

# 2015

JESUITS OF EASTERN AFRICA PROVINCE



[ MULTI-EDUCATIONAL & AGRICULTURAL JESUIT INSTITUTE OF SOUTH SUDAN (MAJIS) ]

**2015 PROFILE**

## Brief History

MAJIS was set up in 2010 to provide basic education and training in agriculture for the people of Rumbek through the use of short-term courses. It aims to become a national institution for agriculture through the provision of certificate and diploma programs.

The main objective of the project is to improve crop productivity and livestock management/productivity in Rumbek for 1,000 households (500 male, 500 female headed-households) by 2018. The project also intends to assist in providing 1,000 households in Rumbek with access to markets.

## Activities/Projects Implemented



- **Farming Project:** participants took part in making compost, preparing nursery beds for different types of vegetables and preparing demonstration gardens for tomato, eggplants, carrot, lettuce, cabbage, garlic and onions. New maize, sunflower, watermelon, eggplant seeds were also planted. Cassava and bananas were planted along the fence and after ploughing, sorghum, millet and potatoes were planted in the field. In June, participants took part in planting an orchard (Lemon trees, Wild custard apple, Mango, Papaya, Cashewnut, Guava and Melat (local vegetable). Other crops planted during the year include 10 Comfrey plants for feeding chickens. Most participants are women and children.

- **Equipment:** 2 oxen and ox plough were purchased to assist in tilling the land. 2 greenhouses were also set up and the soil prepared for the greenhouses. Furthermore, 4 beehives and beekeeping equipment were purchased. A large chicken house was constructed in December.

- **Workshop:** 44 participants (40 females, 4 males) took part in a training workshop on Animal husbandry. Other workshops held were on Vegetable

& Fruit Cultivation and Poultry and Egg Production, each with 46 beneficiaries (40 female, 6 males) in attendance.

- **Health:** the program partnered with Rumbek Diagnostic Clinic to provide medical support to the participants. 80 beneficiaries, including expectant mothers, children under 5 years of age and widows and widowers, were provided with medical treatment for malaria, typhoid and diarrhoea.

## Challenges

The main challenges include:

- **Insecurity:** Due to civil clashes, majority of families moved from the outlying villages into Rumbek. As a result, very few crops were planted at the start of the rainy season leading to a severe shortage of staple foods such as maize, millet and sorghum.
- **Transport and Logistics:** Rumbek was completely cut off from Juba by road due to severe flooding caused by exceptionally heavy seasonal rainfall for almost 4 months from mid-August to mid-December. This flooding made it impossible to transport materials and food by road leading to



steep increases in the prices of food and materials. Apart from flooding bringing any type of equipment or supplies from Uganda and Kenya to Rumbek presents a serious logistical problem as the road from Juba to Rumbek is unpaved and very little maintenance has been carried over recent years. As a result, trucks have to move very slowly, consuming a lot of fuel and experiencing lot of damage due to numerous potholes and general extremely poor road conditions.



***To support this program, kindly email the Development Director:***

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