

Project RISE

Rural Irrigation
System for Ekumdiye



SUMMER 2012 UPDATE



Dear ADI Supporters,

This is an exciting time for ADI! Along with the fantastic progress we are able to report here on Project RISE, we are also excited about two new partnerships that we have begun with the SYGMA School in Ghana and the ENYI Foundation in Nigeria. We would also like to give a special thanks to those who came to the ADI Summer Cocktails Event in New York on July 28th. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Darryl Finkton Jr. & Sangu Delle
CEO and Executive President

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In efforts to diversify their harvest of crops, KEM farmers grew onions, okra, peppers, tomatoes, and rice this dry season! Crop diversification is important because it spreads the farmers' economic risk by expanding the market niches they can access and offsetting price fluctuations.

Phase II: Challenges and Lessons

At the time of the dissemination of our previous Project RISE Report, the people of Ekumdipe were in the midst of a crucial dry season harvest. **Project RISE was in its second phase and enlisted the help of an outside Bawku farmer to support the first ever attempt in Ekumdipe at having a large-scale dry season harvest.**

Unfortunately, the expert's farm and the farm of the 10 Ekumdipe farmers, Kano Egye Man's (KEM) farm, had staggered launches due to a shortage of necessary supplies in Ekumdipe. The expert Bawku farmer harvested in March. A month later, KEM pulled in their own harvest, but it was not as successful.

Phase III: Goals

The goal for Phase III of Project RISE was for KEM farmers to emulate last year's success—in this instance, **with less support from outside experts.**

Focusing on sustainability, we were determined to **build capacity locally** to replicate Project RISE during Phase III. Our hired expert farmed directly with KEM, sharing his knowledge with the group. There would be no staggered launches the second time around.



Phase III: Initial Results

Phase III began in February 2012 and the new approach has proven to be initially successful! The people of Ekumdipe were able to experience a second dry season harvest, something formerly thought to be impossible. However, another outcome worth noting occurred during this most recent phase as well:

Other people in Ekumdipe outside of KEM were starting to adopt dry-season farming on their own!

This was truly exciting news to our Project RISE team. Expanding the innovative agricultural practices to other farmers after the project's initial phases was the end goal of the Project RISE. We wanted KEM not only to illustrate to the constituents of the area that dry-season farming is a viable and profitable endeavor but also share the techniques they learned from the Bawku farmers.

Project RISE can only be a true success if the people of Ekumdipe continue to farm during the dry season without requiring assistance from ADI. Our goal, after all, is a world in which ADI is no longer needed.



Ongoing Challenges:

Despite the success of the second dry-season harvest in Ekumdipe, KEM farmers still face some ongoing challenges.

1) Poor road infrastructure

Due to poor road quality, 45% of the onions spoiled on the way to the market. Although the measures to diversify their crops offset the financial loss, the farmers should not have to worry about their crops spoiling during transit. Our team is currently looking into procuring a car to decrease the amount of time required to transport the crops to the market.

2) Flooding

Due to heavy rainfall, the dam near KEM farmers' plot of land flooded, drowning 65% of the planted rice. Moving the plot further from the dam distances the crops from the water source. Our team is currently researching other techniques that KEM farmers could use to protect their crops from flooding without complicating watering efforts.





KEM farmers sell their crops at a market in Ekumdipe. The market is open every 6th day of the week and attracts farmers and families from neighboring villages.

Where We Are Headed:

Our next phase in Ekumdipe is dedicated to overcoming the aforementioned challenges. Given our commitment to sustainability, we, as an organization, feel that we must find ways to overcome all challenges before we can decrease our direct influence in this community.

However, **given the exciting capacity transfer that has occurred in Ekumdipe**, we are confident that once we concretize our approach to overcoming these additional barriers, we can begin to shift our focus to replicating the model inspired by Ekumdipe in similar communities.

Stay tuned for exciting updates on this final phase!

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