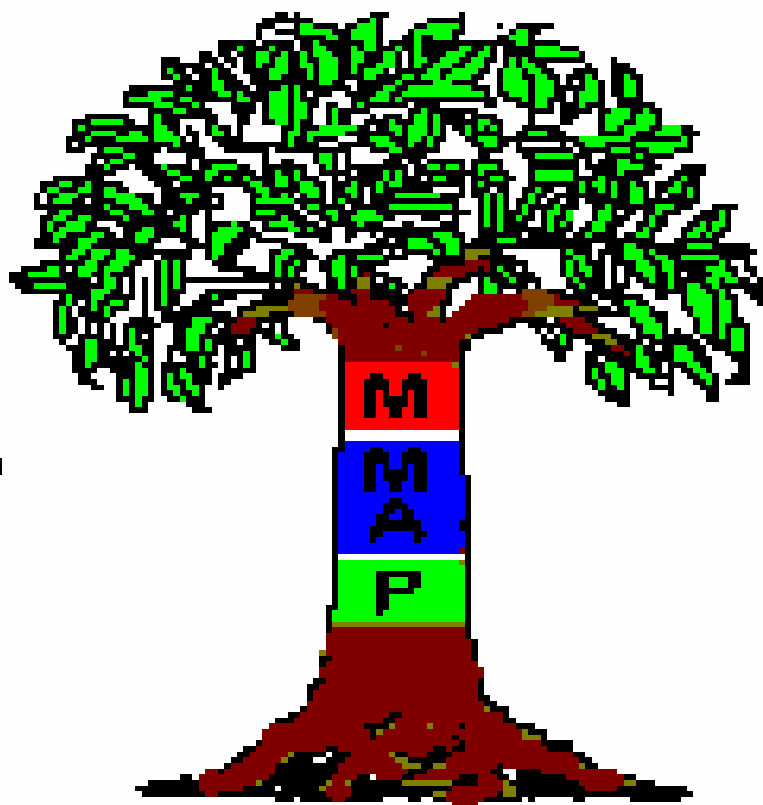


METHODIST MISSION AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME



ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2010 TO AUGUST 2011

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MMAP BOARD

Since MMAP's founding thirty-seven years ago, we have witnessed the remarkable progress that the rural communities we work with continue to make towards improving their livelihoods. Our approach, based on experience and record of success, aims at helping communities transform themselves without subsequently becoming dependent on MMAP. We start by bringing to the communities a message of optimism that a transformation is possible, worthwhile, and permanent and that they themselves can manage it. The past couple of years have been difficult in terms of sustaining our past achievements but the Board has also worked during the year under review to ensure that both the Board and Staff are committed to this strategic approach of empowering the poor.

Since its inception, MMAP has worked with partners to boost support for the poor we serve. This is premised on the belief that all types of partnership are essential to an effective response to the needs of the local communities we work with. However, the last two years have been plagued with problems in our partnerships especially with our traditional donors. Some of these problems even threaten the existence of the organization. But, with the pro-active involvement of His Lordship the Bishop, the Board was able to employ damage-control measures with affected partners while at the same time recommending a review of our current linkages and partnerships as part of a new strategic plan.

Also, as part of the process and through both formal and informal discussions during and outside Board meetings, the following programmatic ideas and concepts have begun to emerge:-

- Implement long term solutions to the problem of hunger by developing sustainable agricultural projects for low income populations
- Pay specific attention to the literacy needs of women in the communities we work in
- Expand youth employment opportunities through rural vocational training activities

List of Board Members: 2010/2011

Prof. Peter Stevens, Presiding
Bishop of the MCTG
Bro. Solomon Owens, Chairman
Sis. Abake Williams, Treasurer
Bro. Charles Betz
Bro. Dephon Riley
Bro. Ekun-dayoh Dago
Bro. Arthur Ashcroft
Bro. Mathew Gomez
Bro. S.H. Davis, Lay President
Sis. Lucretia Dibba
Sis. Ena Corrah
Bro. Rex King
Bro. Albert Cox
Bro. John Camara

- Develop micro economic loan programmes that will enable rural impoverished women to start small businesses
- Promote recycling initiatives that will reduce waste and allow discarded goods and material to be repaired or re-used to make other needed products.
- Continue to empower the poor by involving them in the development of our plans and projects

With a visionary director already in place and a positive Board and Conference, we intend to further explore these ideas, develop and refine them, and eventually translate them into concrete projects. I am confident that many of these initiatives will bear fruit and I eagerly look forward to your support and encouragement in these ventures. To better harness this support, the Board has resolved to ask Conference 2012 to designate one Sunday in the year, preferably around Earth Day (April 22nd) or World Food Day (October 16th) to reflect on, and express solidarity with, the hungry, the malnourished and the food – insecure communities and populations around us.

