GROWING SITE NO. 3
ESTHER’S LADIES EDCSWP GROUP – NGONG HILLS
SETTING UP FOR A VARIETY OF FOOD CROPS

Family Sized 600 Plant Drip Kit Installation

By 27th Feb 2017 Chryspin and Esther had discussed how best to use a new donation package from Grow More Food. The result was a new 600 plant drip kit installation at what we call test site No 3 in the Ngong hills. The photo (left) shows the water tank end of the site with the hoses running down from the tank and along the ground (from left to right).

This was a larger installation than growing site No 2 as we were able to supply Esther with additional fittings and hoses.

On this occasion we thought we were ‘home and dry’ (an irrigation term) having supplied ‘the whole package’ of support from the start. And as the photo below shows, Liquid Lever staff in Kenya helped and actually did much of the work for the Ladies Group, especially the heavy work. But still a lot of the initially planted seedlings perished or disappeared.

After a few hurried discussions we determined that there were two reasons namely,

- A legion of ‘vegetarian’ bug species having been displaced while the plot was cleared moved back in overnight, and

- The water supply to the tank was only available two days per week – the lady householder ran a hosepipe from her house to the tank from her municipal supply which was only on for two days per week. This situation is common will prevail into the foreseeable future.
Their Own Solution

Replanting and spraying sorted out the bugs!!!

Some of the women can be seen checking the young seedlings for bite marks and replanting where necessary to make use of all the drip emitter points.

The water shortage meant that the ladies had to install an extra water tank – which fortunately they had to hand – to cover the days when the municipal supply was not operational. Remember those idle water tanks back in Bulletin No 1.

An Ambitious Plan

The Ladies planted out four different crops. This work was undertaken a number of times with seedlings (photo circa 18\textsuperscript{th} Mar 2017) before finally there were enough plants vigorous enough to grow on nicely with a consistent water supply. Some rainfall also helped here as well.

Their expectations were high at this point having spent so much time battling against nature. And it helped when a number of experienced people confirmed that the task would have been much easier if the growing site had been in amongst already cultivated land and not carved out of the jungle.

We are hoping to report on a good harvest in the next bulletin. Liquid Lever is also keen to hear about progress as it continues to fund the enterprise. Someday it is hoped that the Ladies will be able to grow surplus food – that is where we are aiming – so that they can exchange or barter with their neighbours growing different crops.

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