** Annual report 2022 FRED’S FARM - People 4 People**

Fred Kasigwa, died unexpectedly in May 2022. Fred worked tirelessly for the past 27 years to empower the most vulnerable. FRED’S FARM was an important part of this work for the past 9 years. Fred’s son Ferdinant will follow Fred’s vision and FRED’S FARM project will continue as before.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY on and around FRED’S FARM**

The transition from cows to dairy goats is now completed, and the interbreeding programme between dairy and local goats has started. After much trial and error, we have broken the code to successfully propagate moringa from seed on FRED’S FARM! Fruit trees on the farm are maturing providing more fruit for our daily workers on the farm.

The Twa villagers are increasingly interested in cultivating food, both on FRED’S FARM, and also trying to cultivate on the tiny areas around their homes. Almost the whole village is now interested in participating in the microsavings programme. These are enormous steps forward towards increased food self-sufficiency, and make school attendance possible.

The internship programme for school pupils has a far-reaching positive impact. We made our first small “scientific trial” with iron-enriched beans on the demonstration plot.

The extended dry season, almost 3 weeks longer than normal, was challenging for weak and poorly established plants. Despite frequent watering, coffee, moringa and other tree seedlings died.

Coffee and macadamia production increased markedly.

**Primary beneficiaries**

Employees, participants in training, recipients of plants and farm produce, school pupils, recipients of medical treatment, Twa and others who cultivate on FRED’S FARM land, tradesmen who carry out work on the farm, and more. Approximately 1000 individuals.

In addition there are many secondary beneficiaries, mostly the closest family.

**COVID-19**: in accordance with national guidelines in Rwanda, FRED’S FARM continued to encourage preventative measures**.** School class visits were not reinstated in 2022.

FRED'S FARM provided employment during the whole period of restrictions.

**Employment**

11 people had permanent employment all year round. In addition a cowherd from January

until the cows were sold in September.

10 field workers were employed for 9 months of the year, primarily weeding the coffee terraces.

In addition we provide “600 days of employment” for the Twa villagers, with almost all the villagers participating; harvest and transport of mulching materials. In addition, worm tea and coffee husk pulp transport to the farm.

For seasonal work, primarily planting, we provided “304 days of employment”.

**Animals on FRED’S FARM**

Cows: Fred invited local farmers to receive one cow and two calves in January. The remaining three cows were sold in September.

Goats: seventeen animals pr.01.01.22.

January: Fred invited local farmers to receive one young buck and three young females.

February: 1 new buck was purchased, and 1 buck was sold to Rwanda Action.

<https://www.rwanda-action.org/>

February: 2 bucks were lent to local farmers.

July: one young buck died after eating poisonous grass.

Milk was shared with children with the highest degree of malnutrition, though little goat's milk as no kids were born all year. The new buck purchased in February did not service our does until October. Pr. 31.12.22, 5 does are pregnant.

Pr 31.12.2022, 10 animals, all are healthy.

Hens: six hens produced eggs regularly. Eggs are shared with the vulnerable and staff.

**Interbreeding programme** with local goats began. The local village leader and another villager were entrusted with having one buck each on their farms, and to provide breeding service for local goats. This has functioned well with the village leader but not with the second farmer. Altogether 11 local goats have mated with these bucks from FRED’S FARM.

**Farmer training on FRED’S FARM**

180 farmers attended training to learn to make organic compost with minimal or no animal dung. Jacques led the training. Many of these farmers have now implemented this method.

25 farmers attended training to learn how to propagate and care for moringa.

Farmers who attend farmer training received tree seedlings in addition to pay for one day. .

**Collaboration with Kizi school**

The school has been open all year.

Twa children: the 6 children from the Twa village who started school in 2020, continued in 2022. Due to the impact of COVID, FRED’S FARM supported the total cost of their school uniforms, sandals, exercise books, pens and school lunches.

Solar lamp library: this functions as intended, all 47 lamps have been in use. Final year primary and final year secondary level pupils are prioritized.

The school secretary has responsibility for follow up. 8 lamps needed service and were taken to Norway for repair.

120 pupils have benefitted from these lamps.

Plant moringa: postponed from December 2022 til January 2023.

Macadamia nut: one tree was transplanted from FRED'S FARM to the school garden.

Internship program: altogether 12 pupils have successfully completed a 12 week internship program on FRED’S FARM in 2022. Three pupils are interns at any one time. These pupils are chosen by the school principal from vulnerable families. The programme consists of taking part in all activities on the farm, but their prime responsibility is to establish and maintain the “Demonstration Plot” (see under). Each pupil received a weekly sum to attend, and another “savings sum” when the programme is successfully completed. All bought young animals and two bought fruit tree saplings with their savings. Each has made a small sustainable business with the animals, by rearing and selling them with profit. Then buying another and so on.

The pupils report how this programme provides their families with much needed cash, in addition to gaining knowledge and skills. All pupils started saving, and they described how they now have a hope of economic independence. Both the school principal and individual teachers applaud the programme.

In February Hanne and Sten met all the successful pupils from 2022 and 2021.

**Twa initiatives**

School attendance: the 6 children who started school before the pandemic, have attended school all year. These children attend Bwama primary school. FRED’S FARM paid for these children’s lunch in 2022.

Food production

Several villagers proudly showed Hanne & Sten fruit trees given by FF, & planted 5 years ago. These now bear fruit.

Microsavings; during COVID,the villagers were able to see the advantage of savings. FRED’S FARM provided fresh capital and the microsavings group was reestablished with 27 families. A new committee was established with 8 members.

Training for making compost: in February 25 villagers took part and made one very large compost heap in the TWA village. After 5 months this was shared and used. Another compost heap was made in September. 60 villagers took part.

