

CHASEYAMA AGROECOLOGY NEWSLETTER



*Jinga Village, Chaseyama,
Chimanimani District,
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- Chaseyama Permaculture Club in collaboration with PORET has successfully conducted Village Seed Fairs in 56 Villages
- PORET Launched Watershed Management Project - (Improving Water And Ecological Resource Management In Chimanimani)
- Coming this September (4-5 September 2024) - Good Food, Seed, And Music Festival: A Celebration Of Culture And Resilience.
- Chief Mutema's Thriving Nutritional Garden In Chipinge

CHASEYAMA PERMACULTURE CLUB IN COLLABORATION WITH PORET HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED VILLAGE SEED FAIRS IN 56 VILLAGES

Chimanimani Low Veld - On July 31st, the spirit of collaboration and community resilience shone brightly as 56 villages hosted their annual seed fairs. The event was held across the villages in 11 wards where CPC has its members, celebrating the diversity of local seeds, bringing together farmers, and community members to exchange knowledge, seeds. This year's fairs saw an impressive turnout, with farmers a total of 535 exhibitors (510 males and 25 females) proudly displaying their best seeds, ensuring the preservation and spread of traditional crop varieties. A total of 912 attendance was recorded in all seed fair events.

The village seed fairs play a crucial role in safeguarding indigenous seed varieties that are well-adapted to local climatic conditions especially in the low veld of Chimanimani. These fairs are not merely transactional but educational, providing a platform for farmers to learn about sustainable farming practices, seed saving techniques.

"The seed fair is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our seeds and our stories," said Nomatter Gunanga, a farmer from Mumera B Village. "I've learned so much about different types of seeds that do well in our area have exchanged seeds that I believe will help improve my harvest."

The impact of these seed fairs extends beyond the immediate exchange of seeds. They foster a sense of unity and shared purpose among the communities, reinforcing the collective effort towards achieving food security. Farmers shared how certain seed varieties had helped them navigate challenging growing seasons. These narratives not only inspire but also serve as practical guides for other farmers facing similar challenges.

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Above: farmers from ward 6 displaying their seeds during the seed fair

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As PORET and CPC, we celebrate our collective achievements, from the launch of our watershed management project and landscape regeneration projects to the success of the village seed fairs. These initiatives highlight our commitment to sustainability and food security. We eagerly anticipate the Good Food, Seed, and Music Festival, a demonstration to our rich cultural heritage and resilience. Your unwavering support and dedication drive our progress. Together, we are building a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Julious Piti (PORET Director)

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Continued from page 1, One highlight of this year's fairs was the introduction of a seed bank initiative, aimed at creating a repository of diverse seed varieties for future generations. This initiative is a collaborative effort between PORET and local farmers, emphasizing the importance of preserving agricultural heritage. Participants were encouraged to contribute their best seeds to the bank, with the assurance that they could access these resources in times of need.

"The seed bank is a brilliant idea," commented Dorcus Mabanja, another participating farmer. "It ensures that we have a backup of our seeds, which is crucial for our future food security."

The village seed fairs exemplify the power of community-driven initiatives in fostering sustainability. As we look forward to future fairs, the lessons learned and the seeds exchanged this year will undoubtedly contribute to a more resilient and food-secure future for our communities.

PORET LAUNCHED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT - (IMPROVING WATER AND ECOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN CHIMANIMANI)



Above: far left, PORET Board Chair following proceedings during the Launch of the Project

In a significant stride towards improving the water tables in our major rivers in Chimanimani, PORET launched the watershed management project in June. This ground-breaking initiative aims to enhance water and ecological resource management, particularly in water catchment areas and ecologically sensitive zones. The project's primary focus is on restoring natural water cycles, protecting vital ecosystems, and ensuring the sustainable use of water resources along the watershed of Changazi, Umvumvumu and Munyanyazi Rivers.

The launch was attended by stakeholders, including local authority, government officials, and representatives from partner organizations. The event began with an insightful presentation on the current state of our watershed areas, highlighting the urgent need for intervention to combat soil erosion, deforestation, and water pollution. The presentation underscored the interconnectedness of

our ecosystems and the critical role of watershed management in maintaining ecological balance.

Key components of the watershed management project include the construction of swales, gabions, and check dams to control water flow and reduce soil erosion. Reforestation efforts will focus on planting native tree species that stabilize soil and enhance water infiltration. Additionally, the project aims to create awareness among local communities about sustainable water use practices and the importance of protecting water catchment areas.

"Protecting our water resources is essential for our survival here in Chimanimani. We want to see all the irrigation schemes starting to work. We want to see water starting to flow back in our rivers," said Mr T Nengomasha the Chimanimani District, District Development Coordinator.

"We want to see a change in the river flows. We are going to work closely with PORET to make sure that this project is a success. As Chimanimani Rural District we fully support this project," said Mr Matimba from Chimanimani Rural District Council.

The watershed management project aims to restore the health of our ecosystems, ensuring that future generations have access to clean water and productive land. The project's success hinges on the continued involvement and dedication of all stakeholders, and PORET is committed to providing the necessary support and resources to achieve these goals.

