INTRODUCTION

Family Farm Schools Pus (FFSs+) and IFER are the Rural Vocational Training Centers specialized in Agriculture, Livestock Production, Transformation, Service Provision and Crafts. The Diocese of Kumbo owns five Family Farms Schools Plus across the Diocese: FFS+ Ngondzen, FFS+ Ngarum, FFS+ Mbot, FFS+ Mbiame, FFS+ Bamti and One IFER/IRE *(Institute pour la Formation en Entreprenariat Rurale - Institute of Rural Entrepreneurship),* which acts as the second cycle to the Family Farm Schools Plus.

In this report, we are going to consider the activities carried out by the various schools in the course of last year and part of this new year, we are also going to look at some important statistics about these schools, the challenges faced by the schools and the attempted solutions, general difficulties encountered by the programme as a whole, our synergy with other organizations, our vision for the year 2018, innovation and updates. We shall end the report with envisage risk and a conclusion.

1. IFER/IRE (*(Institute pour la Formation en Entreprenariat Rurale - Institute of Rural Entrepreneurship)*

IFER Nkambe started the 2017/2018 academic year with the following enrolment of students: Level One had two students (2 boys) while Level Two had 3 students (3 girls). Presently, Level One has 22 students (14 boys and 8 girls); while Level Two has 5 students (3 boys and 2 girls). The total enrolment of IFER stands at 27 students presently.

With regard to the number of Trainers, there are 7 Trainers in IFER, (4 permanent trainers and 3 part time trainers).

1.1. ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been carried out so far in IFER Nkambe:

- In September, we had recruitment exercise of new students

- Level 3 students have registered for the GCE exams and are preparing for the mock examination in the month of October (if possible)
- The first phase of the Miel Maya Project has been completed
- The files for the authorization of IFER by the Ministry of Secondary Education has been completed and sent to Yaounde and is awaiting confirmation.
- They received many visits from Via Don Bosco representatives and Social Welfare Department.

1.2. DIFFICULTIES

- There was a serious fire incident that occurred in St. Rita's College from an unknown source; as a result, the two dormitories of IFER students were completely burned down into ashes leaving the students with no or little personal needs and books. The estimated cost of the fire destruction stands at 11.000.000FCFA.
- Destruction of crops in the demonstration plot by stray animals
- Disruption of some school activities due to the current strike action in the North West and the South West Regions of Cameroon

1.3. WAY FORWARD AND PROSPECT

With regard to the fire incident at St. Rita's College, a report about the damage has been made and sent to Mr. Filip and we are at a stand still hoping that some assistance could be offered to the students who were affected by the fire incident. Again, Fr. Daniel Ache and Fr. Divine Fossoh visited the students of St. Rita's College on the day of the fire incident. This was in a bid to encourage them and to assure them of our concern.

Concerning the destruction of the demonstration plot by stray animals, we are going to fortify the fence of the demonstration farm; so as to prevent stray animals from getting in.

With regard to the strike, we hope for a better future and for the mean time we shall continue with sensitization as we have been doing.

2. NGARUM FFS+

The Family Farm School Plus of Ngarum started the year with the following numbers of students: In Level One, there were 11 students (4 boys and 7 girls); Level Two had 10 students (3 boys and 7 girls) and Level Three had 10 students (3 boys and 7 girls).

Presently, there are 24 students in FFS+ Ngarum. 8 students in Level One (3 boys and 5 girls), 9 students in Level Two (2 boys and 7 girls) and 7 students in Level Three (1 boy and 6 girls).

There are 6 Trainers in Ngarum (3 permanent trainers and 3 part time trainers).

2.1. ACTIVITIES

So far, the following activities have been carried out in the Family Farm School Plus of Ngarum:

- In September, they had sensitization in villages to increase the number of students
- In October, they had training of students on carotte Production and the cultivation of spices, cabbage, tomatoes and huckleberry.
- They carried out study visit on Coffee Production at Donga Mantung Coffee Union
- The second study visit was carried out in Life Stock Brigade at Taku
- The last study visit was carried out in PEMSAP at Mbot on *Community Development.*
- Parents were trained on local fowl production
- The parish house garden is under cultivation by the students of the FFS+ Ngarum.

2.2. DIFFICULTIES

- Disruption of classes and some school activities due to the current strike action in the North West and the South West Regions of Cameroon
- Destruction of crops in the demonstration farm by stray animals

2.3. WAY FORWARD AND PROSPECT

Concerning the destruction of the demonstration plot by stray animals, we are going to fortify the fence of the demonstration farm; so as to prevent stray animals from getting in.

