Moïse Kabuiku, 21-year-old, former student of the Kimpemba FFS

Since I completed my training at the FFS, my father has entrusted me with the management of all his fish ponds, he only helps me for the management of our staff. He first gave me one fish pond, and soon enough I was able to develop a second one, bigger, thanks to the implementation of improved agricultural practices I learnt at the FFS. I am very happy because the other fish-farmers of my village have all attended university while I, thanks to the FFS, am able to undertake my own fish-farming activity. Now, I am a candidate for individual follow-up, because I hope to develop further my activity.

Darlin Kijimbo, 23-year-old, former student of the Ngidinga FFS

Today, I am a well-known duck breeder in my village. Before making purchases for their farms, the other breeders often seek my advice. Yet, at the beginning, my professional future was quite uncertain: because of a physical disability, I am unable to work the land. Thanks to the FFS, I had the possibility to launch a poultry farm on the family farm. I am currently focusing on producing poultry food because it is quite difficult to find it in the village. Once this problem is solved, I should be able to stand out from the other breeders of my neighbourhood who do not master their poultry feeding.

A first alumni reunion!

The first reunion of the FFS alumni took place at the end of the past year in Kisantu and gathered about twenty former students who completed their FFS training in 2015 and 2016 in one of the 4 FFS in DRC. Most of them now work in agro-pastoral activities in the region. The event represented an opportunity for the youngsters to exchange and discuss the management of their economic activities since they graduated from the FFS. They also had the opportunity to attend two trainings, on poultry feeding and business management - both subjects which had been identified after the surveys on their professional integration conducted at the beginning of the past year. For this, RDC Entreprises Développement, a support structure for small entrepreneurs, made an intervention on operational management and the Tropical Agro-Veterinary Centre (CAVTK) organized a workshop on the manufacture of poultry feedingstuffs. The two interventions were highly appreciated by the alumni. Some time was also dedicated to informal discussions and meetings throughout the day in order to strengthen the group cohesion. Given the success of this first FFS alumni meeting in DRC, it will be renewed next year in order to continue to federate former FFS students.

Interviews

Moïse Kabuiku, 21-year-old, former student of the Kimpemba FFS

Darlin Kijimbo, 23-year-old, former student of the Ngidinga FFS
A modular training on the theme of beekeeping, designed for the parents of Ngeba students, took place on March 25th at the FFS of Ngeba. One of the trainers is a beekeeper and the parents were strongly interested in learning more on the subject, as this kind of production is seldom practised in rural areas and it is often reserved to those who have received a specific training. Several practical activities were organized throughout the day to illustrate the theme of the beehive: “What is a beehive? What are the colonies made of? What are the different functions of each type of bee?” Thanks to a special equipment and the use of a smoker, the parents observed the beehives from within, discovered the activity of the colony, and learnt how to handle the honeycombs. Another training session on the setting-up of an apiary will take place soon, and in the meantime, the parents are expected to provide the FFS with the wood planks required for its construction. With the assistance of a carpenter and the participation of the FFS students, six beehives will be built on the FFS premises. This will allow the FFS to have its own apiary and therefore to organize practical activities for the FFS students, but also to generate its own income. This training also provided the opportunity to raise awareness among the parents of FFS students and the adults from the local community on the importance of their involvement in the everyday life of the FFS.

**Meanwhile in the other countries...**

**Finishing straight line for the FFS trainers’ pedagogical training in Ivory Coast**

From February 20th to 24th, the second class of trainers attended the ultimate review session as part of its pedagogical training, which focuses on the dual-pedagogy training of FFS and IFER students. The main goal was to stress the importance of the preparation for the pedagogical and practical activities conducted at the FFS. In view of the forthcoming school-start, each trainer also participated in simulations on the recruitment of young students in their family. Lastly, a visit of the practical workshops of the Ya-moussoukro Agronomy College was organized, a very interesting visit for the FFS trainers who enjoyed particularly the aspects concerning fish-farming.

**Despite the strike, the FFS training goes on for the FFS students in the North West**

The teachers’ strike which started last November in the English-speaking areas of Cameroon caused all of the FFS in the North-Western parts of the country to close. Despite the very tense political and social situation, the FFS training has continued outside the classrooms for the students of concerned areas. Indeed, long-term internships were found in different structures for the students, and the FFS trainers send them study plans and continue to work with them on general subjects and management during their visits (see photo) in order to limit the delay in the achievement of the FFS training objectives. These visits represent privileged moments which allow the trainers to encourage the students to remain motivated.