



November 2023



What an exciting November we had! For three back-to-back weekends, we hosted a total of 60 national missionaries and pastors from all over Nigeria in the practice of conservation agriculture.

They learned how to apply the principles of On Time, At Standard, Without Wastage, and With Joy to increase crop yield to address food insecurity in the communities they serve.

With practicals and demonstrations in the benefits of mulching, the folly of plowing, clearing fields and digging planting stations with minimal soil disturbance, measuring a pfumvudza plot, and creating organic fertilizers through thermal composting and the use of chicken manure soup, our trainees got real first-hand experience in how to apply the theories we taught.

Trainees went home excited to practice what they learned and to use it as another opportunity to reach people for Christ!

(See the back for picture captions.)

Teaching the science of thermal composting. By layering green organic material, brown organic material, and manure, (after soaking everything well with water), we create the conditions for aerobic decomposition by bacteria and fungi. It takes approximately 8 weeks, with weekly turning of the pile, to complete the process, which will produce a weed seed and pathogen free, totally organic basal fertilizer. By building a 1.5m x 1.5m x 1.5 m compost pile, we will generate enough organic fertilizer for roughly 1/2 an acre of corn.



Edible fungi growing in our compost pile!

1

Learning to measure and peg a pfumvudza plot, with right angles and clean, straight lines. Doing things at standard brings joy! Trainees learn by doing the work themselves.



A simple notebook can be used to find a right angle!

2

In this soil demonstration, we use two identical soil profiles in side-by-side trays to show how mulching, alone, even on poor soil reduces erosion and increase moisture retention in the soil. This demonstration always convinces even our most skeptical trainees.

3

We help trainees learn that they can “eat the elephant” of an overgrown and weedy farm without using chemical herbicides, if they just take it “one bite at a time”. When they see how quickly they can clear that “one bite”, they realize they CAN do it! Hope is born!

4

The interior of the compost pile can reach up to 70° F! We use a metal dipstick to test the interior temperature of the pile to know if it’s ready for turning.

If you look closely, you can see the steam rising from our compost pile.



5

Manure is an important ingredient in composting, as it provides the nitrogen that is important for the growth and reproduction of the bacteria in the compost. As you can see, it’s a very hands-on process!

6

Hats off for great trainings with some truly inspiring people! Read more here.



7

Click the logo to hear what some of our participants had to say about the training.



When we started on this journey with Equipping Farmers International to train small-scale Nigerian farmers in Foundations for Farming, we envisioned empowering some local communities and training some local widows, but what we learned in November was that God has a much bigger Kingdom vision than we could have ever imagined.

We met national missionaries who are doing work in some of the most dangerous and inhospitable parts of Nigeria among people groups who are some of the most resistant to the Gospel. They are working in communities we would have no access to even if we were in ministry for 100 years.

One man is doing church planting in villages that had never even heard the name Jesus when he first visited in 2007.

For all of these front-line workers, the agricultural training has the ability to provide them with a means of personal financial support, of meeting the physical needs of the hungry in the communities they serve in, and a non-threatening way of introducing the Gospel message to those who would never enter a church building.