



## ***Menchum news June 2008***

### ***There are now twelve tree nurseries in Menchum***

There are now twelve UNAFAS CVP nurseries in Menchum Division. All are run by local groups, who plant trees on their own and community lands.

1. Befang
2. Ngoh-Kesu
3. Modelle
4. Ugang II
5. Ukkuayi Benagudi
6. New Life Farming Group
7. Benade Boji
8. Bethéh Benange
9. Mbamba – Beba
10. Benahundu – Attie
11. Benange Road
12. Benakuhu Rock Farmers.

Neem, Mahogany, Gum Arabic, Cashew and Country onion seeds provided by CVP in other parts of North West, South West, North and Centre Provinces have been successfully grown in these nurseries this year. Also Bush mango and mahogany, from seeds collected in Menchum and shared amongst the groups.

Njangsa seed is also being collected and nursed locally. Ngoh-Kesu is growing plums from special stock donated by a member in Momo.

***UNAFAS CVP community centred projects promote team spirits, a common purpose and unity at all levels, because we believe that to improve the continent Africans must learn to work together.***

Three pilot nurseries have started growing Eru. We bought seedlings and a guide on propagating Eru at Limbe Botanic Garden. The Limbe nursery, garden and research staff have also taken time to discuss our specific needs, providing lots of advice to support and encourage our experiments. The three Menchum nurseries will use these first eru plants to produce cuttings, and nurse these in propagators so that farms can be established.



## ***Agroforestry training for Menchum Valley farmers***

A three day programme, organised by UNAFAS CVP, was held at our Befang nursery on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2008. Training on tree propagation was provided by the World Agro Forestry Centre, Bamenda antenna.

This was a training workshop that brought thirty participants from villages in every corner of Menchum Valley Sub-Division. Three facilitators came from the Agro Forestry Centre, this body wanted to assist UNAFAS-CVP groups in Menchum Valley to know some methods of propagation of trees.

We on our part, as recipients of knowledge were very grateful, and thankful to them for providing

- knowledge
- polythene bags, 300, for nurseries,
- one new propagator,
- and the promise of many other things.

Our base technician Mr Fred Kanyimi was encouraged to pay frequent visits to the various nurseries to see whether what was taught is being practiced, and that the knowledge is shared, for it is often said that ‘Knowledge not shared is partial failure.’ This point was emphasized because these tree nurseries can not, they are too much work, for an individual; they are community projects. We must plant trees for the generations to come, the fruits of many trees we plant will be harvested and enjoyed by our great, great, grandchildren. We ourselves are using what we ourselves did not plant.

We know that trees provide us with shade from the sun, warmth from firewood, charcoal and oils, food, and more. Trees bind the soil – protecting against erosion. We do construction work with trees. Rubber comes from trees, as does honey, most often. Considering all this, the uses of trees were made known to the participants of this workshop to an extent that left them dumbfounded. The use of trees is enormous and beyond counting.

The rate of destruction of trees in recent years is such that if planting is not more than doubled we risk loosing our lives. Africa alone loses over 5 million hectares of forest every year – planting is a must and a task we are obliged to embrace. This is what was explained by the facilitators to the workshop participants.

Hon. ASAH Barnabas  
Senior associate,  
Chairman, NWP coordination committee.



**World Environment Day, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008** was celebrated in Menchum Division of the North West Province of Cameroon, with UNAFAS CVP representatives playing a dominant role, among various stakeholders of Environment and Nature Protection.

Environment Day events included -

**Trees**, from our Ngyen Mbo and Wum nurseries being given to four local schools

- GHS Wum received 40 Neem trees  
80 Gum Arabic,  
2 Achu spice trees (Tetrapleura tetraptera)  
3 Country Onion seedlings
- PSS Wum received 80 Neem  
4 Gum Arabic  
2 Country Onion  
3 Achu spice trees
- GTHS Wum received 80 Neem  
20 Gum Arabic  
2 Country Onion  
1 Achu Spice tree
- GS Upstation Wum received 30 Neem  
20 Gum Arabic  
2 Country Onion trees.

**Various species of seedlings were displayed** on a UNAFAS–CVP stand in the Wum Community Hall, with the technician giving explanation and answering questions to people who filed past. Our programme of activity for next year was given to women’s groups and water management communities. The activities of UNAFAS were so interesting that people crowded around the stand, expressing their wish that CVP come to their area for the creation of tree nurseries.

**UNAFAS CVP contributed information and articles** for a Menchum, Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature magazine celebrating Environment week.

Outcomes already include expanded community tree planting plans and a new nursery site in central Wum.