FRED'S FARM facilitates this process with know-how, and pays each participant for a days work as they make the compost heap.

Training to make a brick & clay stove:

A prototype stove used only a third of the firewood compared to traditional open fire; uses less firewood, less work to find firewood, less smoke and less open flames with less risk of children getting burns.

8 women participated.

Bricks were made available to all the TWA who wished to construct a stove. Altogether 6 villagers constructed stoves in their homes**.**

Jiggers treatment

Sixteen children were treated for Jiggers at FRED'S FARM by a local health worker, assisted by Providence (our foreman) and Alice (the TWA village leader). Those treated received soap and sandals as preventative measures.

**Cultivation on FRED’S FARM**

9 local farmers with little land were invited to cultivate on FRED'S FARM.

Food production, primarily banana, papaya and peanuts, for daily workers and permanent staff who live on the farm, has increased. Fodder for the animals has also increased markedly.

**Demonstration plot:** the school interns have responsibility to plan, develop and follow up this area. Avocado, papaya, tree tomato, mango and banana trees were planted. Napier grass and lemon grass was established. Moringa was planted. Sorghum, eggplant, maize, sweet potato, peanuts and beans were cultivated.

We did a trial with iron-enriched beans, a crop the government promotes. We planted iron-enriched beans with trellising and “as usual” planting on a separate area. Results reflected our lack of control over the process from start to finish. Closer follow up is required.

**Coffee and macadamia are 2 cash crops on FRED'S FARM.** Income of approx.kr.2250 from sale of 2022 harvest.

**Coffee**

Altogether 1392 mature coffee bushes.

532kg coffee cherries were harvested, 458kg best quality and 74kg second grade.

2019: 180kg 2020: 292kg 2021: 170kg (a very poor season in all of Rwanda) 2022: 532kg

970 new coffee seedlings were planted in February. Despite watering and extra care throughout the dry season, only approximately 100 survived.

400 young shade trees, calliandra and grevillea, were planted.

Organic compost production on the farm continued in 2022 with 25 compost heaps made.

A “worm tea bed” was established on FRED’S FARM to demonstrate production of “worm tea” for farmers and school pupils. Worms decompose organic matter to create an effective organic fertilizer.This is sprayed on both the coffee bushes and macadamia trees.

**Macadamia**

22 mature trees produce nuts; 23.5kg macadamia nuts were harvested. No records in kg from 2021.

To protect the mature macadamia trees from playful children, many fences had to be constructed around trees close to a path. 2 mature trees were severely damaged in a storm in September. These subsequently died.

Pr.31.12.22: 98 young macadamia (planted 2020). 126 mature macadamia.

**Beehives**

The three beehives, established close to the demonstration plot in 2020 to improve pollination, had to be moved, as the bees frightened the school pupils. The bees left the beehives during this move.

**Water**

Harvesting and storage of water functioned well all year, as did the piped water supply.

**Maintenance**

General maintenance was carried out during the dry season; repair of cement areas around the homestead, fixing rooves and guttering, repairing the goats’ enclosure and replacing a pipe and the water tap.

In December, the animal shed was almost totally destroyed by severe winds. This has been repaired.

**Health, safety and environment (HSE)**

Several hundred bamboo plants planted in 2021 were removed by local farmers. These were planted along a river bank close to FRED’S FARM. This area is seriously affected by flooding during the rainy seasons, with soil erosion and loss of crops. In another area closer to FRED’S FARM approx. 100 bamboo plants were then planted and now are growing well.

Health insurance is paid for all permanent staff. Malaria nets are provided for staff who live on the farm. Health and safety equipment is in place and in use when spraying the animals against ticks. Rubber boots are provided for all permanent staff. Jacques heightens awareness in everyday duties on the farm regarding hygiene and risk assessment. Measures to prevent COVID-19 were followed up as required by the government. Jacques feels confident to use the first aid kit as required.

**Collaboration**

Jacques collaborates closely with the village and sector leaders, the district veterinary surgeon, the sector agriculturalist, Kizi school principal and a local farmer who propagates seedlings “on order”. In addition, we have liaised with the Sosio-economic development officer in the area.

Our collaboration with the English NGO, Rwanda Action, continues (see above). In February the founder and the operations director in Rwanda visited FRED’S FARM. This collaboration provides us with a professional support network.

**Information to sponsors, and others**

FRED’S FARM homepage www.fredsfarm-rwanda.com was edited regularly throughout the year. Four updates were published in English on the homepage. All sponsors are informed about these by email. One information meeting was arranged for regular sponsors in November.

Skjetlein senior high school received two articles about FRED’S FARM which were published in their school magazine, Skjetlein bladet.

**Contact with FRED’S FARM**

2 NGOs and 6 individuals, all based in Rwanda, contacted FRED’S FARM via email making enquiries primarily about moringa and dairy goats or goat milk. All have found FRED’S FARM via its homepage.

**Management**

Jacques and Hanne had 12 WhatsApp meetings, and otherwise ad hoc contact as required.

Hanne and Sten visited Rwanda for 3 weeks in February/MArch to follow up all activities.

**Committee i 2022**

Fred Kasigwa (until May), Einar Stordahl (until February), Bente Denstad.

Ferdinant Tumukunde (from sept)

3 committee meetings were held in 2022.

Arne Ivar Denstad, Sten and Hanne Paltiel attended all the committee meetings. Grace, Ferdinant's mother, has attended from september.

**Financial support**

20 family and friends give a monthly donation. In addition, 33 others gift in the course of the year.

Skjetlein Senior High School, Leinstrand and Fagerhaug International School, Stjørdal supported the project.

**FRED’S FARM thanks everyone, family, friends, school pupils and teachers, for their generous support without which there would be no activity.**

Trondheim, JANUARY 2023

Bente Denstad, styreleder