

Edest Academy: School Garden 2021

By Rev Mrs Esther Tommy



Introduction

At Edest Academy we do grow crops and encourage children to be actively involved in farming activities. The farming activity has been supported by our partner school All Saints Junior Academy in Hastings in the United Kingdom.

In 2020-2021 school year the Hastings friendship link became interested in the farming project and provided fund to enlarge the farming.

At the workshop in Comforti the project coordinator Haja Kanneh and member of the committee highlighted the need and important of developing school farm , supported and funded by the Hastings UK friendship link. The sum of two hundred and sixty thousand was distriburst at the end the workshop for the purchase of tools, and seeds

Edest Academy in collaboration with parents and children engaged in the cultivation of cassava plant and corn.

Activities

1. Land clearing

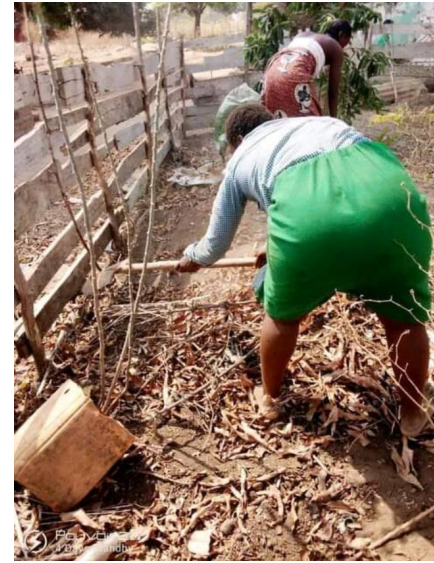
Clearing, burning

2. Planting

Digging, planting, fertilizer applications, watering, weeding and harvesting

Land clearing

This activity was carried out in April and it was the first activity that was conducted. Burning of the grasses followed suit after clearing.



Planting [Digging]

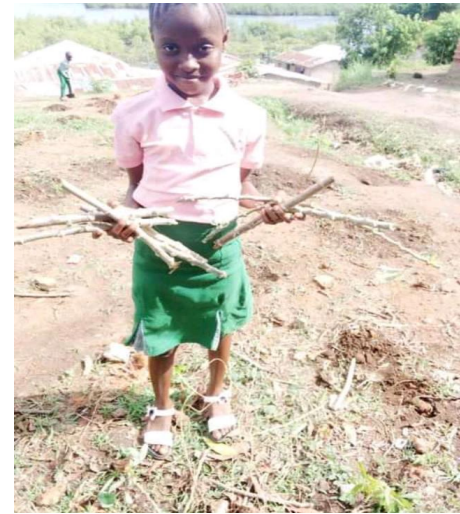
In this operation, the children dig holes firsts.

Planting Cassava needs spacing as they grow wilder as times goes



Planting [Sowing the stems]

Secondly after digging
the holes, you then
clear the holes and put
the stems of cassava



Fertilizer Application

The fertilizer that was applied is the poultry pig feces [Hog dom]. This poultry is also found in our school garden



Maturing plants

When cassava eavesdrop gets mature, the leaves will be pluck out for cooking cassava leaves sources



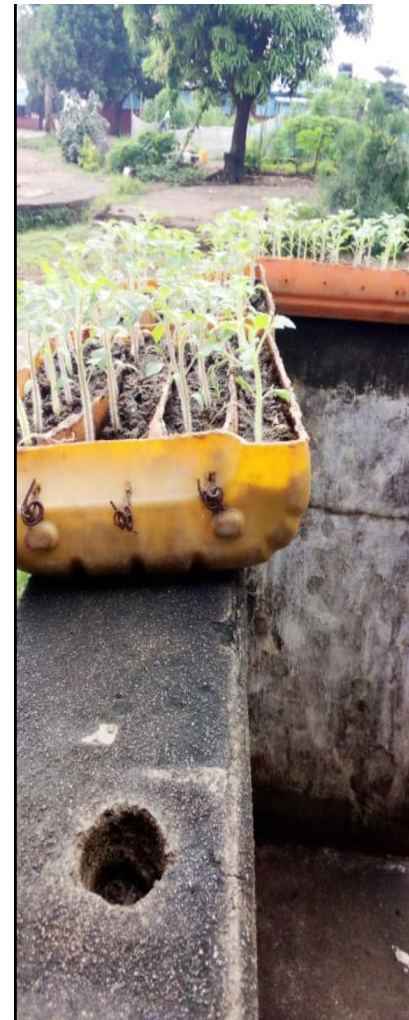
From my observation the cassava plant grew very fast and suppressed the other crop inter-planted.

Since the cassava plant does not encourage mixed cropping we decided to grow tomato plants in a separate portion of land in October and is now



Tomato nursery

In preparing the tomato plant, we started the operation from the nursery site, where the seeds were sown in our locally made tray. These seedlings were 3 weeks old.



Transplanting

The tomato seedlings were transplanted to the field when they were 4 weeks old.



Watering

After the seedlings have been transplanted in the field, watering is done by the children every morning after devotion.



Maturing stage

The tomato plants
are growing
superbly in the cages



Successes

Children have been able to be actively involved in farming

PROCESSES: Brushing, clearing, digging, planting, watering, weeding and harvesting.

The community has helped us with the little provisions of food for the piglets. The children are also taught about pigs and how to take care of the pigs. The plants and the pigs depend on each other. The manure from pig is added to soil to improve on its fertility and the pig feed on the leaves of the plant.

Parents are encouraged to feed their children with food from the farm because education and learning depends on good nutrition.

Challenges

- Pest control system is very poor, and fencing to prevent human pests from devouring plants in the farm.
- The availability of pesticides
- Farm area is very small to carry all the farming operations

Recommendations

- More fund should be allocated to the farm project
- Provisions be made to extend farm project to the provinces for the availability.

Conclusion

We're looking forward to a sustainable school farm project, where we can grow food crops to address food security in our country. Children will also learn to grow what they eat and become self employed.

The Edest Academy