Despite the monumental problems faced by our rural communities and the numerous challenges we face as a NGO, MMAP is committed to continuing to work with the communities and our partners. Through this commitment we will be further demonstrating the love and teachings of Jesus Christ to the greater glory of God Almighty.

Conference 2012 is wished a blessed and productive session.

Solomon J.E. Owens

MMAP Board Chairman

2011-2012

INTRODUCTION TO MMAP

MMAP is an NGO with particular experience in the provision of quality agricultural extension services to communities. It was established in 1974 as a response to the growing challenges of environmental degradation and declining agricultural productivity in The Gambia.

MMAP is located in Brikama Town, which is about 34 kilometers from the capital city Banjul, and about 8 kilometers from the Banjul International Airport. It has a large area (13.5 ha), which is divided into a Fruit Orchard, a Vegetable Farm and Forest. The programme has long had a reputation for producing quality fruit tree seedlings, which along with its fruit from the orchard provide farm income to enable the organization to maintain its base operation.

MMAP focuses primarily on extension, concentrating on the promotion of improved and sustainable farming techniques. Currently it is concentrated in the North Bank and Central River Region North. The emphasis in these areas is on Agro forestry and Horticulture extension and capacity building. In both Regions, work is done in collaboration with Government structures/Institutions and other local NGOs, such as Njawara Agricultural Training Centre (NATC), Concern Universal, UN Agency, Forestry Department, and FIOH (Future in our hands).

The report for the period will highlight impacts registered in the implementation of programmes in 2010/2011, and challenges.

MISSION, VISSION & VALUES

MISSION

Improve the quality of life of rural communities in the areas of diversified agriculture, Natural resource management education, health and provision of quality water supply.

VISION

Leading organization in the enhancement of food security and improved environment in the Gambia.

VALUES

Respect for Religion

Transparency

Accountability

Participation

Sharing Knowledge

Commitment to Work

Respect for Partnership



MMAP STAFF

A new Director, Mrs. Mariama Ashcroft, joined the team in December 2011. For the year under review, the following staff were in place.

Programme Coordinator

Mr. Salieu SambaMMAP Programme Coordinator

Programme Administrator

Mr. Gerald Samuel GordonAdministration and Finance Manager

Mrs. Susan Gomez.....Secretarial / Accounting Officer

Project Staff

Mr. Balla ColleyEC Field Supervisor

Ms. Kanku Jobarteh.....EC Field Extension Worker

Ms. Lawa Drammeh.....EC Field Extension Worker

Mr. Malamin Bojang.....EC Field Extension Worker

Mr Modou Lamin Faal.EC Field Extension Worker

Mr. Lamin Badjie.....SMILE B Project Manager

Mr. Sulayman CeesaySMILE B Technical Assistant

Mr. Ebrima Jallow SMILE—B Technical Assistant

Preserve / Farm

Mr. Ansumana Mendy.....Project Manager IGA's

Mrs. Lovetta KamaraHead MMAP Foods

Mrs. Delphine Najack.....Asst. Head MMAP Foods

Mr. Sulayman JammehMMAP Farm Worker

Mr. Ousman Conta.....MMAP Farm Worker

Mr. Kemo Bajo.....MMAP Farm Worker

Programme Support Staff

Mr. Yusupha ChamMMAP Senior Driver

Mr. Ousman Jarra.....Operations / Watchman

Mr. Mamadou Jallow.....Night Watchman

Therese Gomez.....Cleaner

MANAGEMENT MESSAGE

As we continue to survive as an organization, we confront lots of financial challenges which filter to the communities. With God's strength and the encouragement of Mr. Malcolm Clarke, former Board Chairman, we endeavored to ensure that the organization achieved part of its objectives by putting heads together to secure small grants to keep the organization surviving up to this period. Management and the entire staff therefore wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for always being by our side.

As a result of the absence of a full time Director, funding has not been forthcoming thus reduce programme activities. To minimize the impact of this, the Board established a joint management team to give direction to the organization so as to maintain the confidence of partners.

The Management and Staff welcome the newly constituted Board of Directors and hope that they will work to their expectation in enhancing the organization.

Presently MMAP is executing the European Commission Non-State Actors project on Community Reforestation and Environmental Management which started in March 2011 and will end in February 2012.

The Biomass and Briquette Research Project is funded by the World Bank through Concern Universal. It started in June 2011 and will end in September 2012.

The World Development Relief Committee (WDRC) has provided funding for MMAP to support organic horticulture and well rehabilitation for five rural community gardens. The project is scheduled to be launched in October 2011 and will end in September 2012. Finally the Japanese Project which is at its final stages started in March 2010 and was supposed to end in February 2011 but was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Once again the Management is appealing for the employment of a Director for the smooth running of the organization.