COMING THIS SEPTEMBER (4-5 SEPTEMBER 2024)

GOOD FOOD, SEED, AND MUSIC FESTIVAL: A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND RESILIENCE



Above: local seed varieties expected to be displayed during the good food, seed and music festival

Mark your calendars for September 4th and 5th! PORET is excited to host the Good Food, Seed, and Music Festival at Chakohwa High School. This two-day extravaganza promises to be a vibrant celebration of our rich cultural heritage, resilience, and the innovative spirit that drives us forward. The festival will feature a diverse array of activities designed to educate, entertain, and inspire participants of all ages.

Day one of the festival will focus on welcoming guests and exhibitors, setting the stage for the main events on day two. The seed fair will be a highlight, showcasing a wide variety of seeds, from traditional crops to newly developed resilient varieties. Farmers and exhibitors will have the opportunity to exchange seeds, share their knowledge, and discuss best practices in sustainable agriculture.

"The seed fair is an excellent opportunity to learn from each other and share what works best in our fields," said Virginia Karisawu – PORET Outreach Officer.

Cooking demonstrations will offer a delightful exploration of Zimbabwean food, with home cooks presenting traditional dishes made from locally sourced ingredients.

These demonstrations will not only highlight the diversity of our region but also emphasize the importance of using nutritious, home-grown produce. Attendees will learn about the nutritional benefits of different foods and how to incorporate them into their daily diets.

The festival will also feature live music performances by artists from various genres, including traditional dances, mbira, chinyamatende music, and gospel music from Dorcas Moyo and other local artist. These performances will celebrate the cultural richness of our community and provide a platform for local artists to showcase their talents. The atmosphere will be filled with joy and unity as participants come together to enjoy the music and celebrate their shared heritage.

We are honored to welcome the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution Hon Advocate Misheck Mugadza as our guest, along with Government officials, traditional leaders, who will share his insights on enhancing food and nutrition security. Their presence underscores the significance of this event and the importance of the themes it promotes. The festival will culminate with a prize-giving ceremony, recognizing the contributions of farmers, exhibitors, and performers who have made the event a success.

"This festival is a unique opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate the resilience and diversity of our community," remarked Blessing Chamudondo – PORET Programs Manager.

We invite everyone to join us at Chakohwa High School for this memorable event, where we will honour our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to a sustainable future.

For more information, get in touch with us on porettrust06@gmail.com

CHIEF MUTEMA'S THRIVING NUTRITIONAL GARDEN IN CHIPINGE



Above: Chief Mutema working in his onion field
Chipinge District - Chief Mutema, a respected leader in Chipinge District, has successfully implemented a thriving nutritional garden on his farm, becoming a beacon of sustainable agriculture and food security in the community. This impressive achievement was made possible through the support of the Presidential Rural Development Program, which provided essential resources such as water and fencing.

The nutritional garden on Chief Mutema's farm is a testament to the power of community leadership and innovative agricultural practices. With the provision of a reliable water supply and secure fencing, the garden has flourished, producing a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. Crops such as tomatoes, carrots and indigenous vegetables, known for their high nutritional value, are thriving. Additionally, the garden boasts fruit trees like mangoes, bananas, and guavas, ensuring a year-round supply of fresh produce.

The key objectives of Chief Mutema's garden are to enhance food security, promote sustainable agriculture, and empower the local community. By growing a diverse range of nutritious crops, the garden provides a steady supply of healthy food, reducing reliance on external food sources and improving the dietary diversity of local families. The emphasis on organic farming practices, such as the use of compost and crop rotation, not only increases yield but also promotes soil health and environmental sustainability.

The success of the garden has had a profound impact on the community. Chief Mutema has hosted several farm visits, allowing local farmers to learn about sustainable farming techniques and the benefits of nutritional gardening. This hands-on experience has empowered many to adopt similar practices, fostering a sense of self-sufficiency and resilience within the community.

In addition to the immediate benefits of increased food production and improved health, Chief Mutema has plans to expand the garden further. He aims to incorporate more indigenous crops and medicinal plants, enhancing the garden's diversity and utility.

Chief Mutema's nutritional garden stands as a shining example of how traditional leadership can drive positive change. The success of this project highlights the importance of community-led initiatives and the potential of rural development programs to transform local food systems. Chief Mutema's efforts not only enhance food security but also inspire others to pursue similar projects, contributing to the overall well-being and resilience of the community.

Join Us for the Good Food, Seed, and Music Festival!

Dates: September 4th - 5th, 2024

Venue: Chakohwa High School, Chimanimani

Theme: Celebrating the Diversity and Resilience of Zimbabwean Food and Beyond."

Event Highlights

- **Seed Fair:** Discover and exchange a variety of local seeds.
- **Cooking Demos:** Enjoy traditional dishes made from locally sourced ingredients.
- **Live Music:** Experience vibrant performances from traditional dances to gospel music from Dorcas Moyo.

Come celebrate our shared heritage and sustainable future! For more information, get in touch with us on, +263 773025438