With regard to the strike, we hope for a better future and for the mean time we shall continue with sensitization as we have been doing.

3. MBOT FFS+

The Family Farm School Plus of Mbot had the following number of students at the beginning of the year: in Level One, there were 6 students (2 boys and 4 girls), in Level Two, there were 9 students (4 boys and 5 girls); in Level Three, there were 10 students (4 boys and 6 girls); making a sum of 25 students at the beginning of the year.

Presently, we have the following enrollment: Level One has 5 students (3 boys ad 2 girls); Level Two has 6 students (3 boys and 3 girls); and Level Three has 6 students (4 boys and 2 girls). The total number of student presently is 17.

Presently, there are 5 Trainers in Mbot (4 permanent trainers and 1 part time).

3.1. ACTIVITIES

In the course of last year and this year, the Family Farm School Plus of Mbot has carried out the following activities:

- General pedagogical activities
- Practical learning activities in brooding of fowls, gardening and livestock
- Study visits
- Sequential evaluation
- Adult training programme

3.2. DIFFICULTIES

- Students still having some fear to come to school because of the Anglophone crisis; thus leading to poor enrollment and a slowdown in the school activities.

3.3. WAY FORWARD AND PROSPECT

With regard to the poor enrollment, we shall continue sensitizing the students to come to school and encouraging parents to send their children to school.

4. NGONDZEN FFS+

The enrolment of students in Ngondzen at the beginning of the school is as follows: There were 5 students; all girls, 2 students in Level One, 2 students in Level Two and 1 student in Level Three.

Presently, we have 8 students; all girls. 5 students in Level One, 2 students in Level Two and 1 student in Level Three.

There are 4 Trainers (3 permanent trainers and 1 part time).

4.1. ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been carried out so far in Ngondzen Family Farm School Plus:

- Sensitization
- Training of students on general subjects (agriculture, livestock and income generating activities
- Commercial gardening
- Potatoes seed production
- Cocoyam production

4.2. DIFFICULTIES

- Poor enrolment due to the strike action
- Noise from the primary school section
- Lack of a permanent site for the school

4.3. WAY FORWARD AND PROSPECTS

We shall continue with sensitization to overcome the problem of poor enrollment.

A project has been written to have a permanent structure for FFS+ Ngondzen and we intend to relocate the school to Nseh village. This will not only solve the problem of poor enrollment but also rescue the school from collapsing.

5. MBIAME FFS+

The statistics of students in the Family Farm School Plus of Mbiame is as follows: at the beginning of the academic year, 2017/2018, we had the following enrolment: Level One had 4 students (1 boy and 3 girls), Level Two had 1 student (1 girl), Level Three had 4 students (1 boys ad 3 girls). Put together, there were 9 students in FFS+ Mbiame at the beginning of this school year.

The present enrollment is as follows: Level One has 5 students (2 boys and 3 girls), Level Two has 2 students (2 girls) and Level Three has 13 students (2 boys and 11 girls). In total, there are 20 students presently in FFS+ Mbiame.

Concerning the staff, there are 4 permanent Trainers in FFS+ Mbiame with no part time trainer.

5.1. ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been carried out in Mbiame Family Farm School Plus:

- Training (Theory and Practical)
- Follow ups
- Internships
- Study visits
- Clearing, hoeing and harvest of cocoyams
- Preservation of Corn
- Selection of planting material (gathering of maize seeds, beans seeds and cocoyams cormels
- Clearing and rebaiting of hives

- Sensitization
- One P.T.A meeting and 2 Staff meetings

5.2. DIFFICULTIES

The following difficulties were faced in the course of the year:

- Stray animals leading to the destruction of crops and other school properties
- Attacks from wild dogs leading to the killing of some school animals (sheep)
- Poor enrolment due to the strike action in the North West and the South West Regions of Cameroon

5.3. WAY FORWARD AND PROSPECT

With regard to the problem of stray animals and wild dogs, we intend to fortify the school fence so as to prevent animals from entering the school premises. This will be done as soon as we have the means.

Concerning the poor enrollment due to the strike action, we shall keep sensitizing students to come to school and encouraging parents to send their children to school.

6. BAMTI FFS+

FFS+ Bamti recorded the following number of students at the beginning of this academic year: In Level One, there were 6 students (1 boy and 5 girls), Level Two had 1 student. Thus there were a total of 7 students in FFS+ Bamti at the beginning of this school year.

Presently, in Level One, we have 10 students (1 boy and 9 girls) and in Level Two, we have 1 girl. This gives us a total of 11 students for the present enrollment in FFS+ Bamti.

There are 5 Trainers in FFS+ Bamti (4 permanent trainers and 1 part time).

