

UPDATES FROM NIGER

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Niger Agriculture Project, led by Ron Gerwing, is focused on transforming the way farmers in Maradi cultivate their land. Through the use of organic fertilizers and sustainable farming practices, the project has already shown that it's possible to produce six times more per hectare than before. Despite the economic hardships and political instability in Niger, this project continues to make a difference, bringing the dream of food security within reach for thousands of families. We can help these farmers grow a brighter future for their communities with faith, determination, and your support.

WHAT'S NEW IN NIGER?

CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

- The current government has been in power for the past 13 months, and has led to a continuous economic decline in Niger.
- The number of people starving has doubled in this country of 23 million, with a corresponding rise in food prices and the cost of living.
- Despite the economic hardships, the safety situation remains stable, and there has been no significant pushback from the population.



PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

- **Organic Fertilizer Use:**
 - Most of the 900 bags of organic fertilizer have been used in this year's crop.
 - Farmers have started sending photos and requests to reorder the product for the next season.
 - Challenges include navigating government restrictions on money transfers out of the country, which may require applying for an exemption—a process that could take several months.
- **Farmer Engagement and Future Planning:**
 - Collecting advance payments from farmers will be difficult due to their current lack of cash flow. Ron plans to meet with farmers in small groups in villages or one-on-one at their farms to discuss future planning, returns, and possibly build composts for making their own fertilizer.
 - The project has already proven that farmers can produce six times more per hectare than they were previously growing, with the same input cost, by focusing on soil care and sustainability.



Empowering Communities (2023): Ron Gerwing presents a new laptop to Co-op Agricole de Bassaraoua, paving the way for agricultural progress.

LOGISTICS AND FUNDING NEEDS

- To facilitate these efforts, Ron needs to purchase a used pickup truck in Niamey, estimated to cost about \$18,000 CAD.
- Additional costs include a 25% increase in airfare and the doubling of the cost of living, making financial support for this ministry more critical than ever.



A hopeful view of the fields, where the new fertilizer is paving the way for improved yields and a brighter future for Niger's farmers.

VISION AND MISSION

- Ron remains committed to the vision God has planted in him: to achieve food security for the people of Niger within his lifetime.
- Although the timeline may be longer than initially expected, the project is on the right track, and momentum will be maintained with his return to Maradi in November.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for a stable political climate in Niger, allowing for positive developments in the country's social and economic spheres.
- Prayers that farmers are ready to increase their yields and profits, benefiting the entire community.

WILL YOU PARTNER WITH US?

Ron expresses gratitude for being chosen to lead this project for God's kingdom and the Republic of Niger. He plans to be back in Niger in early November, with monthly updates to follow.

As we reflect on the progress made and the challenges ahead, we are reminded of the resilience and determination of the farmers in Niger. Their unwavering hope fuels our mission to help them achieve food security and build a sustainable future. However, the road ahead is steep, and the need for support has never been greater. Your generosity can make all the difference, providing the resources needed to continue this vital work. We invite you to stand with us, to be a part of this journey, and to help bring lasting change to the lives of those who need it most. Together, we can sow the seeds of hope and watch them grow into a future full of promise.

P.S: Canadian donors can also set up a monthly Pre-Authorized Donation (PAD).

Donate Online: <https://impacthope.ca/niger/> in CAD - OR - Mail A Cheque: P.O. Box 211 Stn Main, Guelph, ON N1H 6J9.

*Please designate your donation to 'Niger'.

Spending of funds is confined to approved programs and projects. If any given need has been met or cannot be completed, the understanding is that the gift will then be used where it is most needed or where another opportunity of similar nature exists.