



We've started the countdown for our first training with the farmers in Rongo, with the team at Sustainable Village Resources (SVR) busy planning for the training to start in September. They are recruiting more farmers to their network in anticipation of identifying the 20 farmers who will represent the community in the full program.

You can read all about our new colleagues working on the pilot in Rongo [HERE](#).



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## **It's time to start testing out the mobile phone platform - and we need your help!!**

Our strategy for creating new communities of practice, with farmers working together to achieve more than they ever could on their own, means working with people who often have no internet access or smart technology. As most people do have mobile phones, we can connect them to sources of support and information using text and voice messaging.

We've selected a platform that is widely used by organizations working with poorly-served communities, and it's time to start (literally) playing around with it to get totally familiar with how it works, and to test out different scenarios for how we can use it in practice.

The more people who sign up to help us do this, the more we will learn about what is possible, and what might work for us. No previous experience is great! Some previous experience might also turn out to be useful!

Please SIGN UP [HERE](#).

We estimate that it will cost \$6000 to operate the mobile phone platform over the planned three years of the pilot program. We have been offered matching funds for half of this budget, and aim to raise \$3000 by the end of July to release these matching funds. People have started contributing towards this target ... anything you can afford will be hugely appreciated!



*Thanks to everyone who already donated!!*



*Paul and Reagan talking about integrating native plants into the food forest.*



*Caleb Omolo, talking about the benefits of agroforestry systems.*

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## What we're sharing...

We use the permEzone Facebook page to spread the word about our own activities, and to share posts that illuminate the ever-evolving movement to create healthy food systems that support healthy communities. In recent days we've shared posts about:

A report from the [Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition](#), on research into the role of market dynamics leading to dietary simplification in Kenya, and the negative impacts on food security.

The [California's Healthy Soils Initiative](#) - a collaboration of state agencies and departments, led by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), to promote the development of healthy soils on California's farm and ranchlands.

The [Network of Wellbeing](#) in the UK explores the links between well-being and permaculture.

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## Spread the Word!

Please let people know that we're looking for [contributions](#) to support the program; any help you can give to [spread the word](#) will be hugely appreciated.

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**Joseph Obonyo** is one of farmers who is already benefiting from the work of *Sustainable Village Resources*. Shown here in his well-established food forest, he says shade grown and agroforestry systems have enhanced his soils, coffee production and livelihood immensely. His wife cooks delicious meals using all of the indigenous greens straight from their farm and takes the excess to the market twice a week.

Thanks again as always for your support.

*Hugh and the permEzone team*



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