6.1. ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been carried out in the course of the year:

- 1 P.T.A. meeting and a series of staff meetings

- Training (Theory and Practicals)
- Follow up
- Practicals on *poff poff* production
- Practice on huckleberry production
- Training on sewing
- Youth training and follow up
- Sensitization of students
- Evaluation of the Four Pillars of the Family Farm Schools by CNEFAC

6.2. DIFFICULTIES

The following difficulties were faced in the course of the year:

- Shortage of water
- Poor enrollment due to the strike action
- Stray animals leading to crop destruction

6.3. WAY FORWARD AND PROSPECT

Concerning the problem of lack of water, as part of his annual support to the Family Farm Schools in the Diocese of Kumbo, Mr. Willy, our benefactor from Belgium, has opted to dig two bole holes in Bamti. To this effect, the first phase of the project has been carried out (a 5000 litter water container has been purchase, a water pump has been bought, pipes have been bought and other water containers have been bought. What is left now is for Mr. Willy to give his contribution for this year so that the last phase of the project can be completed.

With regard to the stray animals, as soon as we have the means, we shall put a solid fence round the school premise.

7. SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The table below gives us a summary of the enrollment of our students in the various schools in the academic year 2017/2018:

SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
IFER-NKAMBE	17	10	27
NGARUM	6	18	24
MBOT	10	07	17
NGONDZEN	___	08	08
MBIAME	04	16	20
BAMTI	01	10	11
TOTAL	**38**	**69**	**107**

8. GENERAL DIFFICULTIES AND OUR VISION

Our major difficulty presently is the current strike which as disrupted most of our school activities and the whole functioning of the system. However, we shall continue with sensitization and encouraging the parents to send their children to school.

Our second major difficulty is the fact that the money allocated for the 2017 – 2021 convention by Via Don Bosco is very small and not only that, but is decreasing as the years go by. To this effect we need to start thinking of the possibility of looking for co-funders so as to be able to complete the last two years of the programme. If not the activities of the last two years of the programme will be highly compromised.

Our present vision, among others, is to start forming alliances with local organizations that can support the Family Farm Schools Plus and secondly, to involve strongly in income generating activities in the various schools.

9. INNOVATIONS AND UPDATES

Following the requirements of Via Don Bosco for the 2017 – 2021 Convention, we have succeeded to fulfill the following major conditions:

- A two years Employment Contract that was examined closely by Fr. Daniel, the Bishop and the Labour Delegate for Bui Division has been served to all our workers of the Family Farm Schools Plus and IFER Nkambe.
- Via Don Bosco has accepted to sponsor the registration of the Family Farm School Plus of Bamti, Nagrum and Mbot in the Ministry of Vocational Training. The compilation of the documents of theses schoos has started.
- Through the assistance of Fr. Louis Mboyeh, 90% of the workers of the Family Farms School Plus and IFER have been registered in the National Social Insurance and of most important a separate NSIF number has been created for the workers of the FFS+/IFER.
- We are in the process of creating alliances with the local partners to work in synergy with the various schools. Some of these local partners which we have identified are PAN AFRICAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION (PACE) CAMEROON, Nkor Council, Mbiame council, Nkambe council and Ndu Council, local NGOs like CAMGEW, ARAD-Cam, Kumbo Greenery and Green Care.
- We have already registered all our trainers in BEPHA health scheme and we are in the process of registering all the students. We should have done this already but for the instability of students in our various schools.

Moreover, we will also like to inform the Board of Governors of the following activities which are in process:

- We intend to relocate the Family Farm School Plus of Ngondzen from its present location to Nseh village; this to us seems to be the only solution if we are to rescue this school from its poor enrollment and the danger of collapsing. To this effect, the Director of the school and the former Parish Priest of Ngondzen Parish, Fr. Anthony Tangwa, have seen

the Fon of Nseh village and the Fon has promised to give land for the construction of the school as soon as the Diocese is ready to start construction. Again, through the assistance of the Bishop and Fr. Marcel Gham, we have written a project of two class rooms and a staff quarter for the FFS+ Ngondzen. We pray that this project comes to fruition.

- There are proposals from IECD for the examination of the possibility to change the family farm school programme from three to four years following the recent validation of the agriculture specialty program for the CAP by the Ministry of secondary education. However, we think the ideal situation would have been for the GCE board to follow suit with an equivalent content for the Anglophones.
- The Ex-Students Forum organized by the IECD which took place on the 15th of December, 2017 was a great success. There were 50 ex-students and above who attended the forum and resource persons were invited to give inputs on the various opportunities which the ex-students can explore in order to become self-reliance.
- Two new trainers were recruited in the Family Farm School Plus of Ngodzen where there were only two trainers and the Family Farm School Plus of Bamti where there were only three trainers. This was in an effort to reduce the work load carried by the few trainers in these schools.

