin Dassouri and Kombissiri commune;
- 4 trainings given to existing women association (vegetable organic cultivation, composting and tree nursery technics);
- 1 acre of land fenced for cultivation of vegetable for the Kiedplogo village’s association of women, 1 solar dryer installed, various trainings in processing (drying) of vegetable and fruit. Regular production of dry mangoes, tomatoes, okra, parsley, etc.



