

Sustainable Farming in Niger

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Project Updates - October 2024



Greetings to everyone!

As I prepare to return to Niger, once again, I feel the excitement of returning to the heat of the sun and the hustle and bustle of people trying to survive in a poverty-stricken society. For many people, finding their next meal is a full-time occupation.

It is a sad but revealing reality, that sending food aid does not solve the problem. It has been, and continues to be, my objective: “Teach a man to fish,” and he will feed himself. What we have proven in the fields thus far, I can tell a farmer: “Do this, and you will produce 6x more than you did last year!

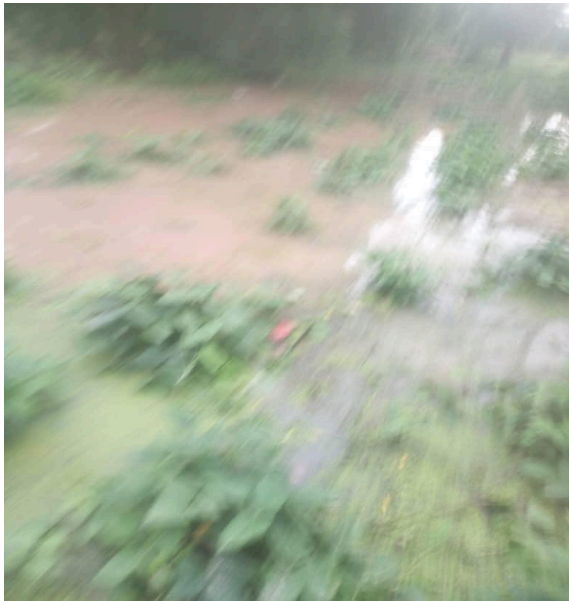
You would think that they would jump on it, but it will take some time to get adopted. Firstly, they’ve been told so many things by foreigners that they are reticent to jump on anything. They almost have to see physical proof. Second, they have no money. So when I tell them, buy this fertilizer, only a few will. However, the organic fertilizer ordered last year arrived on Dec. 30th from Holland, and it was planted by approx 100–150 farmers this summer.



The initial results were amazing. We had the best crop growing ever. The above photo is a field of sesame seed higher than the man standing in it! That plant usually grows about 30 inches high.

Here are some other crops with the new fertilizer.

Unfortunately, Sept. was not very kind, and the rains became heavier and lasted longer, until there was serious flooding. Some fields were also destroyed by strong winds.



The water has finally subsided, but the initial assessment is that as much as 50% of the fields were destroyed.

I will soon be there to pick up the pieces and evaluate where we can go from here.

My ambition is to purchase a pickup truck and visit as many farmers as possible, face-to-face to create a plan.

Many of these 30,000 farmers don't understand business profits and losses, nor investing in their business for growing into the future. This will take some time to learn.



I will be employing one person to travel with me to help set up the rendezvous and translate Hausa for me. What we need in every area is one or two farmers that follow these instructions from Foundations For Farming, and then more will follow.

My vision is that eventually, most of the 30,000 farmers of the region will adopt this farming method, as well as the organic fertilizer and humic acid and realize profits that will allow

them to dig a well and insert a solar pump. This would allow for 2 full crops/year and, of course, doubling production of what has been achieved.

Please continue to pray and financially support this project. I will be sending you updates regularly.

PappaRon

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