Hastings Sierra Leone Friendship Link Schools Farms Project Report

2025

How did it all begin?

- In 2020 Battle Horticultural Society donated £200 for seeds.
- ▶ In February 2020 teachers visited Sierra Leone and gave 21 schools £9 to buy seeds.
- ► The results were amazing, schools turned some of their grounds into gardens and planted seeds bought at the market.
- Crops included ockra, crain crain, corn, carrots, rice, garden egg, spinach, cassava, ground nuts, potato leaves
- Students started to learn practical agriculture skills
- Huge crops were harvested.
- In 2021 a project was started School Farms Project. It grew to include 30 schools, has been running ever since, now has a Project and Assistant Manager

School Farms Project 2025

- Since 2021 HSLFL have donated £1000 each year to maintain the SFP.
- ► The School Farms Project 2025 builds on the success of previous years.
 - ▶ 30 schools
 - ▶ £1000 for the managers to decide how this should be spent.
- Local supervision
 - ▶ Project Managers, Mrs Letitia Huggins and Suffian Kamara, with support from Francis Mason, HSLFL Schools Coordinator in Sierra Leone. (sadly Jeitta Kanneh has had to step down di=ue to ill health)
- International information sharing
 - Letitia, Suffian, Francis, Isabel and Roger form the SF Committee, meeting regularly and interacting with HSLFL Trustees.

How it works

- A workshop at the beginning of the farming year, usually around May time.
- Agree objectives for the year, funding and responsibilities
- Letitia and Suffian visit schools on a regular basis during the year
- Regular SFP meetings keep the UK members in the loop
- ► A celebration Exhibition in November/December

Huntingdon Jui





Glory







School Farms Project Jui Lower





Kelly's ready to harvest



Exhibition time!



Harvest Exhibition



What happens to the produce?

- Used for preparing school meals
- Shared within the school and local community
- Sold to buy more seeds, garden tools, fertilisers, fencing
- Sold to buy resources for schools

Preparing school dinners



Pupils learning how to cook the harvest





2025 aims and Longer term aims

- > To expand the school garden project which started in 2020 to include sustainability.
- > Enhance community participation and collaboration in the 2024 School Farms Project
- > To continue building capacity through workshops and raise awareness on what the School Farms Project is all about.
- Products from School Farms Project 2025 to benefit schools, children, and the community.
- ► To continue to teach Practical Agriculture in more and more schools
- To work together with Local Community
- ▶ To create more livelihoods in Agriculture and Farming
- ► To become sustainable