



FARMING ON CRUTCHES

Farming on Crutches Activity Centre
SLASA Football Garden, Magbentah Village
Masiaka – Freetown Highway, Western Rural District, Freetown, Sierra Leone
amputeefootballgarden@gmail.com

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A training project in partnership with Tarr Fellowship Program to train farmers on Design Course in Sustainable Agriculture – Sierra Leone
June – December 2023



Design Course – A week-long Design Course was concluded on September 30th. Participants arrived on the eve of Sunday, September 24th, 2023. The demand overlapped original plan from 15 to 16 amputee farmers on Crutches showed up as participants, 5 amputees as training assistants and 5 able body caregivers; a total of 26 in the month of September training. (See list and photos attached).

Monitoring Officer Appointed - The SLASA Executive



interviewed candidates for the post of Monitoring Officer, and Abu Sesay; an amputee footballer and member of SLASA for over 20 years, emerged as Monitoring Officer of farming on crutches. Abu is 24 years old, and got his amputation at the age of 2 years. He was on his father's back trying to escape from rebel attack against their village, when a sporadic gun firing and bullet pierced his father's stomach, and hit Abu's leg. The father died on the spot, but Abu managed to survive. His leg was later cut off by a medical doctor after several days without treatment. Abu joined SLASA in 2001 as the youngest amputee footballer and has been loyal to the organisation till date. He has finished his Secondary School and looks forward to enter university

next year. He has been providing volunteering teaching services in his community as well as playing football so that he can take care of his wife who recently had their first baby boy 3 days after he got the job. He is very intelligent and diligent and assumes responsibilities of his widow mother and 3 siblings.



Construction of Poultry House – The need for poultry management at our demonstration farm is

essential not only for its scarcity but also for the manure, most especially when our program is committed to producing organic Bokashi fertilizer whose main ingredients is chicken dung together with other inputs etc.

For three months, Freetown poultry farms had run out of chicken manure completely, we were completely stranded in search of chicken dung around the entire community where poultry management centres are located. There was no manure, until we ended up doubling the price to grab the needed item for our design course. Because of its scarcity, farmers put in for dung ahead of dung preparedness at the various farms. So, the need for poultry management - primarily for chicken dung to ensure our continuity of the design course - cannot be over emphasised. We cannot continue the design training if the materials are not available. Therefore, we were able to design a customized poultry house to meet our specific needs. The recent participants were also able to participate in the construction services and learn the importance of poultry management and how this approach will integrate into our farming philosophy. Already we have purchased 43 local birds out of the total needed – 150 together with their feed while we still scout of the remaining.

Gratitude – Our sincere gratitude to the Tarr Fellowship Program for supporting us with financial assistance and capacity mentorship for a smooth operation of servant leadership through this process. Attached is breakdown of funding expenses for transparency and accountability measures.

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total costs (\$)</i>
1	Construction of poultry house	18x30ft	3000.00
2	Chicken floor	5bags	25.00
3	Native chicks (2-3 weeks)	150	750.00
4	Vaccination	150	150.00
5	Feed cost	150	540.00
6	Labour	1	1000.00
7	Supervision	1	2,500.00
	TOTAL		7,965.00

Faithfully submitted,

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 Farming on Crutches
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