10. SYNERGY WITH MIEL MAYA HONEYING, COMUNDOS AND ACTEC

When the 2017 – 2021 Convention was approved by Via Don Bosco, other two organizations entered into synergy with the Social Welfare to assist some schools. The first one was the Miel Maya Honeying Project. This project is aimed at assisting IFER Nkambe and FFS+ of Mbiame. Its main purpose is to train students and teachers on bee keeping. It is therefore geared at providing skills on bee keeping, some basic material for bee keeping and a two room house for honey processing. So far, the apiary for the bees has been set up in both schools, the bee hives have been constructed (15 for IFER Nkambe and 13 for FFS+

Mbiame) and some basic materials like hand gloves, bee suits, smoker etc have been bought for both schools; thus, bringing us to the end of the first phase of the project. The financial report and the activities report for this first phase of the project have been written and sent to Yaounde and have been approved by the organization. The second phase of this project will take place this year and it has to do with the building of a two room house for honey processing.

For the COMUNDOS Programme, it is geared towards the digital insertion of the young people by providing them with computers and knowledge on Information and Communication Technology. So far, Mr. Peter Yovngeh and Mr. Emmanuel Sengafor have received training in Yaounde and have graduated with an attestation as Media Coaches to this programme. The computers are still to be bought this year. Worthy of note is the fact that this programme is only for IFER Nkambe. However, giving the importance of digital literacy to the young people in the 21st Century, one of our visions is to equip all the Family Farm Schools Plus with computers and laptops for all Directors; and to use the Media Coaches that were trained by COMUNDOS together with computer teachers to impart some basic digital knowledge to the students.

Concerning the synergy with **ACTEC,** the **ACTEC** Programme intends to strengthen Entrepreneurial Skills of the students of the Family Farm Schools Plus and IFER. So far, only visibility studies have been done and the rest of the training is still to take place.

9. RISK, CAUTION AND SUGGESTIONS

Given the fact that the investments for sustainability are not part of the Via Don Bosco Programme and coupled with the fact that the budget of the project is small and is being reduced as the years go by, the future of the Family Farm School Plus and IFER in the Diocese is at risk. We should be thinking of contacting new partners or involving in some investments for sustainability at the level of the Diocese during these five years. However, we

are happy to inform the council that we have started taking some major steps to tackle this situation – to this effect, FFS+ Bamti presently is engaged in cow fattening, plantain and cassava production, FFS+ Mbiame is equally involved in cow fattening and sheep fattening and FFS+ Ngonzen is involved in potatoes seed production. (There are 3 cows in Bamti, 10 cows and 8 sheep in Mbiame). All these income generating activities were sponsored by the Coordination Board of the Family Farm Schools.

CONCLUSION

Conclusively, though it has not been very easy to follow up all the activities in these six schools, we have been putting in our utmost with the hope that all will be well with time. I wish to render immense gratitude to the Bishop for his zeal towards the FFS+ programe and for his assistance and guidance. My heartfelt gratitude goes to Fr Daniel Ache (the Coordinator of the Social Welfare Department) for his guidance and incessant support. I equally thank the Financial Secretary for his collaboration and support, I thank the Chancellor for his assistance, my unreserved gratitude also goes to my immediate collaborators, Mr. Emmanuel Sengafor, Chrysogonus Tanko and Mr. Promise Ngum. I also thank all the trainers for the work they are doing in their respective schools in the field.

To say that we have been doing everything well is an over statement; thus, we apologize for insufficiencies and in the areas which we failed to catch up with the expectation of the project and the Diocese and we promise to do better in the days ahead.

PHOTO GALLERY

Some of our activities and memorable events this year can be seen in the pictures bellow:

PIC.1. EX-STUDENT'S FORUM (15TH DECEMBER, 2017)













PIC. 2. THE SURVEY OF IFER IN VIEW OF AUTHORIZATION BY THE MINISTRY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION





PIC. 3. PTA MEETING AT FFS+ MBIAME



PIC. 4. PTA MEETING AT FFS+ NGARUM



PIC. 5. FOLLOW UP IN THE INDIVIDUAL HOMES /GARDENS DURING THE PERIOD OF CRISIS BY THE PEDAGOGIC TEAM AND THE HEAD OF THE TECHNICAL UNIT







PIC. 6. FIRE INCIDENT AT ST. RITA'S COLLEGE





