

Kuntaur, 30 November 2018

To: Hans Schouten and Nico Hollander  
From: Garden Executive Committee Jakaba

Dear Hans and Nico,

It is a pleasure to present our plan for the new Vegetable Garden of the Jakaba Community. We are looking forward to your opinion. If you agree, we can start to make an estimate of the project. The new plot of land what is given to the Committee is 2 hectare. When we can cultivate the whole plot, all the woman of Jakaba can have their vegetables for their daily food and also produce some crops for the market.

Best regards,  
The Garden Executive Committee Jakaba

### **Realization of new Vegetable Garden of Jakaba Community**

#### **Introduction**

Jakaba is a traditional Gambian village near Kuntaur in Central River Region (CRR). There are around 2500 citizens and a majority of them are elderly, woman and children. All of them are farmers. The most of the young people who grown up in this village like to travel to Europe because they don't have a job in the area. The most women of Jakaba like to work in a garden to grown their own vegetables. The women are strongly organized in different Kafo's (groups), to help each other in economic and social support. The community of Jakaba wishes to cultivate a plot of land for extension of the community garden. In this plan the Garden Executive Committee explains their situation and their ideas.

#### **The actual situation**

Since more than 50 year, a Garden Committee is active to manage a vegetable garden for the woman of Jakaba. The purpose of this garden is to produce vegetable crops for their daily nutrition. If they don't grow in the garden, nobody have vegetables for their daily food. The most citizens are also working in the rice fields for their own consumption. In the first years, the women only work in the garden in the dry season when the work in the rice fields is done. Since five years they try to work in the garden the whole year around because the population is growing so they need more vegetables. The last years a lot of rice fields are flooded, so the daily rice had to be bought in shops. That is why the woman also tries to produce vegetables for the market, so there is some cash for rice, but also for feeding, clothing, medical care and schooling for their children.

The seize of the community garden is 150 by 75 meters and contains 5 water wells. There is only place for 150 women. The management of the garden is in the hand of the Garden Executive Committee and the women who are working in the garden contribute for daily maintenance of the garden.

At the moment 275 women like to work in the garden. Because the current garden is too small and

the needs are high, the Alkalo of the village gave a plot of land to the Garden Executive Committee with the seize of 2 hectare. This committee is looking for support to cultivate this garden.

### **Aim of the project**

The aim of the project is to cultivate the new plot of land so all the woman of Jakaba have access to a vegetable garden. Every woman can have some beds where she can plant crops for the daily nutrition and production for the market. It is the intention of the Committee only to allow organic and natural compost, fertilizers and insect protection. They like to manage the garden for a whole year round production. The garden had to be a safe and well equipped working place for the woman.

### **The realization of the garden**

The soil of the new plot of land is good for fruit (mango and citrus fruit) and vegetables. This is confirmed by the Agriculture department in Kuntaur. The Committee is thinking about the following crops: cabbage, onion, tomato, carrot, bitter tomato, salad, eggplant and hot and sweet pepper. Next to that they like to plant citrus seedlings, like orange, mandarin and lemon. All this crops belongs to the daily food of the Gambian people, so it is also easy to find a market for them. Because it is a two hectare plot, it gives a lot of possibilities. The Committee likes to give an experimental destination to a part of the plot like for new crops, other kind of fertilizers, other irrigation systems, maybe even a small greenhouse. The woman already have experience with Solar Drying: they can dry their crops for times when there are no fresh vegetables on the market. Together with students of the Technical University Delft (The Netherlands) they build a Solar Drying installation. They like to explore more new techniques what is suitable for a tropical vegetable garden.

Also the Committee likes to realize a store, so the garden tools, crops, seeds, etcetera can be stored on a safe place.

### Material needs

#### *Fencing*

The garden need to be fenced because in this region a lot of animals are walking around in search of food. The committee prefers a 1 meter high wall of blocks on which fencing wire is connected until 2 meter high. The blocks prevent for small animals like rats and rabbits that can come under the fencing wire when there are no blocks.

The committee is also thinking to put 250 citrus (orange, lemon) seedling for life fencing.

#### *Irrigation system*

For a optimal production the Committee is looking for a good and sustainable irrigation system. They are thinking about a borehole, a solar installation to pump up the water in a tank from where the water is divided by water pipes to watering taps and basins in the garden.

#### *Compost making*

The committee like to organize a special place for organic compost making. This can be a basin of cement.

#### *Nursery area*

A special place is needed for making proper nursery's.

### *Garden tools*

Wheelbarrows

Watering cans

Rope for bed demarcations

Spades and other hand tools

### *Store*

The Committee like to have a store with the seize of 6 x 8 meter, divided into 2 rooms.

### Immaterial needs

The Community garden of Jakaba have a very good name in the region; some organizations call this garden a demonstration garden. Also for the new garden they like to continue with keeping up this standard. A part of the garden will be reserved for experimental usages. Therefore, the committee also likes to invest more in training and searching of new knowledge and experiences. A structural connection with an agricultural institute abroad can be very helpful. Also the committee welcomes foreign students to share their experiences in agriculture.

Training subjects are: compost making, garden management, organic fertilizers, how to use different types of crops in different beds, insect protection, and marketing.

### **How to organize the project**

The Kairoh Garden Foundation takes responsibility for the realization of the new vegetable garden of Jakaba. This foundation is officially registered in The Gambia and has already a lot of experiences with setting up Community gardens in CRR Region. Together with the Garden Executive Committee they take care for the daily work until the garden is realized and operations are started. The Jakaba community already explains that they like to contribute in realization of the garden by sending some volunteers to do labor work like digging, block making and fence making.

In the same time, the Committee likes to bring some changes in their own organization, so younger men and woman can be part of the Committee. The responsibilities of the Committee are: looking after the garden, do reparations, share number of beds, try and find out new crops and seedlings, give advice about the crops in the garden, collect contribution, communicate with authorities like Agricultural Services, looking for marketing possibilities, etcetera.