

Valentino Akot

FARM-Africa's ox plough training has helped Valentino grow all the food that he needs, as well as help many others in his village to do the same.

Now peace has returned to Southern Sudan, many families who were displaced during the civil war are returning. However, life is still tough and people have very limited access to water and the seeds and tools that they need to grow crops and feed their families.



FARM-Africa is helping these families to make a living for themselves in lots of different ways. One of these is our very popular ox-plough training scheme. Valentino Akot once struggled to cultivate his land using a basic hand held tool called a maloda. It would take him around an hour to prepare about 5 square metres ready for planting.

It took him so long to prepare his land for planting that the weeds were growing faster than the crops – and he had no time to protect his plants from them. He also had to busy himself harvesting the faster growing crops before he had even had time to finish planting!

Valentino heard about the training and was lucky enough to be selected to take part. With his new found skills, expertise and equipment he prepared a 5 acre field in just one week – a tremendous improvement.

Speedier and more efficient land preparation means that Valentino can grow more food to both eat and sell. And the benefits don't end there: Valentino has been renting out his new ox plough. Not only does this bring the benefits to more people – but the income he generates means that he can employ some local women to do the weeding for him. He is looking forward to his best harvest ever, and has also found time to get a job at the local grinding mill.

All this means that Valentino is on a much sounder financial footing, and has even been able to bring his wife back to the area to live with him.