

Project Update: April 2017

After the attribution of the grant in December 2016, we had meetings with local stakeholders of some villages of Fouban subdivision for the launching of the activities. The villagers happily welcomed the perspective of the cultivation of mushrooms and pleaded that more emphasis be laid on having almost all equipment needed for a long-lasting autonomous production of mushrooms in their area. Hence, instead of a hall of 20 m² previously proposed for the mushroom farm, a family offered a hall of 100 m² (building of a former school) and this could be used for 5 years renewable with possibility of extension to other halls. The restoration (roofing, separation of compartments, painting and equipment) is near completion. Meanwhile, in a mushroom house in Bamenda, we successfully tested the production of spawn in rural conditions, from the mycelia in agar media to the spawn on corn cob and sawdust. The tentative of cultivation of some local edible mushrooms has already given the first fruiting bodies of *Lentinus squarrosulus* and *L. sajor-caju* on sawdust and corn cobs respectively.

Concerning the planting of indigenous trees, as the locals pleaded for more attention on mushroom cultivation and for more efficiency, the number of persons trained in nursing trees was reduced to four for an achievement of the production of at least 6 000 plantlets of wild trees by the end of 2017. Four nurseries have been already put in place and first plantlets could be ready for plantation in June 2017. Also, four programmes in local language on the importance of indigenous trees and their plantation have been advertised in one of the local community radio. These programmes were largely appreciated by the public and one even suggested that a day of indigenous trees species should be organised.



Left to right: Building offered for the establishment of the mushroom farm; Nursery of indigenous trees in Fouban & Fruiting bodies of *Lentinus squarrosulus* on sawdust base substrate.