

# Bene Koytara Goyterey

Those who work for God's Kingdom (translated from Zarma)



## Dear Friends



It's Sunday late afternoon June 20 when I'm writing this introduction for our newsletter. We are glad that the worst of the hot season is behind us, that we have had some rain and the sky is telling us that we can be looking forward to more rain. Especially at the beginning of the rainy season we also often get strong winds which sweep up the dust. The young woman who helps me to keep the house clean had not been able to come on Thursday and Friday, so yesterday I decided to at least sweep the house. Unfortunately I did not think of taking a picture while working, but the amount of sand I collected from the rooms was impressive! Anyway, except for the dust, the weather is getting better again.

Last week was the first week of holidays for Caleb and Phoebé. Both did well in school and progress into their respective next grades in the new school year which starts August 18. Phoebé reached another milestone in her life since she finished elementary school and will start in middle school (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Caleb is going into 10<sup>th</sup> grade (the second year of high school).

Last week too, Blaise was in Maradi to prepare the closing ceremony to celebrate the fourth group of girls and women at Training Centre Caleb who finished their three year training programme. On YouTube you can see the ceremony. [go to YouTube](#)

In what follows in this newsletter we share an example of the impact of the work of Sowing Seeds of Change in the Sahel and we also tell you about other work YWAM (JEMED) is involved in here in Niger. We hope you will enjoy reading the news and, as always, we would love to hear from you too!

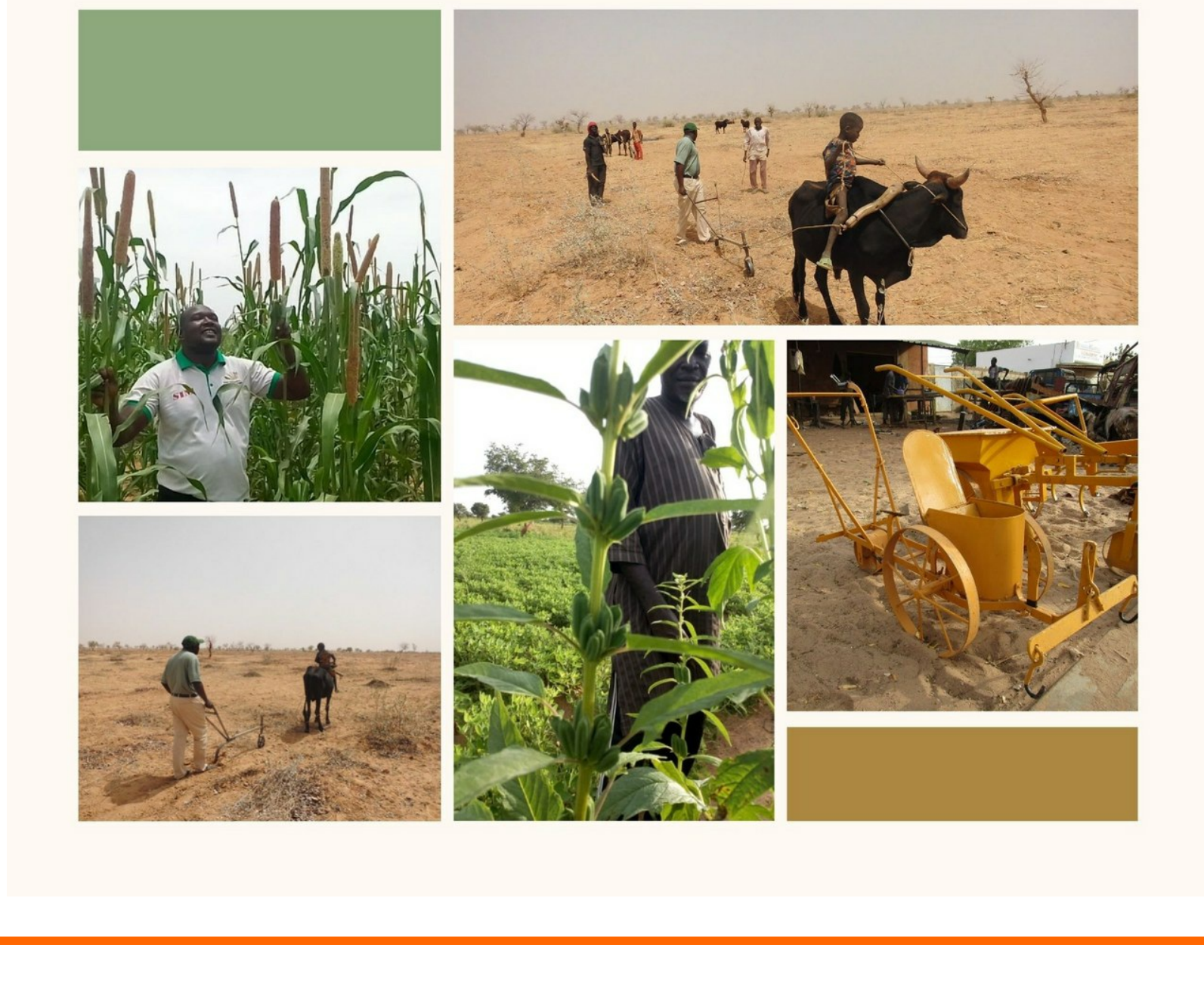
## Agriculture improvements in practice

Several years ago Ayoub (SSCS's farm manager) started to apply on his own fields the management techniques he was learning on our research and demonstration farm. As a result his crops were looking better and produced more than before. One of his neighbors, Ado, noticed the difference and became curious. In 2019 he decided to ask Ayoub why his crops were producing more than before. Ayoub invited him to come to the research and demonstration farm Maza Tsaye and Ado did.

