

ZORAMB NAAGTAABA Inter-Village Association

GUIÈ PILOT FARM

Rural Developers Training Center (CFAR)

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AZN-FPG-CFAR/ THE BOCAGE SCHOOL

Water, Earth, Greenery.

"Integrating environmental protection into Sahelian agriculture in Burkina Faso."

École du Bocage de Guiè, news from January to May 2025

January was marked by the start of the new academic year for apprentices at **the École du Bocage in Guiè**. This involved welcoming back the two classes of students who had been on vacation, launching the 2025 academic year, and preparing to recruit the class of 2025.



During the month, students from the class of 2023, who were completing their training after two years at the center, were sent on a nine-month internship at various pilot farms in the Bocage Sahélien network and other



partner farms. This internship will allow them to experience the professional environment and reinforce the knowledge they have acquired during their two years of training.

The students of the class of 2024, in their second year of training, immediately began their training in the various sections.

At **the nursery**, our second-year apprentices mixed soil with compost and watered the plants.

In the **Park** section, they reviewed the installation of electric fencing for rational grazing and the preparation of livestock feed with wet bran straw.



In the center's **vegetable garden**, they prepared the beds and transplanted onions.

In February, training in hedgerow management gradually intensified with our 2024 cohort in the various sections, with theoretical courses in applied mathematics, computer science, and study of [the Manual for Hedgerow Management in the Sahel](#).

Emphasis was also placed on a series of reviews in the various sections. At the **Land Management Unit (CAF)**, the focus was on reviewing the optical

sight. At **the Park**, it was the technique of manual hay baling. At the **Nursery**, they reviewed the scientific names,

in Mooré and French, of plants through their seeds. In the **Masonry** section, it was a review of the implementation of a building plan and learning about building painting.



ONG TERRE VERTE

In the CFAR vegetable garden, the apprentices



transplanted lettuce and onions. They also prepared and amended compost beds for transplanting tomatoes.



In March, the first lettuce and onion harvest took place; these products were intended for consumption by the apprentices and saved on canteen costs. Motivated by the results, the



apprentices made new beds for the production of eggplant, amaranth, okra, and sorrel. With the CAF, the second year reinforced her knowledge of surveying wooded roads and curves. At the **Workshop**, she received theoretical training in electrical installation. In terms of **Animation**, she received training in meeting organization techniques. In **Bocage Maintenance**, the learners went on a field trip to learn techniques for trimming mixed

hedges with brush cutters and chainsaws.

Both classes were trained in market gardening at the **Lindi production farm**. The second-year students reviewed ground



squaring and planted tree-lined roads with the CAF.

At the **nursery**, our older students deepened their knowledge of soil preparation, repotting, and pot classification for seed sowing.

On the **animation** side, with the apprentices working in pairs in the sections, they learned

techniques for repairing mixed hedge fencing.

After the theoretical phase of writing an internship report, the



apprentices of the class of 2024 are moving on to the practical phase with the **IT** section.



ONG TERRE VERTE

The École du Bocage has also launched recruitment for the class of 2025. Recruitment took place over three days, during which there was a film screening



followed by written and oral tests. Following the various tests, the 15 successful candidates underwent a



medical examination before being introduced to the various departments and programs of the AZN, and then to the traditional and religious authorities of Guiè.



With the **Land Development Unit**, the first-year students discovered optical sights and set squares.

At the **Nursery**, they learned how to make potting soil by mixing earth with compost,



how to repot plants, and how to sow seeds. At the **Bocage Maintenance section**, pairs learned how to repair wire fencing by replacing posts in mixed hedges. At the **Workshop**, they learned how to maintain a generator. At the **Masonry Workshop**, they discovered how to make mortar for



building bricks. With the **CAF**, our novices mastered the use of optical sights to make straight lines by staking out.



In March, in the Tankouri bocage area with the **Champ Ecole** section, our first-year students began preparing their sorghum test field, and April and May were marked by further field preparation activities, digging zaï holes, and amending the holes that had been dug.



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