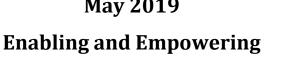
## **Discover News-sheet** for colleagues in Africa May 2019





## **Dear Friends**

In our Discover Annual Report for 2018 I quoted the Ethiopian German political analyst Asfa-Wossen Asserate. He wrote, "Development aid only makes sense if it actually promotes the initiative of the local people."

The questions I want to ask are,

- 1. What is our most important aim?
- 2. What knowledge and skills do we need to meet that aim?
- 3. As a result of the work you do, do you see local people taking initiatives?
- 1. Our most important aim

Our 2016 flyer states, "Discover encourages people and communities to use locally available resources and skills to discover how to become healthier, to become more self-reliant and to live in peace. "

Do you agree? Is this our common aim?

- 2. The knowledge and skills we need:
  - a) Organic gardening and maintaining soil fertility.
  - b) Many medicinal plants, their cultivation and the preparation and use of many natural medicines to treat a wide range of health problems.
  - c) Simple technologies such as solar drier, tippy tap, fuel-efficient stove.
  - d) Many personal skills:
    - Conflict resolution.
    - Facilitation skills, which include listening carefully to people, treating each person with respect, giving encouragement, seeing the best in people.

I end my newsletter with a challenge. Speak to three people with whom you work closely and trust. Ask them to answer these two questions – and not to be polite, but very honest:

- 1. "What do I do that helps you to feel good and gives you self-confidence?"
- 2. "What do I do that discourages you and makes you feel bad?"

Take what your friends say seriously. You can learn a lot from how they answer you! When people develop new skills and self-confidence, then they take the initiative and do new things!

Many blessings, Keith

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