

- Changazi Community successfully held the Chimanimani District Tree Planting Day in December 2025
- PELUM Youth Exchange Visit Inspires New Ideas in Agroecology and Income Generation
- GIS Youth Training Equips Volunteers in Chimanimani for Community Surveys
- CPC Village Planning Meetings Set the Course for 2025 activities

CHASEYAMA AGROECOLOGY NEWSLETTER



*Jinga Village, Chaseyama,
Chimanimani District,
0773025438*

Issue 26 | February 2025

CHANGAZI COMMUNITY SUCCESSFULLY HELD THE CHIMANIMANI DISTRICT TREE PLANTING DAY IN DECEMBER 2025

On December 7, 2024, Changazi Primary School was filled with joy as close to 700 people gathered for the Chimanimani District Tree Planting Day. The event was supported by PORET to celebrate the significant progress of the watershed project in Changazi River and to encourage environmental conservation throughout the district.

The District Tree Planting Day was a much anticipated event by the local community in Changazi. As the first major celebration supported by PORET in the community since it started implementing the watershed Project. Farmers and the local community were all excited to host such a memorable event. The 2024 District Tree planting day was held under the theme, **Trees and forest for ecological restoration and improved livelihood** with the tree of the year being **ravifolvia caffra**.

Changazi Community in collaboration with PORET organized the event on the background of celebrating the achievements made so far by the local communities towards implementing the watershed management project.

The watershed management project which is supported by PORET is benefiting people living along Changazi, Nyanyadzi and Mvumvumu River. This project is also benefiting Jinga, Hapare and Nemutenzi Villages which are being developed into eco villages. Through the funding from WFD, the project aims to put in place water harvesting structures are able to harvest over 50 million liters of water in one storm.



Above: Assistance DDC Mr Jongwe (in black suit) holding the tree of the year at Changazi Primary ready for planting

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we step into 2025, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable efforts of our community. This February 2025 edition highlights key milestones, including the successful District Tree Planting Day, which brought together over 700 people in a shared commitment to restoring our environment.

We also celebrate the participation of our youth, during the PELUM Youth Exchange Visit and the GIS training. These initiatives are empowering young people with skills in agroecology, income generation, and mapping for sustainable development.

Additionally, the CPC Village Planning Meetings set a strong foundation for 2025, ensuring that communities take the lead in shaping their own future. Let's continue working together for a resilient, sustainable, community.

Julious Piti (PORET Director)

Editorial and Feedback: Shadreck Masawi

Cell: 0787648785

Email: shadreckmsw@gmail.com

Contributions: C Mutsadyanga, G Gumba, A Piti, H Mashingaidze, E Piti, B Chamudondo, V Karisawu

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1,

The project is also aiming to train more farmers in watershed management, and also capacitating the protection communities so that they are able to implement policies that safeguard the water resources and the environment. Other various activities are also being done under this project which all support watershed management in the District.

Since the inception of the project in June this year, farmers from these rivers implemented a number of water harvesting structures that will see more water being harvested, and land degradation being slowed down. In Changazi alone, the community has managed to construct swales, dams and gabions on different sections of the river and its aligned tributaries.

As part of celebrating these successes, the local community in partnership with PORET and the government of Zimbabwe hosted the District tree planting day. The celebrations were meant to plant

trees at Changazi Primary school and also at the clinic, awarding over 600 farmers with level 1 certificates on watershed management.

The day was attended by over 700 people mainly from ward 20 Chimanimani, ward 1 Chipinge and others from the low veld of Chimanimani, government departments and other invited guest from various areas. Mr Jongwe, from DDC's Chimanimani District Office gave the day's speech on behalf of the Minister of State for Manicaland Province Hon Mugadza. In his speech, Mr Jongwe praised the work which is being done by farmers in Chimanimani on protecting their environment through watershed management practices. He also emphasized on the need to continue doing this great work in order to bring back thriving rivers that provide water and food to the community.

PORET continues to work with local communities in Chimanimani to implement various projects that benefit the people and the earth as required by the permaculture ethics which are people care, caring for the earth and sharing surplus.

PELUM YOUTH EXCHANGE VISIT INSPIRES NEW IDEAS IN AGROECOLOGY AND INCOME



Above: PELUM Youths looking at one of the dams constructed at Maronga Homestead in ward 2

The recent PELUM Youth Exchange Visit at PORET brought together partners from PELUM Zimbabwe and local youth leaders for a day of learning, sharing, and inspiration. The exchange visit took place from the 27th of January to the 31st of January with PORET as a hosting organisation. This exciting event provided a platform for youths

from Chimanimani to showcase innovative projects and ideas in agroecology and income generation.

During the visit, participants had the opportunity to see a variety of activities that are transforming local youths. Youths demonstrated practical skills in small livestock rearing, carpentry, water harvesting, mushroom cultivation, and food processing etc. Each activity highlighted how combining traditional practices with modern techniques can create sustainable livelihoods.