Finally, our thanks and praises go to God Almighty who has given us the strength to endure during this difficult time in the fight to revive the organization.

Signed:
MMAP Management

MMAP PROJECTS (1)

Global Environment Facility Project (GEF) - The project is funded by UNDP Small Grants to support civil society organizations to implement projects with communities whose environment is degraded due to natural or human activities. The project is a one year project which started in January 2010 and was supposed to end in December 2010. Implementation is delayed due to late evacuation of fence post from Nuimi to the various communities, and ended in May 2011.

Not all the objectives were met but at least some impact has been registered. With regard to activities, a total of 10 community sensitizations were conducted and 250 people mostly women benefited. Four thousand (4,000) fence posts were purchased and one thousand five hundred and sixteen (1516) distributed in the following communities; Pakau Saloum, Demba Holleh, Mamuda, Mullum and Mannen but the latter received only 316 with a balance of 84.

In addition to the above, replacement has been made to the missing fence posts burnt by bush fire and the following communities have received and erected their fence posts (400) each: Gumaloya, Biram Gidoya in Upper Badibu, Kolly-kunda, Wayaworr and Ndurren in Central Badibu and in Lower Nuimi Mbulum and Mannen. Polythene bags numbering 822 was purchased and distributed amongst the 10 communities to raise seedlings for planting.



Village Nurseries at Community level



Training of village executive members on group and effective environmental management

MMAP PROJECTS (2)

Smallholder Irrigation for Livelihood Enhancement – Business (SMILE – B) is a project that promotes affordable, low-risk technologies that allow Gambian farmers to raise their incomes and improve their families' food security. In addition, the technology is designed to reduce the drudgery of water lifting by women through the provision of rope and washer pumps and reservoirs. It has a drip irrigation system supplied through an overhead tank to reduce the travel distance of collecting water from one water source to water crops. MMAP has conducted training on business Concept and Production Cycle for the women of Sotokoi and Pirang. The Smile – B Project is a four year project, scheduled to end in December 2011.

Project Manager & Two Technical Advisors



Pirang Show Garden



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a project executed in collaboration with Concern Universal. MMAP oversees North Bank Region West to implement disaster mitigation initiatives. The project addresses communities affected by either floods or wind storm by giving out relief assistance such as cement, corrugated iron sheets, rice, kettles, soap, buckets and chlorine tablets to disinfect open wells. Training in disaster management is also provided by MMAP in collaboration with the medical teams in the beginning of the rainy season. MMAP also provide protective gears such as rain coats, boots, helmets and gloves to the regional disaster management team in Kerewan



Presentation of disaster materials by MMAP staff to The Governor of NBR Kerewan

MMAP PROJECTS (3)

Community Reforestation And Environmental Management Project is funded by the European Commission under the Non-State Actors Strengthening Programme. This project aims to enhance the livelihood of communities through the establishment of Orchards and Woodlots and build the capacity of communities on Effective Environmental Management and Group Formation. The project started in March 2011 and will end in February 2012. It is being implemented in collaboration with AVISU in Kaur CRR North.

Most of the objectives in the indicative duration plan have been achieved such as in-service training for field staff, community awareness raising on environmental degradation, establishment of village- based nurseries, capacity building of women, men and youth groups, woodlot and orchard establishment, practical and tree planting exercises.

It is too soon to measure the impact of this project. However, the Project monitoring team has instituted procedures for implementing agencies to adopt that will facilitate impact evaluation in future. Implementing agencies are therefore required to safeguard all documentation related to project implementation for a period of five years, or risk refunding grants received under the project.



Training activities and materials provided as part of the project

MMAP PROJECTS (4)

Biomass Energy in Africa is a Research project funded by the World Bank through Concern Universal. It started in June 2011 and will end in September 2012. The main objective of the project is to reduce desertification in the Gambia. It includes two components namely the briquette and the stove. Prior to the commencement of the activities, a series of meetings have been attended at Concern Universal regarding the operational modalities.

Activities carried out from July to August 2011 are as follows:-

- Orientation meeting to give staff an insight of the stove project. The stove will be fed with briquettes made out of recycle paper and bio-degradable materials such as grass and vegetable leaves.
- Base line survey training was conducted for the two staff involved in the project to train them on the use of survey questionnaires and getting them acquainted with the survey principles to achieve the objectives of the project.

After the base line survey conducted in July, 50 families were visited in Kombo Sukuta and interviewed using the questionnaires designed for the project. The interviews were to collect first-hand information on how household heads managed to provide food for their families.

