



We Have Fish!

It is our absolute pleasure to report that our trial fish farming project is thriving! Earlier this year we reported on the beginnings of this process, but to be honest we really didn't know how it would turn out. There were challenges but overall, our team has done a tremendous job and we couldn't be prouder of them and the women in the gardens for picking up such a unique and difficult new skill!

On a recent visit we got to witness the first fish harvest and the results are incredible. There is nothing quite like seeing buckets of fish (over 250lbs) coming out of our gardens in the middle of the desert. It was a wonderful scene of excitement, singing, dancing, joking, everything you would

expect at the culmination of a challenging but successful project. Here's some of what the women had to say that day:

"We used to work hard before but now with the fish program, we really see ourselves succeeding in the garden."

"Look at the eggplants! We noticed for three years we haven't had eggplants, but now we do because of the fish water."

"There is a start, but there is no end to our happiness."

It is hard to describe the importance of fish in Senegal and how meaningful it is for the

women to be able to provide fresh, healthy fish for their families. This is of course the first and most noticeable benefit but the women also remarked on how watering with the fishpond water is improving vegetable production across the whole garden as well. Indeed, our aquaculture gardens saw an average 42% increase in individual profits this year compared to the same 6-month period last year! WOW!

All four gardens that participated in this pilot program are continuing to raise fish and now that the tilapia are successfully reproducing in the basins, we are very close to having self-replicating, sustainable production that can continue for years to come.



During a hands-on training, participants in our aquaculture project learn how to assess fish for health and growth.



A basket full of fish after a harvest complimented by a hearty lettuce harvest, grown using fish water.



Garden participants introducing the first new fingerlings produced in our own fish tanks.

Introducing our NEW Executive Director, Garrison!

My name is Garrison Harward and I could not be prouder to be speaking to you as Andando's new Executive Director. After nine years of dedicated service Lewis has decided to move up to join our Board of Directors so that he can stay stateside and spend more time with his family. This is a big shift for both of us and for the organization as a whole, but Andando isn't skipping a beat! Our programming is more ambitious than ever, and we have even bigger plans for the future!

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all of us about the incredible impact that Andando has achieved under Lewis' leadership. This year we are constructing five women's cooperative gardens bringing our total to 38 with over 3,500 women participating in the program. In the past two years our gardens have produced over one million pounds of organic produce with recorded profits of over \$250,000! By the end of this year we will also construct our 14th health post. Together these posts see an average of over 10,000 healthcare visits each year. Lastly, we are finishing four classrooms in Podor and the final two classrooms of the brand new Keur Soce High School for a total of 60 classrooms constructed across 16 schools, benefiting over 5,000 students annually. WOW!

I have been with Andando for a little over two years and I am still constantly astounded by what this organization has done, and is doing, every day in Senegal. I lived in Senegal as a Peace Corps volunteer from 2010-2012 near Keur Soce, and I am so grateful that Andando has afforded me the opportunity to reconnect with this place that I love so dearly.

I am proud of what we have already accomplished, and I'm so excited to see how far we can go with this firm foundation beneath us. Feel free to reach out if you would like to know more about our programming or to find a personal connection to how your contribution is making a meaningful impact in Senegal.

-Garrison Harward
Executive Director

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Celebrating a good lettuce harvest with some of the garden participants in Keur Ngor.



Visiting one of the market gardens with Boubou and Lewis in 2021. Garrison has traveled to Senegal several times providing technical trainings, formally as our Agriculture Officer.



Garrison served in the Peace Corps in Senegal from 2010-2012, here he is pictured with the chief of the village that hosted him.

Meet Badiane, Garden Technician

Continuing in our series, we would like to introduce you to another member of our team. We think they are pretty amazing and are sure you will agree.

Baba Khady Badiane, who goes by Badiane (pronounced Bye-jon) joined our team in 2016. He comes from a large family and grew up in Guindor, about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from Keur Soce.

Unfortunately, Badiane had to stop attending school after junior high because his family did not have the means to continue sending him. This did not deter Badiane however, he proactively sought out every opportunity to continue learning and advancing himself.

He started working with another NGO (non governmental organization) in Senegal, called APROFES. It was here that he received formal training in agriculture techniques and seed saving. While this work was voluntary and did not provide



Badiane joined the Andando team in 2016.

Badiane an actual income, the knowledge he gained from the experience propelled his career in agriculture forward. He also received a diploma from USAID in food preservation and drying which is especially helpful when there is an abundance of crops.

Badiane joined our team as our second Garden Technician and has been responsible for starting many of our gardens in the Keur Soce region. He is excited to lead a new seed saving program in the gardens.

“Agriculture is a really nice job. If you are on it, you will see results. Really you will have good health. Also you will solve almost all your problems.”

- Badiane, Garden Technician

Badiane is the father of nine children, the oldest is 20 and the youngest is three years old. They live together in Guindor, which is about 20 minutes by moto (scooter) from the Andando headquarters in Keur Soce.

When he is not working Badiane manages the family chickens and sheep. He also loves futbol (soccer) and was a very good goalie when he played in school.

Your support enables Badiane to help his fellow citizens. Thank you for investing in their future!

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Standing outside his home, Badiane is pictured with some of the members of his family. in the village of Guindor.



Badiane has started several of our gardens from the ground up, and is a vital resource to the communities we serve.



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