



October 2025 Press Release

October 2nd, 2025

Hello everyone,

I am writing to you directly from the Gbedavo farm. I am with Grégoire in Benin for a short stay of about ten days. My focus is on the development of this project, in which we have been heavily involved for over three years. We are the largest financial backer, having contributed \$385,000 to date for its development.

Saint-Camille purchased 65 hectares of land, which we are developing at its request. Currently, seven hectares are planted with corn, three are banana plantations, five are used for market gardening (various vegetables and papayas), twenty are teak plantations (more than 33,000 teak trees), and four hectares will soon be planted with mango trees. The last twenty-six hectares will be developed next year (peanuts, bananas, cashew trees, soybeans).

Two objectives are being pursued: a place for agri-food production (to feed patients and staff at the centers) and a source of income for our partner, as well as a place of reintegration for patients treated at these centers at the end of their journey. This will continue for decades to come, contributing to the sustainability (long-term viability) of services and reducing dependence on international aid, including that provided by our NGO.

Since the beginning of June, a team of five Beninese nationals has been responsible for the day-to-day management of the work and its development under the remote supervision of one of our Board members, myself. I found the team to be competent, well-trained, committed, hard-working, and motivated. I am sharing this with you through a few photos.



farm house for 40 people



tractor and various farm equipments



banana plantation and papaya trees



seedlings in the greenhouse



With Charles, Martinien, Henri, Constantine and Narcisse



teak tree



from left : eggplants, onions and fallow lands



well-stocked papaya trees

This brief overview gives a glimpse of how your contributions and interest in this cause are bearing fruit on the red soil of Benin. Supporting us means supporting the development of this farm, among other things, and the services provided by Saint-Camille. **THANK YOU** for being with us for these patients cared for by Grégoire and his team. We are counting on you.

The five shelters in Benin are overflowing as usual. For example, 407 patients are housed at the Tokan center in Cotonou, which was built for 256 people. What do we do? We squeeze in, we spread mats everywhere! Then we treat them!!

Receive the typically warm and friendly greeting of Africa ...

Jean-Paul, administrator

All cheques should be addressed to « Les Amis de la St-Camille, 1448 avenue d'Orléans, Montréal, H1W 3R1 ». Paypal donations and monthly withdrawals are also possible via our website or by calling our treasurer, Jenny Briand au 873-662-9036 to obtain the form. You can also call this number for an Interac transfer. Bequests in wills are welcome. Tax receipts are issued for contributions of \$10.00 or more.

Our website : www.amis-st-camille.org