

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, the apostle Paul challenges believers to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

People like Soko Sanou and his family have done just that — giving thanks in times of scarcity and now praising God for His new blessings. For a time, Soko Sanou and his family were on the brink of starvation. He and his fellow farmers in the village of Sogoba, Mali were struggling with crop failure and severe drought due to poor rainfall. With a wife and nine children to feed, Sanou took a temporary job to help bring in income during the dry season, but it still was not enough. Yet Soko did not give up. Instead, he learned a new way to provide for himself and his family.

Through World Renew's local partner, ODES Mali, Sanou and a group of over 3,800 farmers had the opportunity to be trained in conservation agriculture techniques. They learned about methods such as mulching, composting, and the practice of growing two or more crops in proximity. They were also given access to hardier, drought-resistant seeds to help them achieve higher crop yields despite the changing climate and shorter rainy season.

When Sanou and the other farmers applied these conservation agriculture methods, their yields greatly increased. They witnessed the benefits of diversifying their crop, so that even if one crop failed their families would have others to eat and sell.

"Before I only harvested enough millet and sorghum to cover five months of food for my family. I worried we could starve," said Sanou. "Because of these new methods, we are not at risk anymore. Our crop yield has grown, the fertility of my land has improved, and we now cultivate beans and sesame seeds as our main source of income."

As you give thanks for your blessings today, give thanks with Sanou for the way that God has worked in his life to give him a better future. Please also join World Renew in helping more farmers like Sanou move from scarcity to plenty through practices that protect and nourish the land.

Your gift will provide the seeds and training that make this ministry possible. Every dollar given to World Renew's conservation agriculture project will then be matched by the Canadian government through Global Affairs Canada. Please give generously.

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