



## The Best Time To Plant A Tree?

...was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now! This old proverb still rings true, especially for our work in Senegal's northern region of Podor. This part of the Sahel has been devastated by deforestation, and with climate change leading to longer hotter dry seasons, it feels like the Sahara Desert is right next door.



*The village of Belel Kelle, in the northern region of Senegal, experiences longer and hotter dry seasons due to deforestation and climate change.*

Starting a garden in this environment is a leap of faith and planting a tree is an act of defiance, that we need not accept what is, we can create a better life for ourselves and the world around us.

Trees are the foundation of every Andando garden. They protect people and crops from harsh conditions, raise ground water levels, build new fertile topsoil, and create permanent barriers against livestock. Trees keep Andando gardens flourishing year after year without any synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides, and help infrastructure to last as long as possible so that upkeep is gradual and manageable at the local level.

To date Andando has established over 50,000 native trees in our gardens and surrounding communities. That's not only incredible for our partners but represents a huge amount of carbon sequestered out of the atmosphere!

We are breaking ground next month on a new tree nursery in Podor so that we can expand and accelerate our tree planting program. This location will soon produce tens of thousands of trees year round helping to jump-start new gardens and allow Andando to begin reforesting this vital region on the front lines of climate change. The time is now, and we are excited to get to work!

**MORE AT [ANDANDO.ORG/AGRICULTURE](https://ANDANDO.ORG/AGRICULTURE)**



*Planting and tending to the seedlings sheltered inside the Tree Nursery in Keur Soce. A second nursery will be built in Podor, the northern region of Senegal, next month.*



*At the Ouro Madiaw Garden established trees, such as mangoes, papayas, and bananas, improve the soil while protecting the people and crops from harsh conditions.*



*Live-fencing provides the same soil regenerating benefits as other trees while also creating a permanent barrier against livestock and making upkeep gradual and manageable.*



## From the Director

It's always exciting to report the new things that Andando is doing, new projects, new partner communities, bigger impact numbers, etc. I want to take the opportunity today though to give you a little insight into what happens after the fanfare ends.

We talk a lot about walking with the people of Senegal for the long haul and we mean it. Our programs are concentrated together both to maximize their impact and to make sure that we know about the challenges our partners face and can help them to find solutions. This is why after 15 years of doing this work 100% of Andando's gardens, schools, and health posts are still operational. Our impact numbers are impressive but I'm equally proud that as we're growing, we aren't leaving any of our communities behind.

To this end, after listening to the needs of our gardens, we are providing additional support this year to help modernize all infrastructure to our current designs. Over the years we've learned a lot about best practices for our projects, and sometimes that means that we need to go back and update older work so that it can stand the test of time. This goes for all of our sectors, and we are also working this year to renovate one of our oldest health posts, Thiamene Taba. This post is heavily utilized, seeing over 2,000 patients last year alone, but their roof has started to leak making it difficult to provide quality care. Thanks to the help of Altrusa International of Albany we are replacing their roof with a new stronger metal sheeting that is part of our standard design now.

We want all of our projects to last for many years to come so that they can create truly lasting change in our partner communities. Your continued support allows us to do this while still growing to reach more people in need.

“Jéréjéf!” – Thank You!



-Garrison Harward, Executive Director  
Garrison@Andando.org



*Something as small as upgrading old valves helps prolong the life of infrastructure and conserve vital water resources.*



*Visiting one of our very first health posts, Thiamene Taba, constructed over 10 years ago.*



*By establishing and maintaining strong relationships, we work with the local communities to ensure projects are successful for the long-haul. Fatou Thiam is the midwife at Thiamene Taba, and first alerted us to the needed repairs.*

# Meet Thiam, Podor Program Manager

Continuing in our series, we would like to introduce you to another member of our team. We think they are pretty amazing and are sure you will agree.

Hamedine Thiam, goes by Thiam (pronounced Cham), joined our team in 2018. He is an only child and grew up in Donaye Walo in the norther Podor region of Senegal. When he was only five years old Thiam's father died but he was fortunate to have a close family and his grandmother stepped in to help. He attended elementary school in his home village and continued on to high school in Podor. With a real knack for mathematics, Thiam moved to Dakar and received technical training from Maurice de la Fossee with a specialty in accounting.

He met and married his wife, Faty Thiam, and they have celebrated over 40 years together. They raised their seven children (4 boys and 3 girls) in Dakar where Thiam worked for various financial institutions.



*Thiam joined the Andando team in 2018.*

With extensive experience in accounting Thiam excelled as a trainer in microfinance and rural development. After 34 years, he retired and returned to the Podor area. Their oldest son stayed in Dakar for work. Their other children returned with them to get married, work, and go to school. Fun fact: Thiam's granddaughters attend the high school Andando constructed in Donaye Taredji!

Putting his skills and experience to good use he joined the Andando team to manage our Podor microloan program.

Now he coordinates the Podor Region programs and provides accounting support for all of the Andando initiatives.

**“My passion in life is to be of service for the good of society. My hope is for Andando to continue to grow in Senegal in order to fight malnutrition, strengthen health and education, and reduce unemployment and the heavy work of women.”**

When he is not working Thiam manages the family's poultry farm and agriculture activities. He also enjoys listening to and watching soccer and wrestling.

Your support enables Thiam to help his fellow citizens. Thank you for investing in their future!

[MORE AT ANDANDO.ORG/TEAM](https://www.andando.org/team)



*A photo of Faty and Thiam from their wedding in 1980. They are celebrating their 43th wedding anniversary this year.*



*Thiam brings his decades of accounting experience to help teach financial literacy skills to our women's gardens.*



*A respected member of the community Thiam (pictured right) builds and maintains relationships with community leaders to ensure the long-term success of our programs.*





ANDANDO

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## NYC Showed Up for Andando!



***A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who supported our first NY fundraiser! We are now 1/3 of the way towards building a new rural health post!***

***DONATE today to bring life saving healthcare to another remote community in Senegal!***

