

Annual Report 2019



Our partners continued to work competently, reliably and mostly with great enthusiasm in 2019.

This report will feature four particularly significant projects of 2019. The first three are in Uganda.

1. National training activities

Three intensive 6- or 7-day seminars were held in different districts organised by Vumbula Masaka, led by Rehema Namyalo. This training team is now playing a national role, and responds to invitations from all over Uganda to run training in organic gardening, the cultivation of medicinal plants and their use to produce herbal medicines, the treatment of common local health complaints, simple technologies including solar energy devices, tippy-taps and fuel efficient stoves, and income generation projects. As a result, Discover groups are being established in many parts of the country.



The plant nursery in Kabongezo in which the basic principles of organic plant cultivation were taught.

The first seminar was held in Bundibugyo in January, at the invitation of BusaruHilfe, based in Weißenstein, Germany.

The second was in Kabongezo, Mityana District, at the village of Andrew Kyambadde. After attending a previous training seminar with Rehema he had been so inspired that he and his wife sold up and bought land and established a farm. This farm has been very successful, and his neighbours were eager to learn the key to their success.

Hence the

invitation to hold the training there. The training was attended by a Discover partner from Ghana, George Zokli, who has later shared this experience with his colleagues back home.

The third seminar was held in Nakaziba Village, Kiboga District. This was at the invitation of Discover member Evelyne Nakamatte, a secondary school headteacher who wanted the people in her home village to benefit from this training.

Six or eight weeks before each seminar, Rehema Namyalo visited each site to establish a teaching garden, and to confirm all the arrangements with the local organiser.



Participants in Bundibugyo pack cough syrup



Preparing the teaching garden in Nakaziba with the help of local people

The seminars in Kabongezo and Nakaziba were generously financed by Land Baden-Württemberg.

Rehema Namyalo, the lead trainer, made extensive follow up visits to each seminar location. She spent time with the groups, and then visited participants in their homes and gave further advice and encouragement.

Also financed by Land Baden-Württemberg was a partner conference held in October at Salem-Uganda near to Mbale, attended by 29 Discover partners from all around the country. A handbook of the presentations made at this conference has been compiled.

2. Mikwano in Kaliro District

Thanks to funding from the Erbacher Stiftung, health and welfare here have taken a major step forward. Mikwano, led by Eric Kihuluka, has established excellent working relations with all the key agencies and all 220 schools in the district, the vast majority of which have established school gardens and have started to provide simple lunches of maize porridge supplemented with greens from the school gardens. Many schools have introduced music, dance and drama to their curriculum which in fun ways promotes the learning of themes related to nutrition and hygiene and provides the opportunity to examine certain



Pupils at Kasokwe Primary School proudly show off some of the products from their gardens



The vegetable nursery at the farmer field school

cultural practices, such as that of giving teenage daughters for marriage with older men.

Mikwano has also established a Farmer Field School with demonstration plots for various crops and vegetables and farm animals, including pigs, cows and chickens. Training is given to farmers both individually and in groups on a wide range of agricultural topics. The School has won the support of the Ministry of Agricultural which donated a mill for producing animal feed.

As a result of all this activity there is extensive cooperation and air of optimism in the district. When I

visited in November for example I was impressed by the enthusiasm of both teachers and pupils for the work in the gardens.

3. The Kasese Network in Kasese District

The Kasese Network comprises three projects, Bumbura Maliba, BioGardens and IPOA Women's and Orphan's Group. Over the past 5 years the three projects have cooperated in running joint training courses, as a result of which the health and welfare in their respective villages has improved significantly. Each of the three projects has established contact with two local schools, one state and one private, and in each a school garden has been established and a Discover club initiated.

The year began with a three-day training event for teachers and pupils for the six schools and several farmers.

Bumbura Maliba ran a training event for its members in the production of mango juice and juice from other fruits, in order to take better advantage of the fruits which, at some times of the year, are very prolific.

Through its work in the area, Bumbura Maliba is held in high regard in the district, and was invited to organise a day meeting for sensitisation on the topic of the ebola-virus disease. Kasese lies close to the border with the D R Congo where this disease already occurs, and some cases of the diseases had already occurred in Kasese. The day in July was attended by 108 people, which included representatives of all the relevant agencies in the area and many community members. A community Task Force on Protection from ebola was formed.



Members of Bumbura Maliba learning how to make juice from locally available fruits.

Kighengi Village is the base of the IPOA group. The villagers have suffered from the fact that, with the support of the Ugandan government, the Chinese now have the fishing rights in the neighbouring large lakes, where they and their forefathers have always fished. To counter the resulting protein deficiency, thanks to funding from Land Baden-Württemberg, the villagers started the construction of family fish tanks. This work is ongoing in 2020.



Part of the “Each-Child-A-Tree “ programme, Director Joachem Nyamande plants a tree with pupils at Hamamaoko Primary School

Discover Zimbabwe

In 2018 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Discover in Germany and the new group Discover Zimbabwe, of which the Director, Dr Joachem Nyamande, has been well-known to Keith Lindsey since 2006.

In 2019 Discover Zimbabwe became very active. An extensive tree planting programme was conducted with several primary schools. 6000 trees were planted in their “Each-Child-A-Tree “ programme. Through the “Green4Life Project” Discover Zimbabwe aims to sensitize and mobilize communities in Zimbabwe, Manicaland Province, to plant one million trees over a period of 5 years.

Discover Zimbabwe is developing a programme of producing and marketing health products from the resurrection plant (*Myrothamnus flabellifolius*) under the name “Makomo” (meaning mountain).

In conclusion, let me express my gratitude to all our friends and supporters who, through their moral and financial support, have made this work possible. We are grateful to Land Baden-Württemberg and the Erbacher Stiftung for their financial support, and again to our private supporters because we must usually find 15% of any grant that we are awarded ourselves.

I must also express my gratitude to and admiration of our partners in Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Ghana. They are dedicated, hard-working and very competent. They have won the respect of the communities in which they work and inspired them such that, in many cases, the entire community is benefiting in health, nutrition and general well-being. What they achieve with just a little financial support is very extraordinary. It is a joy for me to work with them.

Keith Lindsey, March 2020