

Exploring Success Stories in Sierra Leone. MDG 1 – End Poverty and Hunger



John visited a village in eastern Sierra Leone. This is what he said:

Shorter and more unpredictable rains are making farming difficult. Less rain means some crops can't grow as well and sometimes certain crops don't grow at all. When rains are unpredictable farmers don't know when is best to plant their seeds. This can cause hunger.

Traditionally people have depended on growing rice. Farmers from different communities have come together here to practice improved farming techniques:

- They have learnt about many different crops to use as alternatives to rice
- They have learnt about and business and selling goods

They will return to their villages and put what they learn into practice. This will help make small farmers more productive and less vulnerable to changing rain patterns.

This is Watta Joseph, the chairlady of the group, examining her new aubergine crop.



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BEFORE

- What problem did shorter and unpredictable rain patterns cause for people in the village?
- Imagine being REALLY hungry during the day – how might this effect you?
- What do you think the farmers in the village might have hoped for?

AFTER

- What is different in Watta's community now?
- Do you think the things they are doing will be sustainable? Why?
- What do you think the wider benefits of this project are for Sierra Leone in the future?