The exchange visit was more than just a display of skills; it was a space for dialogue and networking. Youths shared their experiences, challenges, and success stories, learning from one another in a supportive environment. This exchange visit helped them explore new ways to boost productivity and create income opportunities while protecting the environment.

During the exchange visit, youths shared about the importance of agroecology in food production,

environmental protection as well as providing income for the young generation.

Participants expressed eagerness about the future, recognizing that initiatives like these are crucial for building resilient communities safe in the hands of our youths. The event also reinforced the importance of partnerships and the sharing of knowledge across regions between various

organisations that are into agroecology. The ideas exchanged during the visit are expected to spur further innovations in agroecology and strengthen local economies.

Special thanks go to PELUM Zimbabwe for organising such an event which provided platform for youths to share knowledge on various Agroecology activities.

GIS YOUTH TRAINING EQUIPS VOLUNTEERS IN CHIMANIMANI FOR COMMUNITY SURVEYS

On Tuesday the 28th of January, youth volunteers who work with PORET participated in a training session on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing skills. The session, facilitated by Mr. Elish from Mutare, was designed to equip these young people with essential skills for conducting accurate surveys in their local areas.

PORET targets youths in conducting its work in the community as these are still energetic to carry out some tasks especially which requires the use of technology. In the same realm, PORET is working with youths so that they understand the importance of agroecology and offering them skills to come up with their viable income generating projects.

During the training, the participants learned how to use modern GIS tools to collect, analyse, and interpret geographic data. Mr. Elish guided them through the basics of navigating mapping software, recording data points, and creating visual maps that highlight community assets and areas needing improvement. The hands-on exercises allowed the youth to practice real-world applications, ensuring they could confidently apply these skills when conducting surveys.

The importance of accurate data collection was a key focus throughout the session. Participants were taught how to ensure data accuracy and integrity critical components in planning community projects. With these new skills, the volunteers are now better prepared to assist in mapping local resources, monitoring environmental changes, and identifying areas where community development projects can have the greatest impact.

This training also highlighted the significant role that youth play in the on-going development of the low veld. By investing in the capacity building of the volunteers, community leaders are nurturing a youths who are ready to contribute to surveys and various developmental activities. Their work will support future projects implemented by the community and also by PORET.

Coming Up Next

Stay tuned for more exciting events

1. Village based field days starting from the 24th of February to the 31st of March 2025. A total of 72 field days are planned to take place this year.
2. PORET Board meeting – 15 February 2025
3. PELUM Bi annual community visit to Njeremoto – 16 to 20 February 2025.
4. Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Program (workshop) – 4-7 March 2025.
5. ABN Southern African Node meeting Coordinated by PELUM Zimbabwe – 12 March 2025.
6. April PORET Newsletter 27th edition – 31 March 2025.

For more information, get in touch with us on, +263 773025438

CPC VILLAGE PLANNING MEETINGS SET THE COURSE FOR 2025 ACTIVITIES



Above: Farmers from ward 1 and 4 gathered at Matendeudze Primary School for a CPC Review and planning meeting on the 20th of January 2025

In a series of meetings, held from the 20 to the 24th of January 2025, village CPC Committees from 13 wards which have affiliated to the club, gathered at different points to review 2024's challenges and to shape the village plans for 2025. These discussions proved essential in setting a clear direction for CPC's initiatives for the year.

The meetings provided a valuable opportunity for open dialogue between village CPC committees and main committee. Participants discussed the obstacles faced over the past year, sharing their experiences and lessons learnt. This evaluation of 2024's challenges was a crucial step in identifying the areas that need focus and improvement.

At the heart of the meetings was the development of the plans for 2025 which were first developed at village level meetings. Most of the issues discussed during the 2025 plans include, Construction of Swales, Pit Beds, Dam Construction, Fish Farming, Gabion Construction, Home Designing, Tree Planting, Orchard, Nursery Production, Bokashi Making, Permaculture Design Course, Field Monitoring, Trainings, fish farming, mushroom production, Food processing, PDC, Bee keeping, HLLM, Soil fertility management, Field Impaction, Nursery Gardens establishment, Field Days , Seed fairs , Food fair, Goat production, Poultry production, Rabbit production, Isals Mukando, Nutritional Gardens, Pest and disease management training, Learning tours, Seed multiplication trials, Meetings.

PORET Staff together with CPC main committee facilitated the sessions, ensuring that every voice was heard and that discussions were both inclusive and productive. Their guidance helped to translate community insights into concrete objectives for CPC, reinforcing the importance of local participation in the planning process.

The successful outcome of these meetings shows to the community's commitment to working together towards implementing agroecology activities that benefit them. With clear plans in place for 2025, CPC is poised to implement initiatives that reflect the collective aspirations of the village.

As the New Year has started, the village plans will serve as a roadmap for progress, ensuring that the lessons of 2024 guide the development efforts in the coming year.



Above: Above: Farmers from ward 6 and 7 gathered at Bumba Clinic for a CPC Review and planning meeting on the 21st of January 2025