



Report on the sensitization for the environment and plantation of a biological garden

Village of Amoussenon-Tomè

May-June 2023



Faced with the urgency of climate change and the increasing use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, it now seems necessary to have a more reasoned agriculture. First, to protect our environment but also for public health reasons. For the transition to more sensible farming on a large scale, the population must understand the interest in changing the way they work and accept it. We believe that awareness should start as early as possible so that the younger generation can live in a healthier environment in the near future.

For these reasons, **Actions de Solidarité** organized sensitization sessions with students, teachers, and residents of the village of Amoussenon-Tomè and provided them with a 100% organic garden.

I. Activities carried out by the NPO Actions de Solidarité

All the activities planned in the calendar were carried out over the period except the organization of a waste sorting day.

➤ Sensitization sessions on school grounds with students, parents and villagers

We raised the awareness of around 80 parents of students as well as school staff and presented our organic garden project, emphasizing the objectives.



➤ **Recording and naming of students and parents for the creation of the garden**

After calling all the parents of students and a few volunteers from the village, we finally selected 30 motivated people to work daily in the garden and to sensitize those around them on these issues.

➤ **Communication/sensitization session for teachers and school staff**

The most concerned teachers made great effort to motivate children and parents to get involved in the project.

➤ **Sensitization session with the canteen managers**

The canteen managers being few, it was therefore more of a moment of sharing and discussion on the issues of maintaining the cleanliness of the premises - by not throwing plastic waste on the ground - and the importance of nutrition for the health of children.

➤ **Information session on nutrition with students, parents of students, canteen managers and school staff**

Faced with an audience largely concerned by the scourge of malnutrition, we have endeavoured to make them understand the importance of a varied diet, the consumption of natural and organic products to acquire good health capital.

➤ **Organization of the day without waste** (collection of waste around the school, cleaning and weeding)

The commitment of the school director and his team helped make this day a success. On the one hand, the premises were almost impeccably clean after our cleaning actions and, on the other hand, our intervention motivated the management to continue to work in this direction.

➤ **Use of empty spaces around the school and around the garden to sow seasonal crops (corn, beans and others.)**

The director was already using, before the start of the project, some of these empty spaces; on our side, we mainly planted Moringa plants.



➤ **Organization of work sessions with the garden team and creation of the garden**

After a theoretical training session, the creation of the garden with 30 parents of students and members of the NGO took us the day. We were able to prepare five beds and plant our first seeds.

➤ **Organization of theoretical training on the preparation of compost and of the preparation day**

Before preparing the compost, we asked the parents of students to send us their household waste that could be used for the compost. They then participated in theoretical training and then in the production of compost in the garden.

➤ **Organization of activities for Arbor Day**

The students and school staff have been very involved, and we have planted nearly 50 tree saplings (mango trees, orange trees, soursop trees, breadfruit trees, coconut trees, ..), lemongrass, etc. in the school premises. We decided to plant fruit trees because the consumption of organic fruit allows them to have a more balanced diet.

II. Difficulties encountered during the project

The only real difficulty encountered that did not allow us to achieve our initial objectives was the lack of motivation of the parents of students at the end of the period. Indeed, they decided not to continue the training and did not continue to take care of the garden. So, we had to do it for them.

This situation is also explained by the fact that we are during school holidays and therefore both the children and the parents were less present on the school site.