



Looking at Rupertee Through Steven Andries's eyes: Three important resources for the village from his perspective



The dairy farm

The dairy farm

In this picture I wanted to represent the dairy farm. From the dairy farm we get a lot of resources: our beef, the fat to produce *farine*, the milk distributed to pregnant mothers or households and to school children. Everything in the animal is useful: the meat, the milk, the skin, the fat, and even the waste which we use as manure for vegetable growing. For example the cattle skin can be converted into craft making by those who are skilled in making handicrafts.

I think that dairy farms are not developed enough in our community, because of lack of know how from people, and because they don't understand the true value of getting a dairy farm. Very few people own cattle in the community. Probably this is because owning cattle costs money, you need time to look after the cattle and skills to do so. But having cattle is very important for a sustainable livelihood.



The forest

The forest

I recommend that we should keep our forest intact and secure our forest at all times, for our people and the ones that will come in the future, so that they will be able to use and enjoy it. We need to do selective utilization of the forest so that we make a good use of it and get the most results out of the part of forest we use without waste. Several people still cut a big area of forest and not cultivate it all. The same thing happens with forest products; we gather them and don't make full use of them.

For example we cut trees and cut leaves and sometimes don't use it. Probably because of not having the transportation available to transport it, or we migrate because we find a job somewhere else and forget about the cut trees. To avoid some of these misuses we need to develop a positive awareness in our community. Because forest resources are now getting scarce and expensive to get, distances are getting bigger, and we need to learn to better use our resources.



Using savannah lands for farming

Using savannah lands for farming

My reason for taking this picture is to show that the only way to farm is not to cut trees in the forest to get farm land. It is convenient for all savannah communities to easily access crops nearby. If you live in the savannah like us it is not always easy to get in the forest within 15-12 miles to get the crops. You need transportation for that and more time. Also, we have some disable old people within the community who cannot go very far for farming. And to save time and convenience to them they need to have access to the nearby land. That will be a support for themselves and for their families.

Based on these reasons everyone benefits in using the savannah. But people don't like to cultivate in the savannah for 2 reasons: because it is costly, because you need money to bring wood from the forest to make the fences, and pay for the wires to fence while in the forest you don't need to fence because there are no domesticated animals there. The second reason is that in savannah you need to fertilize the land more that in the forest and that requires money investment. And there is less fertility in the savannah compared to the forest. And in the savannah it is expensive to drain when land gets flooded. But it is important that we cultivate in the savannah as well.