



DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

2022 has been a challenging year for Bio-Benin, with apologies for my silence since March, as I settled into Montreal and started seeking new ways to raise money for our endeavors.

Guillaume has been busy on the farm, the brewery and the restaurant and we accomplished the following:

- Harvested first crop of onions and garlic for use in the restaurant and for sale
- Trained an additional 10 cooking apprentices and helped them find employment
- Installed irrigation on all arable land and enriched organic content of soil.
- Built rabbit hutches for breeding 700 rabbits a year for the restaurant and for sale
- Acquired incubator to raise Goliath chickens
- Upgraded our website and started looking for additional sources of income
- Started the lengthy process of registering our land with the government.
- Inspectors visited our brewery and promised certification in February 2023 if we upgrade to meet government specs. This will provide a new source of income and allow us to start training apprentices in beer-making.
- Registered Bio-Benin as a non-profit in Canada, the first step in becoming a charitable organization.



Onion harvest



Bougainvillea around the farmhouse

GOALS FOR 2023:

- Reinforce fishpond and start breeding tilapia
- Receive certification and launch beer commercially
- Train at least 25 apprentices in beer brewing.
- Train 10 apprentices in restaurant cooking
- Identify manager of farm knowledgeable in organic farming
- Start breeding rabbits for the restaurant and for sale
- Start breeding Goliath chickens
- Expand cultivation of onions, garlic, potatoes, for sale
- Install beehives and bees and learn how to manage and harvest honey
- Increase visibility of Bio-Benin and level of donations
- Explore co-op model to attract senior staff trainers to farm at Bio-Benin

DONORS:

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed to Bio-Benin in 2022. We are most grateful for your support, as we cannot continue to improve the lives of others through our training programs without your ongoing generosity.

Henry Burton
Karen Chaffraix
Russell Davidson
Margaret Dunham
Anne Follweiler
Jennifer Kainz (Michael and Jennifer Kainz Charitable Trust)
Margie Manners
Bunny Reardon
Norman Riddell
Katherine Smalley
Gail and Doug Todgham
Mary Usher-Jones
Julie Wang
Cynthia Winings

For those who haven't yet contributed in 2022 and wish to make a year-end donation, or for those who wish to contribute again (!), please go to our website at www.bio-benin.org and click on **Global Giving** to see our latest campaign. Your money will be put to good use helping us increase employment and relieve poverty in this part of West Africa. Thank you for your generosity.

With love and best wishes for the New Year,
Julie and Guillaume

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2022

INCOME

Total donations: **\$45,653**

EXPENDITURES 2022

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Upgrading brewery (in progress)	\$6,000
Additional vats for brewery	\$4,500
Irrigation	\$4,500
Rabbit cages	\$2,500
Incubator for chicken eggs	\$1,275
Crates for beer delivery	\$500
Salaries	\$4,800
Day labor	\$4,300
Fees to register land with government	\$3,500
Website and publicity	\$1,770

Local transport	\$3,100
Seeds and plant materials	\$1,975
Incorporation fees in Canada	\$310
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$39,030
BALANCE IN BANK	\$6,623
TOTAL	\$45,653

Bio-Benin.org

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