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CHASEYAMA AGROECOLOGY NEWSLETTER



Jinga Village, Chaseyama, Chimanimani District, 0773 025 438

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CHUNGA INSPIRES YOUNG FOOTBALLERS IN CHASEYAMA

Interview with: Grace Gumba

“What you believe, you become,” said Bambo Moses Chunga during his first visit to PORET’s Learning Centre in Chaseyama.

On 15 March, Chunga paid a visit to PORET in Chaseyama after he was invited by PORET through the facilitation of Gift Hanyana a member of Chaseyama Permaculture Club. His visit was as a result of PORET’s hunt for footballers who are also into agroecology to come and share their farming experience with young footballers and youths in Chaseyama.

Since 2017, PORET has been lobbying youths in the low veld of Chimanimani to venture into agroecology. “This has been done through soccer matches where we would share the agroecology vision with youths before the commencement of the soccer match,” says Grace Gumba, who has been running the program. A review of this program revealed, however, that youths in Chimanimani low veld are much more interested in football than agroecology.

Having realised this through reflection meetings with the youths, PORET then decided to invite Moses Chunga, a professional footballer and the current coach of Chapungu, to come and share his experience with the youth in Chaseyama. Despite being a footballer, Chunga is also involved in farming. On this visit, 39 players from PORET’s 9 teams attending a special meeting with him on the 16 March.

Chunga managed to share his football and farming experience with youths who attended the meeting. As an outcome of the visit, it was agreed that the football legend would come to PORET so he could meet various footballers and coaches. This event will see coaches, youths and footballers being capacitated on how best they can blend football and agroecology.

Get in touch with us on 0773025438 to receive a full article titled: “How we met Moses Chunga.”



PORET’s Director Julious Piti (left) and Moses Chunga (right) handing over a mango tree to a young footballer during Chunga’s visit to Chaseyama

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

The year 2021 has started with a difficult atmosphere to implement projects due to the COVID 19 induced lockdown. We have planned several activities both as PORET and Chaseyama Permaculture Club but many have been hindered. However, despite failing to implement some of the projects, PORET has pushed ahead with some activities. We hope that COVID 19 will soon pass and our community will be back on track again. Message to our beloved community, let’s stay safe, mask up and sanitize. COVID is real. **Julious Piti**

Editorial and Feedback: Shadreck Masawi
Cell: 0778312138 **Email:** shadreckmsw@gmail.com
Interviews from: Blessing Chamudondo, Grace Gumba, Kumbirai Dube, Chitenderano Mtsadyanga and Virginia Karisawu

CLIMATE HERO PROJECT AT CHAKOWA HIGH SCHOOL

Interview with: Blessing Chamudondo



Students planting a tree



Students holding trees ready for planting

The Climate Hero Project was initiated as a way of spreading awareness about the impacts of climate change and possible ways of mitigating and adapting to it.

The project is an outcome of the awareness campaign which was conducted by Patrizia Imhof from Switzerland during her visit to PORET in January 2019. During her visit, she embarked on a campaign to raise awareness on climate change. She was targeting youths in schools in the low veld of Chimanimani where PORET is working in. she engaged the youths in schools and discussed with them on various issues pertaining to the causes, impacts and mitigation measures to climate change. What came out of these campaigns was the birth of Climate Hero Project.

The fruits of the Climate Hero Project continue to be witnessed in schools with Chakowa High School being a leading school to implement the Project. This year witnessed a membership of 30 students planting 1086 trees at Chakowa high school with the help of Zvokuitirwa village which supplied the trees.

Various tree species were planted at the school, including red mahogany, pod mahogany, musawu and Munyii. If these trees are well maintained, the school will witness the fruits of the

project as they will contribute to a changed micro climate bringing cooler weather at the school. Other benefits include fresh fruits and fresh air.

The aim is to see an increase in

membership of students who are implementing the project. These students will be given the chance to develop their own nursery at the school and to implement the project at their homes.

A VISIT FROM KATJA MAJIRIJA FROM FEPA

Interview with: Blessing Chamudondo

In March, Katja Majirija from FEPA Switzerland visited Chimanimani to witness the tremendous community development projects which are being implemented by PORET and the Chaseyama Permaculture Club in wards 2, 3 and 5. Her visit followed a series of visits over the years by the FEPA team to witness the work happening in Chaseyama.

During her 3-day visit to Chaseyama, she managed to visit the three wards PORET and the Chaseyama Permaculture Club



are working in. She witnessed the Zvokuitirwa Nursery Garden which is becoming well known for excelling in its nursery production through its nursery garden. She also witnessed a number of field days and learned along with farmers on how they are producing their crops and seeing the various crops they are producing.

PORET staff and CPC are grateful for the visit. It gives a smile to the people within the community to see themselves being paid a visit as it shows *Ubuntu* and the value of the projects being implemented in Chaseyama.

Katja Majirija (right) with Blessing Chamudondo (in red) and a farmer touring a field during one of the Field Days she attended.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM CYCLONE ELOISE

Interview with: B Chamudondo, K Dube and C Mtsadyanga

News that another cyclone by the name Eloise was going to visit in January had sent waves of fear through residents of Chimanimani. The shocks of Cyclone Idai are still living among the people in Chimanimani because of the trails of destruction it left in its wake. Many people died, houses were destroyed along with crops and livestock.

