

Echoes

of the Schools for the Teachers of the Future

December 2009

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, ADPP runs 10 teacher training colleges spread throughout the country. These are called the Schools for the Teachers of the Future. (In Portuguese: Escolas de Professores do Futuro, or EPF). They train primary school teachers, chiefly for rural areas.

The education is a pre-service program lasting 2½ years, of which the final year consists of teaching practice at rural schools. Here the teacher trainees have full responsibility for both teaching and community activities whilst receiving supervision from the teacher training college. Apart from classroom teaching, the teachers promote many other educational activities such as pre-schools, literacy courses, adult education and community activities like agriculture, health and cleaning campaigns, construction of classrooms etc.

The goal of the teacher training colleges is to produce extraordinary teachers who make a difference: in the lives of their students, in the villages they work in and by extension to society as a whole.

In this issue

- **Food production at EPF Cabinda**
- **Agricultural activities at EPF Bié**
- **On the 3rd period at the EPF Caxito**



Food production at EPF Cabinda

As part of its "Food Production" activities, EPF Cabinda has courses on subjects such as "Nutrients", "Why to avoid slash and burn farming?", "The life of a plant," "Natural fertilizer and insecticide," "Producing food locally in the fight against Global Warming".

Through practical work, all students also learn how to successfully cultivate a variety of foods.

Each student helps to clear the land, enriching the soil with the grass instead of burning it. They then learn to sow, transplant, tend, solve problems with diseases and grass etc before harvesting.



We currently have 95 small gardens - 5m x 10m each - with cabbage, onion, pepper, tomato, carrot, okra etc. at the school, and each day a group is responsible for checking the harvest of each garden. They also gather

produce for the day's menu.

In this way we produce food for consumption at the school and at the same time, the students gain a thorough knowledge about food production and the ability to produce food.



We have now seen that the student's use this when they are in their practice period, for example in Xa-Muteba (Lunda Norte) the students produce food not only for themselves but also for the community.

This is the case almost everywhere that the students are doing their teaching practice.

Agriculture at EPF Bié

EPF Bié's agricultural gardens are improving the diet at the school, giving a more diverse and healthy diet with lots of vital nutrients. Local production also saves the cost of transporting the food.

All students learn how to grow vegetables and how to take care of trees. These skills are important for future trainees and graduates living in rural areas. EPF Bié is also a good example for the neighborhood school and our garden has many visitors.

The garden is used to grow vegetables and there is a tree nursery to produce trees for fruit, wood, shade and decoration.

Two afternoons per week

all teachers and students do practical work and agricultural activities always have a high priority. In addition, a group of students does irrigation work every day as part of their morning chores.

There is a water hole with a water pump that supplies water to a 5,000 litre tank, then irrigation is done with 2 hoses. A key element for success is the production of natural manure from organic kitchen waste, cut grass and from the faeces of 4 cows.

During 2009 the most successful productions were spring greens, Chinese cabbage, pepper, onion and garlic. The garden is divided into plots with a size of 10 x 1 meter. We are cur-

rently in production at 30 sites and produce about 20% of the school's requirement of vegetables.

In the nursery, we have prepared 1200 trees to be planted during the next rainy season, including avocado, mango, papaya, lime, passion fruit, strawberry, eucalyptus, pine and various types of trees for shade and beautification.

Since 2006 we have planted many trees and 2000 of these are flourishing. Some trees were lost due to fire, and some were planted late in the rainy season and did not survive. Thus we learn that we can only plant in the beginning of the rainy season. The only fruit trees in production at the moment are passion fruit and papa-



ya, but within a few years the students will be able to consume school-produced fruits throughout the year.

The school has 2 oxen for animal traction. We also have small-scale production of chickens and pigs.

In January 2009 we started the Agricultural Development Club, which now has 100 members from 3 neighbourhoods located near the school. Two Saturday mornings a month, members meet in EPF Bié and have three modules. First the members work together to learn new techniques or even increase their own production. Afterwards, they see a demonstration of, for example, a new vegetable or technique which they watch and discuss. Finally, members have a class together.

During 2009, vegetable pro-

duction was a high priority.

Every member has his or her own garden, with plants or seedlings provided by EPF Bié. The Club is run by 2 technical agronomists from EPF Bié. The technicians worked with the local authorities so that each member now has a small field near Rio Cunje with good irrigation possibilities.

Finally we would like to mention that at EPF Bié, all teachers and students are well trained to put out any fire within the 35 hectares of land near the school. Many times during the months of April to June, we had to stop studies so that everyone could help to put out fires. On windy days, fire is a job that needs a great effort from a lot of people.

Now all students are well trained fire fighters. We have discussed with mem-

bers of the Agriculture Development Club of the need not to stop burning the forest and with them we will begin to reduce this practice in Katabola.



About The 3rd period at EPF Caxito

The third period, called “We continue to build our school” is a period in which students learn to plan, lead, budget, organize and achieve the planned results.

Our school is our home. The 3rd period gives us the chance to think innovatively about our school, and how we can improve our own house.

We always have the time to dream about what we want- which is for the school to flourish- and we dream of the physical changes that we want to make.

After this, the planning starts. A practical plan, a timescale, a budget that may or may not be approved...

All this is an important process for students who after training will face many challenges and need to solve many tasks in schools which lack maintenance or need new classrooms constructed or whatever demands there might be.

The students are organized into groups with leaders and they define their goals and how they can carry out their plans.

During this year we had a



group in charge of purchases for the entire period, a group that was responsible for the materials arriving at the right time and being distributed to groups and group leaders.

In March we achieved many concrete results: painting, electrical installations, repairing beds, repairing of windows, maintenance of the water system, planting trees and organizing our kitchen, the guards' areas and more.

This year was the first year we decentralised the purchasing system and I believe we can develop this to great advantage. Next year we will have someone responsible for purchasing in each group. This will give them



the opportunity to learn a lot about budgets and how to manage the material.

In the 3rd period as well as learning to plan and organize, the students learn new practical skills, such as painting, building, weeding, maintaining and more.

ECOS

das Escolas de
Professores
do Futuro

Dezembro 2009



Rua João de Barros nº 28 RC

Telefone 00 244 912 31 08 60

email: adppsede@netangola.com

www.adpp-angola.org

ADPP

