

**Discover News-sheet
for colleagues in Africa
May 2019
Enabling and Empowering**



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