



“like bees, we shall work”

Masawi Shadreck

Organization Planning

January Newsletter

PORET Trust ZIMBABWE- Food Forest- Agro-ecology- biodiversity

THE TRUST

Resilience and perseverance in Action

The name PORET is not new in Chaseyama community. Even if you ask a child about PORET he or she will then direct you to the eastern side of Chaseyama Primary School, 5 kilometers off-road (Mutare Birchnough road.)

It is deep rooted in Chaseyama community with its Centre in Jinga village. Its aim is to support farmers in the low rainfall areas of Chimanimani to adopt techniques and skills which are essential for them, their families and the community to survive and attain a sustainable, productive and healthy life.

PORET is now a partner to seed and knowledge initiative program led by Bio watch a Kwazulu Natal based organization. Partnering with bio-watch was an effective move by PORET so as to reach its above mentioned aim whilst SKI aim is to address hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

PORET has sent its members to exchange visits in Mutoko and Chikukwa to learn from each other. Now it has a permaculture design course which is being driven by John Nzira from South Africa. This training course is a design course meant to equip farmers about home design and soil and water management.





Participants during a permaculture design course

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

The beginning of this year saw PORET having strategic planning meeting to pave way for community development. The community members were invited to attend the planning meeting where they were to air what they want to see happening in their area. Since it was the first community based strategic planning, the community was excited to learn that they have a voice in each activity done in the community. They come up with various projects which they want to see happening.

John Wilson was then invited for two days to help PORET to polish the strategic planning. It was an honor to have such a man helping the organization to plan for its future. There were many issues which he helped PORET with so as to come up with a good strategic direction. In his lodgings, he said that

PORET is still small so it has to come up with a strategic Direction and also that it has to reduce a number of its activities and work on them one by one.

During these planning meetings, the new PORET Board gets chances to interact with the community and work for the progress of the community together as one.

The New PORET Board consists of Spiwe Buzuze as the Chairperson, Madam Chishiri, Mahoso Samson, Zvaidamoyo Benhura, Tsandukwa Shepherd.

Writer's workshop

Outward Bound Chimanimani

Dangers in the Forest

By Kumbirai Dube

On a sharp corner, my eyes nearly poked out of their sockets when I saw a very poisonous green snake just two meters away from my old holed black shoes. I felt as if I was hopelessly falling in a dark lake alive full of insatiable old crocodiles. In a second, I was surprised to see all my clothes wet due to sweat. I tried to move backwards but I was very unfortunate for I slipped and fell down like a very tired yoked cow. I tirelessly crawled down the mountain which had a cool well sized canopy of mizhanje fruit trees. Hundred meters away as my heart was no longer protruding out of my chest. I felt cold and realized that I was near a small river with very cold water. Birds and frogs were melodiously singing praising my success. I tasted mazhanje fruits and knew

that they tasted well as it was witnessed by saliva strongly shooting out of my mouth without my control.

The beginning of the year saw the permaculture club visiting various fields in preparation for the field days.



Field visits are not new to farmers but they are old horses on the field which everyone understands the vibe of the event. The only difference of field visits is in the approaches and outcomes that are derived at the end of the day. The way they are done determine the objective of the whole process.

Kumbirai Dube

Two steps from the scene; I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw a troop of frightening baboons. I cried so loud that I thought I could get help but to my surprise, baboons fiercely moved from me. My heart valves nearly blocked when I heard the sound of a gun. The baboon which was two meters away from attacking me fell and thick blood oozed from its chest. I tried to trust my legs but I was shocked when bold hands clinched my neck and ordered to go to police camp. The game ranchers saved me from death to jail.

Field visits

In this edition, we want to look at the field visits that were conducted by PORET and see what farmers in the LOW VELD

are doing to maintain a good relation between land and people. We are going to bring out the issues which were looked upon at all - households that were visited by Farmers in the dry land areas with the help of Permaculture Club Members of each area and Agritex officers in those areas covered.

Objectives of Field visits

- **Identification** of permaculture principles and practises
- **Diversification** of projects initiated
- Farmer to farmer field **monitoring and evaluation**
- Enhancing farmer **leadership skills**
- Farmer to farmer **knowledge exchange**

There are certain things that are looked upon during the tours which will determine if the

farmer is capable of hosting a field day. These include;

- field security
- Water harvesting
- Crop stand/vigour
- Hectarage
- Yield
- Spacing
- Tree management
- Soil management
- Bio-diversity-food security
- Impression-facilitation

Context of the field tour

This year saw the permaculture club extending its hand into other wards which were not included before. Wards include; Mhandarume ward 2.

MHANDARUME WARD 2

Mhandarume ward 2 lies in the natural region 3 most of its part. The ward stretches west to the Odzi River and eastern at the eastern part of Matsororo. It is characterised

by two distinct areas. The western part is suitable for small grains because of the rainfall totals received which are low and the eastern part majors in maize because of a prudent amount of rainfall it receive each year. This is the area which is under Mr Nyikahadzoyi an Agritex officer who is working tirelessly to bring change into the ward. Yield per hectarage varies with years and timing. Some farmers are excelling good while others are still performing below standard with major contributions being, lack of adequate knowledge on water harvesting and poor timing as well as low rainfalls.

In this ward, PORET visited 6 households on the first day, assessing what farmers are doing referencing with what PORET is teaching them if it's being implemented, the loopholes, challenges and how best they can improve. These households include Murumbi, Muvhunja, Mwandikutse, Musimwa, Musapatika and Tiyai farmers.

HOTSPRINGS WARD 5

Hot Springs ward is also in climatic region 5 which receives the same amount of rainfall as Chakowa Ward. It is part of the Lower Chimanimani zone where



rainfall totals per year are low and experience hot temperatures. The water is salt and the soil is a mixture of clay and stones. This however makes the area suitable for small grains such as Sorghum, millet and rapoko because of its favourable conditions.

those who did well and those who didn't. In the process, they got a chance to interact with farmers so that they will get a broader context of how the farmer harnesses his or her field.

Some of the famers visited include Mwatsika Misheck and Mbuya Mwatsika, Muererwa Edmore, Makuneyi Elijah, Machisi, Nyumeni Mangweka, E Mashereni, Mbuya Putikai.



Growing Mupostori at Mr Elisha Chibuwe Homestead

The visited farmers are Madhubuya, Zihuu, Marcia Mwatsika, and Elisha Chibuwe.

CHASEYAMA WARD 3

Chakowa ward is the birth place of PORET. Farmers visit assessing the fields in various villages such as Jinga, Hapare, Nechitima and Zvokuitirwa. The group of farmers moved around randomly selecting fields to tour around identifying