Cyclone Eloise paid a visit to the low veld of Chimanimani on the 21 January. The cyclone brought strong winds and heavy downpours which left streams overflowing and dams destroyed.

In Chaseyama, farmers experienced water logging, with some fields which had no swales literally washed away.

At PORET, the cyclone destroyed several dams which were constructed at the agroecology centre. The pressured heavy runoff took with it the newly constructed dam walls. This has left the PORET team with a new thinking of how best they should construct strong dams.

According to Blessing Chamudondo, the destruction of the dams gave a good lesson to PORET and the farmers that when constructing dams, we should not construct them with a mindset of the average rainfall the area receives but we should construct them with a mindset of heavy rainfalls. Also the cyclone gave the farmers a new thinking towards the way they construct dam walls and spill ways so that they won't experience another sad loss of dams subsequently causing more erosion along the stream banks.

However, the cyclone was not only a pain in the flesh for the Chaseyama community and PORET, but it brought with it positive impacts. The fact that Cyclone Eloise did not come as predicted was a blessing to the farmers. Since Chaseyama has a record of low rainfall totals it receives yearly, this year the farmers received enough rainfall for them to have a bumper harvest. According to Kumbirai Dube, an outreach officer for PORET, during his routine visit to the farmers, he managed to identify that a lot of farmers would be harvesting enough food for the season because of the good rains they received this year.

At PORET, the heavy rains have charged the underground water. The area is now green with all the trees enjoying the good water. The dams that had not destroyed are still holding enough water to continue recharging the underground water table. As put by Chitenderano Mtsadyanga, also an outreach officer at PORET, this year trees are going to thrive well since we received good rains.

You can watch the video of Cyclone Eloise destroying dams at PORET on <https://youtu.be/ziOamAjl0k8>

FIELD DAY UPDATES 2021

Interview with: PORET Outreach Officers: K Dube, V Karisawu and C Mtsadyanga

The beginning of this year saw Chaseyama Permaculture Club in collaboration with PORET conducting 21 Field Days over the 3 wards in which it operates. These Field Days, as is now the tradition, were organised and packaged by farmers through their committees for Field Days. The farmers selected fields that they want to visit and learn from. PORET then came in to inspect and verify the fields which have been selected.

Most of the fields which were selected belonged to farmers who had a diversity of crops and who had used organic fertiliser especially bokashi. Many other elements were also looked at in order for a field to qualify to host a field day.

It was noted from these field days that this year farmers have managed to grow a diversity of crops. Harvests this year will be much improved compared to previous years.



Top: Mr and Mrs Nemaramba posing in their sorghum field during the Field Day. Bottom: farmers touring the Maera family maize field.

VISIT US AT PORET LEARNING CENTRE



We are now offering simple but comfortable accommodation and conferencing services at our Agroecology Learning Centre in Chaseyama.

Our traditionally blended huts house one to two people. These huts were hand built using pole, dagga and thatch. Since the area is always hot, the huts provide you with the fresh air throughout. Built within the upper forest garden at the Learning Centre, the huts are surrounded by many trees which provide shade and fresh air.

If you are looking for a meeting space, we have lovely open walled gazebos to accommodate any number of participants.

We are also welcoming those who would like to visit with their families to take some leisure time in our beautiful forest.

You will also enjoy site touring around the Agroecology Centre, a walk up the Chayamiti Mountain and a refreshing visit to the Hotsprings.

For more information call us on: 0773 025 438

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS

This year, PORET has lined up an exciting series of events and trainings. These include:

- ❖ Water Harvesting Course
- ❖ Internal Permaculture Design course
- ❖ Nursery skills training
- ❖ Poultry production training
- ❖ Integrated Pest and Disease Management
- ❖ Holistic Land and Livestock Management
- ❖ Seed Production
- ❖ Documentation or Writers Workshop
- ❖ Leadership or Conflict Resolution
- ❖ Mapping
- ❖ Dialogue Methodology
- ❖ Goat Keeping Training
- ❖ Bee Keeping Training
- ❖ Dryland Cropping

For information about any of these events, get in touch with the Director, Julious Piti, on 0773 025 438 or email: juliouspiti@yahoo.com

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION: THE HEART OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Interview with: Blessing Chamudondo

In every work being done by various CBOs and NGOs, they are working towards augmenting the government efforts towards good service delivery to its people and not to override its roles. This is the reason why the stakeholders or government officials have the right to know every detail of the work being done by the Community Based Organisation and Non-Governmental Organisations, not for them to monitor but only to collaborate and share ideas on how best they can take development work further.

As a way of making sure that PORET and its stakeholders are moving on the same page, three separate stakeholder meetings have been done this year between PORET and the stakeholders. These meetings have been done with officials from the ministries, and ward councilors, namely Mr Tsandukwa Ward 3, Mr Bandure Ward 2 and Mr Mujee Ward 5.

A lot has been discussed during these fruitful meetings, chief among them being for the stakeholders to familiarize with the work which is being done by PORET in its areas of operation. Also the stakeholders shared their sentiments on how best PORET and they can work together to promote viable and sustainable community development. A consensus was reached to the effect that PORET will be sharing its plans, newsletters and reports on community based project so that the stakeholders are kept apprised of what is transpiring in the community.

PORET will continue to work with stakeholders from various Ministries and also with other organisations which are doing similar work to make sure that a viable community development drive is achieved.