

## **Obbitu, Sololo Visit No.3:20 Aug - 25 Aug 2024**

**20 August:** Travelling to Sololo

**21 August:**

**Activities done:**

- Evaluation of trees planted in April
- Evaluation of potatoes, chillies and onions planted in open field
- Compost integration
- Pruning of trees
- Summary of income from farm produce

**Actions to be done after evaluation:**

- Pruning of trees when needed
- Integrate compost into soil and not to use as mulching
- Create a bigger water basin around the trees so water is better distributed to roots
- Some mango trees need to be grafted
- Drip irrigation layout changed on the onions so to have a more effective yield.
- Do not put soil or compost on tree trunk as this will rot the collar of the tree which can kill the tree.
- All trees have survived and are growing well.

**22 August:**

**Activities done:**

- Checked the location of beehives and their condition
- Location for rain gauge
- Water catchment canals evaluation
- Evaluation of new compost heap site
- Evaluation for the new greenhouse site
- Evaluation of the nursery
- Planting of trees where compost and water was applied
- Checked the condition of the pans

### **Actions to be done after evaluation:**

- The disposition of the beehives can be changed for easier management if wanted. The hives can be placed side by side closer together on a frame.
- The canals feeding pan 1 need to be having a gradient to carry water to pan 1 effectively.
- Sites for compost heap and greenhouse have been decided for any future development

### **23 August:**

#### **Activities done:**

- Survey of the area where water catchment canals can be made for the collection of water into pan 2.
- Continuation of planting of trees
- Total trees planted: 24 pomegranates, 3 mulberries, 8 figs.
- Evaluation of a zero-grazing location for dairy goats.
- Discussion on possible fodder production.
- General recap meeting with the Obbitu Children staff

#### **Actions to be done:**

- A proper survey is recommended to be carried out by a professional surveyor as to achieve a good gradient for the canals water flow. If this can be done it would greatly diminish the risks of creating canals that then do not operate and catch water correctly.
- We recommend having dairy goats for zero grazing as it is easier to manage them than having cattle for zero grazing.

### **25 August:** Travelling back to Naivasha

## Produce Income Summary and Comments on Performance.

Cultivations in greenhouses:

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Expected Income W24</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Spinach	10,000 KES	5400 KES Market 1200 KES Children	Working well and harvesting is ongoing
Green Pepper	16,000 KES	2530 KES Market	Crop is dying in the greenhouse, lost a lot of produce.

Cultivations in open fields:

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Expected Income W24</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Chillies	10,000 KES	1900 KES Market	Was ready in July, has a good market. Harvested 4 times
Bulb Onions	4000 KES	4100 KES Children	White Onions, Good Production
Bunching Onions	4000KES	1000 KES Market	2 harvests, good crop and can harvest several times
Sukuma	5000 KES	2770 KES Children	Needs water, ongoing harvest

Cultivations in Nursery Shades:

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Expected Income W24</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Danya	2000 KES	2580 KES Market	Has a good market
Okra	2000 KES	0 KES	Late to harvest so it failed to sell. Very delicate. Can try again.

Cultivations along the trench line:

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Expected Income W24</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Sweet Potatoes	Not Set	1500 KES Market 1700 KES Children	Orange one is good for harvest Purple one is growing well

## **Beans, Peas and Green Grams.**

Green Grams: 40kgs, all to Children, 8000 KES

Peas: 70kgs, all to Children, 7000 KES

Beans: No harvest, very difficult to grow, needs good rain and weeds are a problem.

## **Long Term Fruit Trees and Herbs**

<b>Month Planted</b>	<b>Crops Planted</b>	<b>Comments</b>
April 2024	10 Limes, 50 Lemons, 2 Lavander, 10 Mangoes, 10 Papaya	All have survived, need to be pruned, weeding to be done and trees must be monitored.
August 2024	24 Pomegranates, 8 Figs, 3 Mulberries	Planted well, now needs to be cared for well so trees can get strong.

Observations: A lot of positive outcomes from the crops planted. For the future will be looking to increase production for the marketable crops while improving the techniques of growing. An Introduction of passion fruits and eggplants would be good for the farm.

## **Honey Farming**

Total Honey Farmed: 101Kgs total

Total Income made: 101,000 KES Market

Guyu has a record showing the number of frames harvested from each hive during each harvest which can then be used to calculate the kgs of honey that each hive produces.

**Observations:** Honey Farming has a great potential and honey has a good market in the area. The families of bees at the Obbitu Farm are increasing and some have become very strong. For the future there is potential to increase the honey production by involving the community of Sololo to partner with Obbitu Children so more hives are set up around the area.

## **New Planting and Income plan for the new season:**

With the Obbitu Children staff it was discussed that the current crops will be continued and improved while the introduction of eggplant and passion fruits would be looked at if possible.

## **Other Topics discussed and checked:**

**Production and storage of compost:** 8 sacks are remaining which is roughly 90kgs. The compost production was successful.

**Compost Production Slab Location:** Site is found and a suggestion of using building blocks with sand for the compost slab with a shade using a shade net. The size of the slab is 6x3 metres.

**Record Keeping:** Record keeping is up to date for the produce from the farm where all produce is accounted for whether it gets sold at the market or used by the Obbitu Children. The work schedule is being used with Guyu who has a detailed daybook. The introduction of a Monthly Profit and Loss record would like to be introduced as currently the input costs and materials are not being recorded as well as the outgoing sales.

**Fodder Production and Area:** There is an available area for fodder where the bush must be cleared. Possible grass types that can be used for fodder are boma roads grass or sorghum which are highly resistant to Sololo's climate and can produce well.

**Zero Grazing Site:** A zero grazing hut can be placed near the Obbitu Children's home where there is better security. A suggestion of having 6 dairy goats (5 Female, 1 Male) for zero grazing instead of cattle as it will be easier to manage.

**New Greenhouse Site:** The site of the new greenhouse can be placed near the nursery where there is available space.

**Shade Net on Greenhouse:** The dealers of the greenhouse would be able to give a proper technical answer on how to anchor the shade net to the greenhouse roof. This application will greatly help with the production within the greenhouse.

**Moringa Seed Production:** The Moringa trees are producing and growing well. If there is the market for moringa seed oil, then a seed oil pressing machine can be considered for purchase so to produce the oil.

This is a report on what was done and discussed during the visit, if there are any queries on the report or any ideas for future development for the farm, we are always available for any questions.

Pierluigi Maggioni

Stephen Pulei

30 August 2024