There Ayoub explained to him how increasing the plant density to a certain level helps to increase yield. He also explained how it is more profitable to have just one crop in one field instead of a variety of crops all mixed up, whereby each crop produces just a bit.

Ado accepted the various pieces of advice and decided to plant 2 ha of millet with a density of 1mx1m instead of the usual 1.5mx1.5m (or wider), 4 ha of sesame on 75cmx30cm instead of the usual 'in between the millet', and 2 ha of peanuts using a planting disc to have planting density of 50cmx30cm instead of 50cmx50cm (or wider). [remark: millet and sesame are planted by hand while peanuts are usually planted with a planter pulled by a bull.] He also bought the better quality seed for those crops from Maza Tsaye instead of in the local market and Ayoub helped him with further advice throughout the growing season.

At harvest time his millet produced about 1 ton of grain per ha, the peanuts about 1.5 ton per ha plus some 150 bags of peanut hay, and the sesame yielded about 670 kg of grain per ha. According to farmers interviews the average production in the Maradi region is about 350 kg millet grain per ha, 500 kg peanuts per ha plus 20 bags of hay, and 90 kg sesame per ha. Ado continues to apply the different management techniques he has learned and is content that because of it he has been able to significantly improve the food security situation of his family.



## YWAM in Niger is bigger

Over the course of the many years that we have been sharing with you about our work in Niger, we have focussed on the specific activities or work we are directly involved in. But, YWAM in Niger is bigger than just Blaise and Jeannette Gaitou. And ever since Blaise took over the position of Director for YWAM Niger, he has been working on pulling the various members of YWAM Niger together so that we all look at the different activities being undertaken by YWAM Niger instead of separate activities being undertaken by individuals who happen to be with YWAM. We have come a long way and so we thought it appropriate to share some news from these other YWAM Niger activities with you from time to time. This time it's "Cimi's" turn.

Cimi (pronounced as 'Tchimi') is a village just outside of Niamey to the West. It is a typical village with people mostly living on agriculture, animal husbandry and commercial activities. In 2009 one of the then members of YWAM started visiting the village and meet with the people there. One of the things that struck him was the fact that children from the village would start school at about 7 years old without any preparation, since there was no preschool or kindergarten. He decided to start a preschool. The school opened its doors in 2010. When the children from the village started attending the preschool, the parents noticed that these children were actually learning more than their older brothers and sisters who were attending the local public school. This pushed the parents to ask the leadership of the school to not stop at the level of preschool, but to continue with the primary level education. The members of YWAM who were involved with the school accepted the challenge and decided to continue to create a complete primary school, one year (or class) at a time. In 2019-2020 the first group of children finished their primary education at the school. This year (2020-2021) there are 322 students in total. There are also plans to also start the secondary level education.

The YWAM leadership team has committed to go and visit the school once every trimester to encourage both the teachers and the YWAM member who is directly involved with the school. Recently we went for one of those visits (see pictures) and did the tour of the school to see the different teachers in their classrooms at work and speak a few words to both the teachers and their students. We on our turn were also encouraged to see all the work that is going on at the school.



## Leave family Gaitou in the Netherlands

Because of all the Corona measures, it will not be possible for the Gaitou family to spend their vacations in the Netherlands this year. However, we will not give up and will try to make it possible for them to come back here in 2022.

We can't say how much the travel sum will be, but we assume that it will be higher than what was budgeted for 2020. Therefore we would like to ask you to donate some extra money to the foundation for their future leave to the Netherlands.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

With our love,

Blaise, Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebé

### To thank for:

- Caleb and Phoebé, who both finished their school year well.
- The closing ceremony to mark the end of another three year training programme at Training Centre Caleb was a good celebration.
- We continue to be able to go back and forth between Niamey and Maradi.

### To pray for:

- Us (Blaise and Jeannette); that we will be able to take a good break from work and rest before Caleb and Phoebé start school again – quite challenging when you continue to be in the same place where 'work' usually comes and finds you.
- The rainy season; that it will be good so that the crops will be able to produce well and people will have good harvests.
- Security threats from extremist groups, especially the western and eastern parts of the country – this continues to cause serious disruptions for and victims among the populations and military in those regions and continues to be a burden for the government.

[Donate now](#)

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