- Chaseyama permaculture club held a prestigious annual general meeting.
- Young people showcased the Ndau seeds at the national food and seed festival.
- The importance of small grains production – Learning from Earthlore
- Chibuwe high school embracing agroecology practices

CHASEYAMA AGROECOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Jinga Village, Chaseyama,
Chimanimani District,
0773025438

PORET

Issue 19|December 2023

CHASEYAMA PERMACULTURE CLUB HELD A PRESTIGIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On the 29th of November 2023, Chaseyama Permaculture Club held its Annual General Meeting. The AGM was held at PORET Centre in Jinga Village.

The AGM was attended by 752 people which include the CPC members from the 9 wards which PORET works with, the stakeholders from various government departments, the traditional leaders from various wards.

The event was graced by Chief Mutambara who was the Guest of Honor.

The event started well early in the morning with the arrival of truckloads of people who were being transported from different wards.

After the people were settled the event commenced well with opening prayer from Mr Khumbulani Mtetwa who was the Events Director of the day. Soon after the prayer, a number of entertainers which include, dancers, poets and singers were welcomed to the floor to entertain the people present.

There were a variety of entertainers who include same kwavha boys, drama groups, and Gudyanga Primary School Traditional dance group.

The CPC Chairman Mr Daniel Bande read the Chairman's annual report for Chaseyama Permaculture Club. He highlighted on the success which were done by the CPC which include mobilization of more farmers to join the Chaseyama permaculture club, conducting of monitoring visits, conducting successful field days among others.

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***Above**: part of the people who attended the 2023 CPC AGM*

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we come to the end of the year, as PORET and Chaseyama Permaculture Club, we have done a lot of activities towards the development of the community. Notable being the water harvesting projects and the successful involvement of young people into development initiatives.

Coming into 2024, PORET is geared to further its influence into the community through various initiatives which helps to transform the lives of the people in the low veld.

Happy Holidays and a Prosperous 2024.

Julius Piti

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***Above**: Mr D Bande (CPC Chair) left, Mr Kudana (CPC vice Chair) center and Mr E Jarawani (CPC secretary) right reading the CPC annual report*

The CPC treasure Mrs Nomatter Gunanga was welcomed to the floor to give her financial report which was much awaited by the CPC members. From her report, it was noted that the club managed to improve in its income which mainly came from the membership subscriptions. Also its spending for the year was good which left the club with reasonable finance to start the operations of the next year.

Soon after the speeches and reports from various people, the CPC elections were conducted being led by Council Chairperson Mr Ruben Mujee. Each ward selected its member to represent it in the CPC main committee for the year 2024 to 2026.

Mr Kudana was selected as the new CPC chairperson with Mr Peter Chinawa as his vice. Mr Elias Jarawani was selected to be the secretary and his vice was is Mrs Lucia Munyisa.

***Above**: the Guest of honour, Chief Mutambara handing over rain gauges to the new CPC committee*

Mrs Nomatter Gunanga retained the position of being the treasurer. Mrs Selena Jonasi, Lizie Nyangani and Doreen Kudejira were also selected to be the committee members of the club committee.

The guest of honor Chief Mutambara thanked the Chaseyama a Permaculture Club for successfully conducting its Annual General Meeting. He commended farmers to continue embracing the local seeds as we proceed into the 2022 to 2023farming season. He also urged the new committee to carry on with the good work which was done by the outgoing committee.

The AGM was a success and farmers expressed pleasure with the Chairman's report and the financial report. They also expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the elections.

YOUNG PEOPLE SHOWCASED THE NDAU SEEDS AT THE NATIONAL FOOD AND SEED FESTIVAL

PORET has always called for the equal participation of the young and the old people in improving the community food basket. Of late, a number of old people have been actively involved in the crop production in the community leaving out young people.

Through the engagement with young people in Chaseyama, a number of them are now participating in agroecology activities. A significant change is being noted on the participation of these young people through active participation in a number of agroecology activities such as water harvesting, nursery production and holistic land and livestock management among others.

One of the notable event which the young people actively participated was the 2023 national seed and food festival which is traditionally held at Harare gardens on an annual basis.

***Above**: Young woman showcasing the Ndau seeds at the festival*

***Above**: some of the seeds displayed during the national seed and food festival*

PORET managed to send farmers from various villages in Chimanimani District who are working with PORET to attend the event. A number of young people managed to display seeds during this event as they marketed the seeds they are growing in Chimanimani.

