

CLIMA Report 2019

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Lasallian Centre for Initiation in Agriculture
Sciences (CLIMA)

Report by: CLIMA

Brother Abel DEMBELE, Director
(00226) 70 08 29 78

E-mail: abel_dembele@yahoo.fr



CLIMA: Creative responses to the concerns of the world of agriculture!

Attaining security in the food supply and feeding our people.

CLIMA is an emblematic operation which gives rise to great hope and enthusiasm, and which counts among the innovative Lasallian undertakings. In effect, CLIMA seeks to overcome hunger in the Burkina population, especially in the present context of insecurity in which famine is clearly on the horizon. Our dream therefore is to contribute to the attainment of security in the food supply: There are great possibilities.

At the close of the year 2019, the CLIMA team offers all our benefactors every best wish and blessing for the New Year 2020.

CLIMA is a powerful weapon in the fight against poverty and hunger, and the whole team is committed to a renewal of their efforts to ensure that CLIMA is able to translate into reality the dream of establishing security



of food supply. As the Chinese say, *“Greatness of power, greatness of responsibility”*.

“ CLIMA aims to overcome hunger in the Burkina population, especially in the present context of insecurity in which famine is clearly on the horizon”.

1. Education and training

CLIMA provides education and training for a number of target groups, operating on three levels.

Classic formation

Classic formation is essentially aimed at rural young people (married or single). In this year's intake there were 21 participants, six couples and nine singles, including one female student. The course combines theory (25%) and practice (75%).

Professional formation

Professional formation is organised on demand. This year there were 45 participants including those from the classic formation, and they benefited from a five-day training in fish farming. Six of the participants also received two days of training in aviculture. The beneficiaries of these modular programmes are young people sent to us by the NGO and partner institutions CLIMA. In effect, CLIMA provides the training activities for those organisations.

Academic formation

In terms of academic formation, two kinds of programme are on offer. The immersion programme gives young people the opportunity to do practical work by experience. The concluding programme rounds off the cycle and is for the 2nd Year Higher Technical students. It includes the production of a Year Report.

Daycare

The children of participating students are entrusted to a female supervisor in the daycare centre. She is responsible for supervising them and providing them with a meal, so the parents can follow the course in tranquillity.



2. Rearing animals

Chickens

CLIMA currently has 4,900 chickens. Aviculture is an important activity in CLIMA and around 50 crates of eggs are produced every day. This production will be doubled in March when a new group of 2,000 hens begin to lay. The Centre plans to increase its capacity to more than 20,000 hens by 2022. For this, we will need to construct at least five more chicken houses and a store room for the poultry feed. We will also need to recruit three people to take care of the chickens. We also intend to draw up three contracts with egg distributors so as to establish a regular and stable system of delivery.



“CLIMA currently has 4,900 chickens. It aims to have more than 20,000 by 2022. To achieve this, we will need to build 5 new chicken houses and a store for chicken feed.”

Guinea-fowl

There has been a vertiginous drop in the numbers of guinea-fowl, from 1,000 down to 200 birds. This decline is happening in general across the whole region of Cascades. Our technical services are hard at work trying to diagnose the causes and find solutions. The Centre also wants to promote the rearing of local breeds of poultry. An incubation room with a capacity for 2,000 eggs will become operational in the first week of January 2020.

Fish farming

CLIMA is producing fry of catfish and tilapia, and is carrying out feeding experiments with a view to improving the profitability and viability of fish farming. It appears that the production of catfish fry is a promising line of development in view of the great demand for them. In terms of the production of tilapias, CLIMA is currently carrying out research into ways of reducing the time period for the growth of tilapias, by using a mixture of three feeds developed by CLIMA. The results so far are very satisfactory. Sex inversion and castration are also used as a means of promoting growth and getting a better return. In the light of these experiments, CLIMA has decided to make fish farming a strategic focus of Research & Development + Innovation (R&D+I), and to give Brother Cyrille KONDOMBO, a national expert in the area, the opportunity to complete his doctoral studies. Fish farming will also require new installations, especially a tighter system of production so as to rationalise the use of water.



Pigs

CLIMA has recently renewed its stock of pigs. We have a new stock of 41 pigs on an experimental basis. The change was necessary because of the ageing of the old stock and the resulting decrease in profitability. This part of our production is being closely monitored by our technicians.



Cattle

CLIMA possesses 20 head of cattle. We have to report an unfortunate setback arising from our decision to improve the breeding by using a bull that came from artificial insemination. In fact all the calves sired by the bull died very quickly, even though the methods of treatment available in the region were applied. The idea now is to cease the rearing of local breeds of cattle and to launch a new project of dairy cows. With that in mind, the Centre is currently studying the possibility of using milk to produce yoghurt and organising a system for selling it.

“CLIMA will cease rearing local cows because of their high mortality rate; it will start keeping dairy cows”.

3. Crop production

Cereals :

In the 2019 season, CLIMA produced maize and soya. It must be said that the crop was very poor, with only 1.3 tonnes to the hectare for maize and 0.7 tonnes for soya. The poor results are due to the infertile nature of the soil. The Centre is planning to launch a progressive programme of soil enrichment, since cereal production is a fundamental need for securing a reliable supply of foodstuff.

Bananas

Bananas are highly valued in Burkina. Their production is not very demanding and the return is very good. Consequently CLIMA has increased its area of banana cultivation. Currently, we have around 7,500 banana plants in an area of 3 hectares. Their need for water is, however, very big.



Papaya

Papaya production is not very demanding, The water required is moderate, and they are highly valued in Burkina. However, transporting them when ripe is a delicate matter. CLIMA intends increasing the area of cultivation devoted to papayas, and will plan for greater production.



Mangoes

CLIMA has a mango orchard of around 1,700 trees covering an area of 7.7 hectares. We hope to increase this area, starting from the rainy season of 2020, by planting 600 more trees. To achieve this, the Centre will need to drill a new well with a solar powered pump and a system of drip irrigation.



Cashew nuts

CLIMA has already planted 1,500 cashew nut bushes covering 12 hectares. An extension to this will be made during the rainy season 2020.



Citrus fruits

CLIMA has a citrus plantation of less than one hectare. However, this area will be increased in the coming years with a view to the production of juice which we hope to initiate in the near future.



Market gardening

During the current season, the following vegetables have been produced: onions, tomatoes, aubergines, courgettes, lettuce, carrots. This activity allows us to make a small contribution to the local food supply. In order to manage the water, CLIMA is studying the possibility of reusing the water from the fish tanks for irrigating the vegetable garden.



4. The factory for the production of juices and conserves

Industrialisation is the high road to development. Therefore, the new installation for the production of juices and conserves is a real opportunity to process local produce. For that reason, CLIMA is planning as soon as possible to undertake the analyses and the steps needed to set up a factory before March 2020.



To sum up, excellent work is being accomplished in CLIMA, by a team of qualified individuals (including two *ingenieurs*), who are devoted and competent. The attainment of security in food supply remains the *leitmotiv* of the team. They are supported by the prayers of all the Lasallians of Burkina/Niger and by the advice of the monitoring committee.

