November 2018. Amadou Diagne SAGNA, 14, lives in the village of Boulinghoy. He is an APTE student in 7th grade at CEM Sitoukène, in the Commune of Djibidione within the region of Ziguinchor.

Like most young people, Amadou did almost nothing after school. But for the student, everything happened quickly. A few months after attending the APTE courses, and a company visit to Albert DIEME’s plant nursery in Batinding, Amadou was intrigued by what he discovered. This young man started to have a clear idea of what he wanted to do. When they returned home to Boulinghoy, Amadou and Cheikh DIEME (also an APTE student) told their uncle of their idea to start a business in a previously unexploited area. The uncle was surprised at first. To convince him, they demonstrated the work to be done based on the notes taken during the company visit. Soon after, these two young men – with the help of their uncle – planted 18 orange trees, cashew trees, potatoes, manioc, mango trees and lemon trees.

"When our uncle saw all this, he was so happy. He knows our schedule for the APTE courses, and no longer wants us to delay or be absent from the APTE courses. When class time approaches, he says, "Hey, get up and get ready for the APTE course!" Since then, every Friday, he has driven us on his motorcycle to pray at the mosque, all so that we are not late for the APTE course," says Amadou.

Today, thanks to the APTE project, these two young men feel that they are gaining more trust from their uncle, who continuously gives them more responsibility even though he initially had his doubts. They invest more in education and work to manage themselves and serve their families and communities.

"We collected more than 8 bags of peanuts, and 3 bags of potatoes for the food of the house. It is with cassava leaves and lemon trees that we pay for our inscriptions and other needs (shoes, clothes)," said Amadou.

He continues, "Even when I am in Djibidione and I am solicited in Sitoukène for the activities of the APTE Project, I will not hesitate to invest myself fully. ¹ ‘jaral nama daw’. ‘Yen samay xarit, APTE kouko jappoul gnaari loxo, xamal ni jappo dara, APTE njérgi bu baax la, té lu baax la’ “.

The young men do not intend to stop there. They keep their feet firmly on the ground, with a very clear entrepreneurial strategy and the confidence to continue the work and build their future.

¹ “I will not hesitate to run to attend the APTE course. My friends, anyone who does not give importance to APTE (to the APTE-Senegal Project) is wasting their time. APTE (the APTE-Senegal Project) is very useful.”