A number of seeds were displayed during this year's event which include the small grains such as sorghum, millet and rapoko. They also displayed seeds such as round nuts, ground nuts, svoboda, cowpeas, and beans among other crops.

A number of people visited their exhibition table where they learnt on how to grow these crops. This created a platform for these young people to sell some of the seeds.

According to Joyline Mwaputsa one of the seed displayers, she said that the event has helped her in improving her marketing skills and much largely gave her an insight that seeds if they are well grown they can create income for the small holder farmers.

Another exhibitor by the name Vimbikai Chamazhika said that the visit to Harare has helped her to network with other farmers who are doing different types of projects. As one of the young farmers who is much interested in poultry production, she managed to network with farmers and companies who ate into road runner production. She said that if all things went well, she wants to do a massive road runner project at her place.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION – LEARNING FROM EARTHLORE

***Above**: The picture shows a number of small grains which are being produced by Farmers in Bikita*

On the 12th of September 15 farmers (11 Females and 4 males) from Chaseyama managed to go on an exchange visit in Bikita which was organized by Earthlore foundation. The purpose of the visit was to learn on a number of projects which are being done by farmers in Bikita.

Bikita is one of the areas which has climate conditions which are similar to that of Chaseyama were there are low rainfall totals per year and the soils are poor which allows for the production of small grains such as millet and rapoko. During the exchange visit, farmers leant that small grains are the best crops which can do well in dry regions,

that it is good for farmers to develop their own seed which do well in their area, that communities should protect wild biodiversity and protect sacred natural sites drawing from the traditional knowledge which is passed from one generation to another.

One of the farmers by the name Nomatter Gunanga who visited Bikita said that, it is good that she visited this place because she has learnt on the importance of preserving the sacred places because they help them to understand their culture and also helps in protecting the natural resources.

Another farmer by the name Moses Kudana said that as farmers, they should be able to preserve the local culture on seed production because this is the basis of the improved food basket. This is because with good seeds, there comes good harvest.

Farmers are being commended to recognize the importance of the preservation and production of the local seeds because these are the ones which do well in the dry areas such as Chaseyama and if these farmers wants to harvest well, they should have good seeds which are drought resistance.

CHIBUWE HIGH SCHOOL EMBRACING AGROECOLOGY PRACTISES

On the 15th of August 2023, members of the Chaseyama Permaculture Club, Youth Leaders, PORET staff and teachers from Mhandarume, Chakowa and Chaseyama visited Chibuwe High School for an exchange visit. The exchange visit was organised by PORET as part of its ongoing engagement with schools in order for them to implement agroecology practises at their schools.

A total number of 24 people 7 females and 17 males took part in this exchange visit. The main purpose of this visit was to learn about the importance of Agroecology in schools and how other schools can implement the best practises at their schools. Chibuwe High school is one of the schools in Manicaland Province which is a step ahead in recognising the importance of agroecology.

There are quite a number of projects which can be done in Manicaland Province which requires the sustainable utilisation of the locally available resources. The projects include clay pot making using the available clay, food forest, nursery production, tsotso stove making, basketry, weaving among others.

During the visit, the participants started by visiting the traditional huts which are made from clay and poles and thatched with grass. These huts resembles the traditional way of life of the Ndau Communities in Zimbabwe with most of these buildings tallying with the climate of the region. These huts are suitable for all weather conditions.

These huts are also being used to store seeds to use for the coming seasons. Mr Tonha a teacher at Chibuwe said that the hut resembles the Ndau culture and it speaks of itself which makes easier for the students to understand.

There are other activities which are being done at the school include a nutritional garden where a variety of crops are grown to feed the students and the staff at the school. The crops are grown organically using the organic fertilisers and treated using natural pest and disease control methods.

There are a variety of crops grown which include maize, vegetables, tomatoes, onions, bananas and wild vegetables. Small livestock are also being kept such as pigs, poultry and rabbits. The manure from animal droppings are then used as fertilisers to grow crops.

He added on to say that the school is now in the process of constructing a biogas digester. Pig and human waste will be used as the materials for making the gas. Liquid petroleum gas will be used as a source of energy and will work hand in hand with solar energy. In his last remarks Mr Tonha said that we should create generational wealth in order to leave a legacy to our grandchildren.

Happy holidays and a Prosperous New Year from PORET and Chaseyama Permaculture Club