RWFARM

The Farm Project is supported by Nailsworth Quaker meeting

The project, delivered by the charity Rory's Well, is setting up a training centre for climate smart agriculture and nutrition with the farming network it has established in Sierra Leone, to provide training in the benefits of regenerative agriculture. Instances of diabetes and hypertension are becoming more common, linked to a high carbohydrate diet and childhood malnutrition. Climate change has led to more extreme rainfall and flooding with periods of extreme heat and drought. Subsistence farmers are having to move farms every two years due to loss of soil fertility, and their "slash and burn" land clearance causes deforestation and erosion, aggravating the problems.

The centre will offer training in agroforestry and swamp rice farming; with workshops for farmers, students, primary and secondary school pupils as well as training in compost making and crop rotation techniques. It will serve as a resource for those wishing to study climate smart agricultural techniques and be a venue for workshops for knowledge exchange and mutual support to further develop the women's farming and microfinance network. An important aim is to encourage the development of female farming facilitators, peer support and nutritional advice. There will also be workshops delivering nutritional training including use of crops such as soya beans and nutritionally valuable trees such as moringa. Trials of drought and flood resistant crops will be carried out, such as nutritionally important sweet potatoes and soya beans.

