



Education for Farmers

For poor farmers in developing countries, food insecurity is high. Lutheran Teams train villagers through its Farmer Field Schools or agricultural classes. In these schools, farmers can learn from each other and apply new methods and systems in order to increase their food production and security.

Depending on what is suitable and relevant to the country, the farmers learn about growing a variety of crops, rotating crops, raising chickens, goats, cows or pigs for manure, digging and maintaining fishing ponds and much more.

Through the training, the farmers are learning to integrate agricultural training with broader concerns like health and nutrition, income generation, and preparing for disasters.

The Lutheran teams provide the training and start-up help such as seeds, tools, and ongoing advice and support where it is needed so that farmers can use the new skills they learn at Farmer Field Schools.

Both men and women are encouraged to attend the Farmer Field Schools. Many times either the husband or the wife in a marriage will attend, and then share the

information they have learned. This is so someone can be in the fields working and the family will have enough food to eat. In some countries there are many more women who attend the Schools, as they are the ones who have the drive and determination to make their family more sustainable in the future.

Many of the farmers who attend Farmer Field Schools have never had the opportunity to go to school. This means that the teaching has to be practical and relevant for the people attending, and results need to be easily seen.



Chen is attending a Farmer Field School in Cambodia. She says:

“From the Lutheran team I receive vegetable seeds and a watering can. I grow long beans. I also receive 5 chickens. I also need help with irrigation, and with a concrete ring for the shallow well. It collapses and goes dry. We have no rice for food, only for planting. With the chickens, they will grow, and each hen can produce 10 chicks. If there is no disease, the flock will increase.”

Here Chen waters her vegetable garden, that is thriving because of her new knowledge of farming practices.

Vulani was a keen participant in agricultural training in Mozambique. He needed to feed and provide for his family of 10 children, so had to learn how to grow better crops to feed them AND have extra left over to sell at the markets for an income.

Vulani learned how to grow crops more effectively, then extended his farm to include fish ponds. He had to dig all the ponds on his own with a shovel! He now has three fish ponds and sells the fish at the markets. His crops include bananas, cassava, cumquats and sugarcane. Vulani says,

“This farm benefits my family a lot. I have been able to change my diet to more healthy foods because now I can afford them. I can sell fish and buy many different kinds of food. I have been able to build a house and send my children to school.”