Training in Map reading and area allocation was also attended by the project staff to help them identify biomass materials available within an assigned jurisdiction. From the training, 10 forms each containing 15 questions were administered in four days in Sukuta to locate biomass materials.

This was followed by a one day target customer training at the PRSP office (Paper Recycling Skills Project) in Faji-kunda. The identification of customers will give an indication to the briquettes and stove producers of the quantity required for production. The project will help to differentiate the high consumers from those that consume less. Some of the high consumers are bakers, restaurants, schools, hospitals, army camp, petty traders, institutions and pottery makers.

Finally the Briquette making will commence in November 2011 when all surveys are finalized.

MMAP PROJECTS (5)

Mango Drying Centre: The project is one year funded by the Government of Japan through its Embassy in Dakar. Its main objective is to reduce the post harvest loss of mangoes and improve the income status of MMAP local partner communities in the West Coast and North Bank Regions. The building has been completed but minor installations of floatation tank, wash hand basin including the supply of tray handles and remaining 16 plastic crates are yet to be supplied. The commissioning of the building is well over due but as soon as the remaining inputs are available by December the building will be commissioned.

World Development Relief Committee (WDRC) of the Irish Methodist Church is funding a one year project for Organic Horticulture and Well Rehabilitation to be executed in five of our local communities in the North Bank Region. Funds were received in mid May 2011 but implementation has been delayed. Following Management consultation with the donor the implementation plan was readjusted with launching expected in October 2011 to end in September 2012.

The communities identified for the project are

- Jalaba and Konteh Kunda Nigi in Upper Baddibu,
- Mandori in Central Baddibu
- Kerr Mbuguma in Lower Nuimi
- Nema Kunku in Upper Nuimi

These communities will be sensitized and assessment of the wells including procurement of vegetable seeds will be done before the end of December 2011.

MMAP FARMS

The Farm did not perform as expected due to a number of factors. The soil has been infested by Nematodes and production was very poor. As a result, the area was left fallow so as to get rid of the nematodes and enhance nutrient retention. Theft was rampant during the production period, thereby limiting the harvest from the farm.



FRUIT TREE NURSERY

The MMAP Nursery which is under the management of the Farm is doing extremely well. A total of 480 mango seedlings were supplied to our project beneficiaries.



MMAP PRESERVES UNIT

This unit has not performed to expectation due to financial challenges. The Farm that is expected to feed the unit with raw materials has not been producing enough. In addition, competition has increased and marketing was a challenge due to improper packaging as jars with proper lids are not readily available in the Gambia.

ADMIN MATTERS

A. Vehicle Report

The project is managing with its vehicles a Land Rover donated by the former MMAP Director Mr. R.D. Bob Mann and an old double cabin Nissan pickup which is presently off the road for maintenance.

Motor Cycles

After the closure of the LIFE project, five of the motor cycles were diverted to the Global Environment Facility Project and is the same motor cycles that are being used to implement the EC Non-State Actors Project. Two TA's Smile B staff are each allocated with motor bikes. Currently these motor cycles need urgent maintenance.

Truck

The old Bedford Truck is currently off the road due to a back axle problem. This occurred during transportation of materials from the District office to MMAP by the Methodist School in Brikama. Efforts were made to replace the broken parts but to no avail because it is an old military truck and the only possible place to secure the part is the Yundum Army Barracks. In this regard, efforts are underway to solicit help from the Army.

B. Staffing

A number of staff left the organization during the period because of projects terminating and MMAP's inability to reabsorb them due to financial constraints. Some of the staff did not receive their salaries for months at a time also due to the financial challenges.

C. Staff training

The EXCEL Project under Concern Universal funded the training of Mr. Salieu Samba and Mr. Lamin Badjie for a Diploma course in Rural Development for 9 months at the GTTI.

Mrs. Susan Gomez and Ms. Veronic Jarju received training in IT and English for a period of 6 months at the West African Institute at Kairaba Avenue.

Mr. Ansumana Mendy attended a one-year training in Ghana in Agric Business sponsored by the Methodist Church The Gambia.

Mr. Ernest Aubee trained staff in Food Security and Proposal Writing.

CONCLUSION

We thank the Almighty God, who has given us the strength to produce this end of year report. We also thank him for being our Guardian during the year and for the results we have accomplished.

During the year under review, the organization was faced with a number of challenges. Consequently, both Board and Management had to strategize and put in place measures to ensure that progress achieved over the past was maintained and not eroded.

It has been a great challenge for the Management team to carry out its activities during this period full of financial challenges due to lack of projects with a life span of more than one year. In this regard, both MMAP Management and Board should endeavor to secure funding for the sustenance of the organization rather than depend on partners for little projects.

MMAP MAP

