

PORET Annual Report 2022: Highlights drawn from PORET report to fepa

Version 2.5.2023, md

Background Situation

- This year was filled with unevenly distributed rainfall. A total of 481mm was recorded at the PORET Centre. If this was evenly distributed, it would have made the crops grow until harvesting time. However, the erratic and uneven distribution led to the failure of crops, leading to a general shortage of food and seed among the farmers.

Networking, partners and political context

- This year, we had an opportunity of involving the Chimanimani West Member of Parliament in two of our events. This worked very well in our Agroecology advocacy strategy.
- 2022 came with its own challenges that have partly shaken us. The conflict of interest which developed between PORET and TSURO led to the development of a memorandum of understanding between PORET, TSURO and CELUCT Trust.
- The political climate has led to tight security by the government, leading to a situation where we have to introduce every visitor from western countries to the Provincial Development Coordinator. The introduction of the Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) bill led to a situation whereby effort had to be made to register under this bill.
- 2022 marked the end of SKI phase 2 and a change of the secretariat to AFSA.
- The funding from the Netherlands embassy brought an increase in the water harvesting activities in the community and youth involvement in community activities, marking a great change in community landscape. This also increased the time of interaction between the youths and CPC members, hence improving youth parent relationship.

Water Harvesting in Villages

- Many water harvesting activities were implemented, both in the center as well as in the villages (see below).
- 65 swales with a total length of 4'017metres, 93 infiltration pits and 28 small earth dams built. The above mentioned structures can harvest a total of 2'385'930 liters of water when full. 336 meters of stone terraces and gabions measuring 120 meters were constructed.

PORET Learning Centre development / Forest garden

- At PORET Centre, the general maintenance of the existing structures as continuous, concluding work is in progress at the community hall and the huts close to the hall. Swales with a total length of 65 meters, which can harvest a total of 23'500 liters of water when full, were constructed. One small earth dam able to harvest a total of 17'000 liters was constructed at the Centre. 3'778 trees were propagated in the tree nursery. 289 trees, mainly leucaena, mango, guavas, pawpaw and lemons were planted in the forest garden area. Hot beds were made and thousands of mango and red mahogany seeds were planted.

Youth, PDCs

- On 28 March, a youth orientation/induction meeting was conducted at the PORET Centre with youths from different villages. It prepared them for the meetings held with the CPC village committees. Good personality attributes and components of a contract of employment were shared. During the event, the students had an opportunity to learn about agroecology at the PORET Centre. The training needs of the youths were identified. 59 participants (29 female, 30 male) were present.
- Between 29 November and 10 December, 68 people (33 women, 35 men) attended the PDC workshop conducted at the PORET Centre.
- out of this were 36 trained youths and 22 youths out of the 36 implemented what they learnt in their villages.

Holistic Land Livestock Management

- Several activities were done throughout the year, the most dominant one was field impaction as a way of building soil fertility in the fields.
- Three HLLM workshops were conducted, equipping farmers with knowledge and information which can help in the implementation of HLLM activities
- See also separate report on HLLM by fepa.

Exchange visits

- 9 local exchange visits and 1 exchange visit to Harare were conducted, creating a platform for farmers to share knowledge and experiences in holistic and livestock, and water shed management within different villages, also creating a platform for farmer-to-farmer monitoring, exchanging knowledge on food and seeds, and having an opportunity to access markets to sell their products.

Baseline survey

- On 10 March, a survey was conducted by 14 youths in 13 villages in 3 wards, wards 2, 3 and 5. A total of 162 interviewees were reached. After analyzing, Katja Majirija shared the results with the farmers who showed a lot interest in the information.

Hotsprings secondary school Youth Empowerment Garden

- Monitoring of the work done in the youth empowerment garden was continuous throughout the year. Three meetings were conducted with the staff and the students in the club. More than 60 people visited the garden, learning from what the students are doing in the garden.

Community Borehole Projects

- Jinga Water Project (established 2018): Water was pumped throughout the year, the pumping system functioned very well. One major challenge faced by the farmers was a general decrease in the water level in the bore hole. This led to a situation where the beneficiaries failed to get water on some days of the year. Small gardens were maintained by three farmers and among the three farmers, two are starting to benefit from the trees which they planted at their homesteads.
- Chaseyama 'Business Center' Borehole (depth 80 meters) drilled this year (2022) and working with solar pump. This serves the primary school (with garden) and the settlement around the core of Chaseyama. Water here is used both for sanitation as well as for home gardens.
- Water supply for Chakohwa Highschool, and village drilled this year (also 80 meters at Chakohwa Mutidzawanda Village) using the same drilling team. Pipes were laid to supply water to the school for the Climate heroes project. Solar is bought and ready for installation when piping (2km of total length) is safely buried in the ground.

Tree planting & nurseries

- 65 tree nurseries were established by CPC members with a total of 8'100 trees.
- 168 CPC member planted 1'488 trees at their homesteads for different purposes.