

2011

JESUITS OF EASTERN AFRICA PROVINCE



**[MULTI-EDUCATIONAL & AGRICULTURAL JESUIT
INSTITUTE OF SUDAN]**

PROFILE

FARM SCHOOL

Brief History

The village chiefs of *Akol Jal* village in Rumbek, South Sudan, approached the Jesuits, Fr. Francis Lado, and requested that a school be built to help in developing the village. 1.5 square Kilometers of land was then donated by the chiefs. Due to their pastoralism nature, the local population lacked farming skills.



Those who practiced also got minimal produce. The idea then was to have crop growing and animal husbandry. Considering the needs of the local population, it was determined that the immediate need was to set up a school that would directly empower the people.

The Multi-educational & Agricultural Jesuit Institute of Sudan (MAJIS) was then initiated in August 2010. A 3 month pilot project, with 67 beneficiaries (52 women and 15 men), was then initiated with the

aim of equipping beneficiaries with basic farming skills. At the end of the project, beneficiaries were given seeds to plant within their homesteads.

Administration

The farm school is fully run by the Jesuits in Rumbek. Once the school becomes fully operational, beneficiaries will be required to pay school fees for sustenance. The courses offered will target youth 100 (40 girls and 60 boys) who have completed their primary education and will run for 9 months. The intention is to have boarding facilities for the students to be used during the 9 months.

Each student will be given a small piece of land where they will cultivate their own crop and maintain them as well.

The main plants that will be cultivated include: tomatoes, *sukuma wiki*, mangoes, custard apple, lemons, oranges and other local vegetables.



Staff

At the moment, there is only one teacher at the farm school and support staff. The course is given in Dinka since the target is the local community.

Ongoing projects



The construction of a boys and girls sanitation facility has been recently completed. The farm also has a borehole used by the participants to water the plants at the farm and also for their own use.

Currently, the ground is being cleared to pave way for the construction of classrooms, offices and teachers quarters. Construction of the first structures is set to begin at the end of May 2012.

Future plans

- An irrigation system will be installed at the farm to help with reproduction even during dry seasons.
- Plans are underway to acquire a grinding mill and a brick making machine for income generation.
- The project hopes to produce enough farm produce to sustain itself and for sale in the local market. 40 hectares have been set aside for the production of food crops (groundnuts, *dira*) that are in high demand but there is low production.
- Construction of dormitories for the participants.

Areas of Greatest Need

- A Tractor, weeder and ploughs for the farm
- Classroom block and equipment
- Clinic
- Secondary school
- Kindergarten

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development.aor@gmail.com***