

# Discover News-sheet

## September 2019

### Visit to Uganda



From 6 to 13 October I shall take part in a conference together with our partners in Uganda. It will be a week to share knowledge and experience. Partners are scattered around Uganda and many do not even know each other. Each has developed in a different way according to the local needs and their skills and interests. I am very much looking forward to this event.

This conference has been funded by Land Baden-Württemberg, as was the following training seminar:

#### Vumbula Masaka Training seminar in Nakaziba Village, 25 August to 2 September.

27 Participants, 24 of which came from this desperately needy village, 4 trainers and 2 cooks were active for 6 full days learning about maintaining soil fertility, medicinal plants, making and using natural medicines, massage, nutrition (with excellent, well-balanced meals) and simple technologies which included solar



drying and fuel-efficient stoves. Lots of practicals, lots of teaching and lots of fun!

Rehema Namyalo and her leader team have set a very high standard for training in all these topics. After each seminar we receive very positive feedback.

As a Moslem woman who divorced her husband because of his unfaithfulness, Rehema has gone through some very hard times personally. Now at last she has found land to which she can move and enjoy greater security. I shall visit her new plot and she and I will discuss how Discover can best support her to develop a new demonstration garden and herbal resource centre. We are pleased to have been able to support Rehema in making this vital step, though it has left our finances at a precariously low level.



Making a fuel-efficient stove

I shall also visit the Nutrition and Training Programme in Kaliro District, which is funded by the “Erbacher Stiftung”.

Carrot, African eggplant and onion seeds have been purchased and distributed to 139 schools. These schools have been assisted not only in establishing school gardens but also in planning how they are able to provide lunches for their pupils. Because of the success of the nutrition programme at Kaliro Church of Uganda Primary School, enrolment at the school has doubled in the course of the year, which has presented new challenges regarding the need for toilets and hand-washing facilities.

A “Farmer Field School” has been established

which includes a wide range of vegetables and animals. Training is held there for farmers, teachers and pupils. The topics include mulching, making liquid manures, production of animal feed, increasing soil fertility by promoting “effective microorganisms”, the natural control of plant pests and diseases.

This centre is now beginning to generate a little income which is reinvested in the project. It also produces food from which the gardeners and trainees benefit.

As always, success brings its own challenges:

1. Lack of an irrigation system.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture and the district leadership have recommended that the Farmer Field School be upgraded to a Vocational Farming Institute to productively involve unemployed youth. A big compliment! But the project has no permanent building which could host such an institute.

### Tree planting action

In response to my last newsletter, 1000 Euro has been generously donated specifically for planting indigenous and useful trees to help to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Given the terrible fires raging in Amazonia, the Arctic and even parts of Africa, tree planting has become even more urgent! A big thank you to all who have contributed so far, and a big encouragement to those who are still thinking about it.

With my best wishes

Keith Lindsey



Pupils of Kaliro High School prepare their school garden. This school also took part in a science fair and presented black stones for treating snake and scorpion bites



A delighted trainee in the Farmer Field School sees and tastes carrots for the first time