



# SALEM HELPS!

For the love of humankind · christian, nonprofit, charitable



A place to stay

At the edge of Bassar in the North of Togo Gbati Nikabou, project coordinator of SALEM-Togo and his members of staff, have created an oasis which we would like to preserve for the future.

The area has a size of 3,000 square metres, connected to water and power and is completely walled so that it offers protection both to human beings and plants - from free-range goats, for example, who love to eat the juicy, young greenery. Furthermore, the area also has a fenced demonstration garden.

Next-door to the residential building is the tree nursery which has grown to the size of a small forest since its beginnings in 2008. In the shadow of the trees, vegetables for the vegetarian kitchen grow and flourish. Medicinal plants like Moringa oleifera,

papaya, Aloe vera, Artemisia annua, Euphorbia hirta and others have become "God's pharmacy". Training courses on the cultivation and use of the plants takes place in Bassar as well as in the environmental education centre outside Baghan.

**In order to maintain the sustainability and security for this place and to avoid the problem of constantly increasing rent, SALEM decided to buy the estate. Preparations for the purchase are ongoing and the price is around 15,000 Euros.**

We ask your help to preserve and further develop this fertile gem in the North of Togo and we thank you very much for your support!

Agnes Ziegelmayr,  
Project representative of SALEM-Togo

*„Trees are like pillars.  
They support the sky.  
If they were gone,  
the sky would drop on our heads.”*

*Dear SALEM friends,*

Many years ago I have heard this saying by an Indian tribe living by the Amazon river. The thought that trees are pillars burnt itself into my mind - because they are indeed our support in many regards. They are vital to us. But how do we treat our "brother tree"? We use him as wood and material solely for our interests.

In the last few months at SALEM we have gathered information to show what it means to plant a tree in a responsible way - meaning that it is extremely important to supervise and foster it for some years after planting it. You could perhaps compare it to raising a child that you have to nurse and protect until it has roots deep and strong enough to be able to master life on its own.

In the article overleaf you can read more about the different steps you have to take from placing a seedling into the earth until the tree can be left on its own. You will see that it takes a lot of time and is hard work for our staff at SALEM-Togo.

This environmental work in Togo/Bassar where SALEM raises and protects thousands and thousands of trees is only possible with your help. Please continue supporting SALEM. Our heartfelt thanks.

Yours sincerely

Samuel Müller, General Manager

Illustration: Stefan Hage



**Thoughts on PEACE by Denis Medeyi, Project Manager in SALEM-Uganda**

Whatever our position, occupation or influence, we all have a responsibility to be bearers of words and deeds of peace. Often in Africa „peace is a far cry“ but the work of SALEM, with your support, has made it accessible to many. SALEM has been a great lesson for many against excessive self-centredness and lack of concern for others. Many have been turned into groups of believers in our work in their minds and hearts. Thanks be to God.

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**“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”** *(Ugandan Proverb)*

Often we were asked what it takes to plant trees in Africa. With the help of our staff members in SALEM-Togo we drew up a detailed report about the different steps in their work and the time needed.

First of all we have to consider conditions in rural Togo: the soil is hard and low in nutrients; there are distinct dry periods and the temperatures are often over 35 degrees Celsius. Imagine digging a hole under the scorching sun in those kinds of temperatures! The time needed also depends on the tree species in question. The SALEM-team in Togo multiplies and plants a wide array of trees: mango, lemon, orange, grapefruit, shea, moringa, ebony, cashew, pistachio, guava trees and many more. The work

requires tasks like collecting and drying seeds, propagation, watering, feeding, building protection, digging holes, pruning, monitoring and training farmers. Unfortunately not all the trees survive despite this careful cultivation. Experience shows that only 80 to 90 % of the seedlings will make it. If you calculate that a tree spends an average of one year in the SALEM tree nursery before it gets planted out, that is an investment of 88 minutes per tree!

**What is charity, what can I do?**

The following speech was given by Ursula Müller on the occasion of the “Children’s Day” on 1st June in the SALEM village of Russia in the Kaliningrad (former Königsberg) region.

Today is “Children’s Day”. I find this very appropriate. But why is there a Children’s Day? Officially - I don’t know. However, you do know the Bible, don’t you? Of course you know many things that are written in it. I would like to tell you something - there is a passage in the big, thick Bible that was written just for children. Are you curious?

Of course you know who Jesus Christ is - He is the son of God! And this Lord Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” And he laid his hands onto them and blessed them. And this applies to you today and for evermore.

At the same time, however, it is also our job to observe God’s commandments. God gave the people ten commandments, but the most important commandment is charity. Now you may ask me, “What is charity, what can I do?” Well, the Bible tells us very clearly: Love is patient, love is kind, not jealous or envious, not inconsiderate, it does not stand at the centre of attention, it forgives, it does not

hold a grudge. So what do we intend to do today on Children’s Day?

Love your neighbour, your friends who help you and all those who mean well by you. I hope you understand what I want to express on today’s Children Day - you children are the present and the future. It’s up to you to observe the commandments, to practice charity and to do good. Be thankful and content.

Gottfried Müller who built up the SALEM village Raduga, which means “Rainbow” in English, was thankful and content until his death and his heart belonged to the children at all times. Let us spend a nice, peaceful and blessed day under God’s protection and blessing.

**What is urgently needed in the SALEM village “Rainbow”?** What do we need your donations for? A caretaker! It is not possible to keep running a village with a nursery, estates, fruit-bearing trees, children and houses without practical help. Although we know somebody, a carpenter, who could do this job, his monthly salary (400 - 500 Euros) is too great for our budget.

Yet, with your help we can achieve this. Thank you so much!

*Ursula Müller*