

Project Update: August 2020

During the last months of the project, various activities were carried out to ensure proper monitoring and achievement of objectives. Thus, field visits were carried out to ensure the development of the nurseries set up in partnership with the women's group. It turns out that the "Missimahou" women's group ensures proper monitoring of the plants.



Example of the *Tectona grandis* seedling nursery

The members of the association are up to the task and have appropriated this activity which can provide them with additional income given the interest for certain people in the community for the production of certain species of plants. Some recommendations were given to the women for better boarding and regular monitoring; more frequent watering has been recommended.



One of the beneficiaries of the beekeeping training wearing the bee suit with the bee smoker in the hands to control the beehive (practice phase).

With regard to the establishment of beehives, certain difficulties were encountered with regard to their installation in the natural forest. As a result, initiatives have been taken to install them on private plots belonging to members of the association. Discussions were held with them and a site was agreed upon. The following checks made it possible to see that the two hives were installed and that the women were taking measures to ensure the colonization of the apiaries.

Organization of the National Tree Day on June 1, 2020: Planting trees in the home gardens and other sites in Niaouli (Benin)

To mark June 1st, National Tree Day in Benin, we took advantage of this important environmental event to carry out the tree planting phase which is one of the objectives of our project. This planting phase took place in Niaouli (project site) with the effective presence of several participants, and the members of the "Missimahou" association who followed the training in the nursery. During this day several species of trees were planted such as teak, Moringa, *Caesalpinia bonduc*. The inhabitants of Niaouli actively participated in this activity as these photos reveal. It should be added that before the start of the planting session, a meeting with the participants

made it possible to recall the importance of the tree for all people, the maintenance of the trees to be planted and the gestures to be observed to protect already growing species.



Meeting with the participants of the national tree day in Niaouli before planting.





Some pictures of the planting activities in home gardens

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the restrictions observed for a few months, we were a little late in our departure chronogram. It is planned to start the last activity of the project, that of raising awareness on the protection of natural resources, taking into account the barrier measures, and the evolution of the pandemic.