

Annual Report 2018



Dear Friends

From October to November 2019 Jutta Krauss and I made a three and a half week tour around Uganda accompanied by our very active partner Rehema

Namyalo. We visited many partners and were impressed by their energy and commitment, and what they have achieved especially during 2018. Positive and exciting developments really are taking place at the grass-roots. They need further support and encouragement to become a nation-wide movement – but the challenges are immense!

We visited groups that had already been trained by Rehema and her colleagues and saw very positive outcomes of these 7-day training seminars. We also visited groups that are eagerly awaiting training. Here I summarise the most exciting developments.

Kasese Network



The family of Masika Jackline in Kighengi village proudly stand by their water tank.

Rainwater collection tanks:

With support from the English organisation DRIP and donations from friends and supporters of Discover, a total of 46 households in the three villages of Maliba, Kirembe and Kighengi received rainwater collection tanks. The householders were delighted to show us the tanks and to tell us what a positive difference they had made to their lives. Thanks to DRIP, the men now know how to construct tanks themselves, so

with a little financial support, further households may also benefit in the future.

Training seminars for farmers and schools

Thanks to the Erbacher Stiftung in Germany, the three projects that comprise the Kasese Network conducted training with farmers and school children and their teachers. We visited six primary schools, three state and three private, that now have Discover clubs and school gardens in which they are growing vegetables and medicinal plants. The enthusiasm of teachers and pupils alike was a joy to observe. While millions of Euros are spent in Germany to provide computers in schools, we saw how just a few thousand

Euro carefully spent on Ugandan schools can transform their ability to provide meaningful education in life and social skills, mainly through involving teachers and children in organic gardening and teaching the basics of nutrition and natural healthcare.

We were delighted to observe by how much the kitchen gardens of many households, especially in the very poor villages of Kighengi, had greatly improved since our last visit three years ago.

Kaliro: A comprehensive programme of improving nutrition in the entire district

Eric Kihuluka and the Mikwano Project have held training seminars for clan leaders, traditional healers, teachers and education officials. Eric has won the support of the King of Busoga and the education chiefs. Together they are pursuing an ambitious programme of teaching the basics of nutrition and establishing school gardens in all 220 secondary and primary schools in Kaliro District. This programme involves both teachers



This private school in Maliba was new. It had no doors or windows, but as a result of training from Discover it had a garden, of which the children were very proud.



Teachers and children in Izinga Primary school standing in their field of egg plants

and parents in developing schemes to enable the schools to provide school dinners. Children cannot be attentive until afternoon school finishes, which is sometimes as late as 5pm, if they are hungry.

The primary schools even hold formal debates, in English, on topics related to nutrition, an activity that stimulates their

ability for critical thinking and builds confidence in speaking in public.

Kaboyo and Mpugwe: Significant developments following training seminars

In November 2017 and March 2018, Rehema and her colleagues had run week-long training seminars in Kaboyo and Mpugwe respectively. It was a joy to visit both groups, though they were very different. Since their training the Kaboyo members have developed a range of projects and meet regularly to work in their garden and produce medicines. The Muslim women in Mpugwe are also active but lack the self-confidence of the Kaboyo group members. Nonetheless, they have made great strides forward, their

health had improved as had their family income by keeping chickens and making local foods for sale.

The farm of Andrew and Irene Kyambadde

This was an enormous encouragement. A training seminar Andrew attended with Rehema two and a half years previously gave him the push he had always wanted to start a farm. What he had achieved in that short space of time was quite amazing. He had chickens and plantain (savory bananas) and many other grains and vegetables. The local community have been so impressed by what he has achieved that they are demanding to be trained as well – which will happen in March this year.



This robust compost toilet stands at the edge of Andrew and Irene's banana plantation. Faeces and urine are both used to fertilise the farm.

Challenges

All the groups we visited listed their achievements and challenges! What our Discover partners have achieved is very impressive, but the challenges faced in Uganda are immense; they include the high birth rate, high school drop-out rates, the neglect of family duties by large numbers of men, conflicts over land and the effects of climate change. The country requires not only appropriate help at the grass-roots but good corruption-free governance and a fair trading relationship with Europe, North America and China.

Elsewhere

In Ghana and Kenya our partners have also been active, and in Zimbabwe Discover Zimbabwe has been registered.

Here in Germany

We had stands in Winnenden at the "Futures Market", the "Autumn Market" and at the Africa evening at a secondary school. At our AGM we were honoured to be addressed by Emmanuel Zinsu, a Ghanaian agriculturalist, and Norbert Sailer, the Mayor of Winnenden.

And finally: The Ethiopian German political analyst Asfa-Wossen Asserate wrote, "Development aid only makes sense if it actually promotes the initiative of the local people." If we judge our work by this very appropriate criterion, Discover can be proud!

Keith Lindsey, January 2019