

SYFA Update, Cameroon

Save Your Future Association (SYFA)

SYFA has been making progress. During this winter, SYFA hosted two volunteers, students from the USA (Yi Zhang from Wellesley College, Massachusetts and Masumi Hayashi Smith from Brown University, Rhode Island). I had met Yi Zhang in Bolshie Koti in Russia on the western shores of Lake Baikal during my Summer Environmental programme. She had developed an interest in SYFA's vision for African rural communities and decided to come with her friend Masumi during their winter break. They raised funds in USA and contributed to building a big flower bed (a circle of 10 metres diameter with a pillar in the middle) near our small botanical gardens. We will be putting a notice on the pillar to highlight the significance of the botanical garden. Flowers have been planted and it is the talk of the town in Nkambe. The volunteers carried out work in the garden: weeding, planting, watering and nursing the plants.

Together, we have also developed SYFA's portfolio which shall be launched on our new web site that is sponsored by Masumi Smith. Our web Administrator is Dr Roger Tatoud from the UK. Besides the volunteers, SYFA also assisted two biology students (Thaddeus and Linda) from a teacher training college in Cameroon. They carried out research at Chua Chua Botanical garden on horticulture with an emphasis on floriculture in Nkambe town.

SYFA has established a network with ICRAF (World Agro forestry Centre) in Bamenda, Cameroon to be a grass root organisation for a two year project in the area. This will involve establishing agroforestry nurseries with local farming groups, pasture development, orchards and soil conservation techniques. There will also be training of future agroforestry promoters.

Farmer Tantoh fatantoh@yahoo.com is the project co-ordinator of SYFA, which is a non-profit making organisation, working with children, youths and low-income farmers in rural communities; and promoting organic farming techniques and environmental protection of biodiversity.

SYFA's web site www.africasyfa.org gives updates on current and future projects. SYFA also calls on young Africans in other countries who are interested to create SYFA Clubs in their communities to contact us. Through the internet, we can exchange ideas and save Africa's rural world.