

Construction of Two Check Dams Notre Dame Nduruma Farmland – Arusha, Tanzania



In Tanzania, fruit and vegetable prices have been rising due to seasonal fluctuations, unpredictable weather, and new tax charges. At times, crop failure in key producing regions leads to scarcity and higher market prices. To address these challenges, the Sisters of Notre Dame constructed two check dams at their Nduruma farmland in 2022 with support from the Congregational Fund.

The dams collect water from a village canal, which runs twice a week, and from rainfall. This reliable water source has transformed the sisters' ability to irrigate crops, grow fruits and vegetables, and sustain livestock even during dry periods. Initially expected to benefit about 2,000 people, the project has surpassed expectations in improving food security and self-sufficiency.

Today, the sisters harvest bananas, papayas, mangoes, fresh vegetables, and staple crops such as maize, beans, green grams, and cowpeas. Surplus produce is sold to Notre Dame School, the sisters' community, the candidate house, and the novitiate. The dams also provide water for over 100 goats, 50 pigs, rabbits, and poultry.

The project has reduced dependence on market-purchased food, saving costs and ensuring hygienically grown produce. It has also strengthened the sisters' economic resilience by providing a steady supply of both fresh and dry cereals for internal use and for sale.

The sisters remain committed to maintaining the dams and plan to improve their water retention capacity by constructing a rainwater channel and filtration system to capture excess surface water during the rainy season.

The Notre Dame Njiro community is deeply grateful to the Congregational Fund team for making this project possible. This investment has brought lasting relief from food scarcity, supported livelihoods, and secured a stable source of water for farming and livestock.

Sisters in Njiro Community, Tanzania