

Outreach Abroad

OPERATION AGRI'S MAGAZINE

SRI LANKA:

*Organic
gardening*
instruction

MOZAMBIQUE

*Commercial
farmer training*

promotes
well-being
and financial
security

Supporting
rural and urban
development
projects in
Christ's name



1961-2022



Operation
AGRI
Christian love in action

NEW YEAR 2022



Operation Agri

361 Firs Lane
Palmers Green
London N13 5LX
operationagri.org.uk
0800 915 3201

Operation Agri,
Registered Charity No:
1189098

Operation Agri is a CIO

Operation Agri works with local Christian partners in ten countries. Operation Agri helps grow food, increase incomes, teach skills, empower women and much more.

Articles may be freely copied, without any changes, provided an attribution to Operation Agri is added.

Editorial Team:

Nigel Jones
Liz Hogarth
Valerie Reddaway
Sarah Prentice

Design:

sarahprenticedesign.co.uk

Print:

Acanthus, Somerset



This product is made of material from well-managed, FSC®-certified forests and other controlled sources.

Please recycle this document after use.



3 Sri Lanka: eco-friendly bricks

4 Mozambique: farmer training

6 Children's and Youth pages

8 Nicaragua: health care

10 Prayer and projects

12 Book review

13 Fundraising success and news

14 Sri Lanka: home gardening

16 Tanzania: planting trees

18 C-60 updates

19 Response form

20 Standing order form

Cover image: Organic home gardening training in Sri Lanka

Welcome from the Editor

To maximise the value of your donations volunteer trustees continue to undertake most of the work of the charity, but we need more people with an assortment of skills to advance the work.

Therefore, as Editor and Secretary I'm asking you, the reader of this magazine, to prayerfully consider increasing your involvement.

As you consider the possibilities for yourself, please also talk with your circle of family and friends to put the same question to them.

For further information and to initiate an informal chat please email me. NigelJones@operationagri.org.uk Your partnership with Operation Agri makes a difference.

Thank you, Nigel.

NigelJones@operationagri.org.uk

Sri Lanka, the pearl of the Indian Ocean, stopped receiving international help when it was no longer a conflict or huge disaster affected country. As a result, we saw international partners exit and so, in 2018, LEADS stepped into the area of social and kingdom enterprise. As a Christian Organisation, with our Bible based values, we decided that our enterprise had to be for the poor, the vulnerable, and with a strong focus on caring for creation.

Another charity, *Habitat for Humanity*, with a vision for a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live, were looking for partners for the construction of houses in the Northern Province. LEADS – having pioneered the technology of Compressed Stabilised Engineered Blocks (CSEBs) in the 1980s and provided blocks for approximately 1,000 houses and designed and supervised many resettlement and construction projects – was selected by *Habitat for Humanity* as a partner.

The CSEB yard was set up in Mullaitivu District in the Northern Province; one of the worst affected districts in the conflict. It has the highest percentage of



Change comes brick by brick



Diordre Moraes explains how a new low-cost, eco-friendly, brick is revolutionising house building in Sri Lanka



Top: Home construction made by CSEBs. Above: Distribution of CSEBs to a family

households, (71.6%), falling into the 'poorest group' with a monthly household income of less than LKR 36,500 (about £132).

Some of the benefits of CSEBs:

- Use of non-organic earth. River sand is traditionally used for bricks which causes soil erosion leading to low-lying areas being prone to flooding. CSEBs are produced from de-silt which is obtained by de-silting reservoirs which gives them an increased capacity for water storage, provides improved disaster resilience and increased access to water for cultivation and other needs.
- Traditional bricks are fired in a kiln whilst the CSEBs are sun dried. We are looking at getting solar panels so that the machines will use renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.
- It is more cost effective:
- Less cement – each bag of cement manufactures 60-80 traditional bricks but 80-120 CSEB bricks.
- The inter-locking design of the CSEB bricks permits faster construction and there is no need to plaster the house.
- CSEB built houses are kinder to the environment by using a natural cooling process and less fans.

Diordre Moraes, Manager Resource Mobilisation, LEADS

Editor's Note. Thank you LEADS for sharing this venture and for fulfilling on your enterprise values.

Vegetables equal *empowerment* in rural Mozambique



Operation Agri is partnering with **Oasis Mozambique** to support a commercial farmer training project which promotes well-being and financial security

Operation Agri (OA) supports a project in the Manga and Ngupa communities in rural Mozambique. Through partnership with local government, technicians from the Agriculture sector support the training of community members in Agricultural Techniques, and this helps them to move beyond a subsistence level of farming.

OA's partner, Oasis Mozambique, realised the need to help communities to develop with regard to producing vegetables, both for commercial and home use. In identified communities the levels of production and productivity have been poor because producers often need to travel long distances (more than 15 km) to be able to sell their vegetables or buy the products they need. The inadequacies of the transport network and limited access to financial services have also been a factor.

Oasis also support communities, particularly those at high risk, in the areas of education, money management, sexual and reproductive



Training in conservation Agriculture Technique

health and human rights. The overall aim is to improve the well-being of families, by empowering them to promote their development and reach their God-given potential.

Women in rural Mozambique face many challenges as a result of traditions, difficulties in accessing information, education, credit, employment, access to land and services. In addition to this is their perceived secondary role in the decision-making process in the family, community and workplace.

**“
... the sale of my
vegetables
(mostly lettuce)
is enabling us,
for the most part,
to meet our
basic needs.”**

◀ Ms Laurenciana
putting the
training she has
received into
practice



By Anna Stockadobe.com

However, access to training sessions on conservation agriculture techniques, has helped two women increase their self-esteem and the fortunes of their families.

Providing for basic needs

Laurenciana Tiane Macamo is 56 years old, married, and has 5 children. She lives in the Manga Community. She says, 'Through the project I managed to pay for my son's study, and today he is doing a Degree in Agronomy. We are changing our lives as this activity for me has been profitable. When I sell each bed of lettuce, it is from 750 meticaïs upwards, and there are restaurants that come to buy in large quantities. Here in the community I have been encouraging other women to do the same and they are joining the project. Today, due to the situation of COVID 19, my husband was left without a job, and the sale of my vegetables (mostly lettuce) is enabling us, for the most part, to meet our basic needs. I thank Oasis and Operation Agri for the ongoing training and support and for the opportunity to instruct others.'

Positive change

Maninha Eugénio Luís is 27 years old, married with 3 children, and supports her family in Ngupa. She says, 'With the arrival of the Operation Agri project in this Ngupa community, there was first the need to get across the message about the objectives. At the next step we received vegetable seeds and benefited from training in agricultural conservation techniques, and then I went to replicate the teaching by making gardens, where I have grown cabbage, lettuce and onions among other vegetables. This vegetable is helping me a lot for consumption in the family, and I can also sell locally or at the market that is a little far from my house. With the sale I am able to support my husband in building our house, buy some basic necessities such as school supplies. Another part of the amount I have put into savings. As a result of this project, I can see positive changes in the lives of the families participating, although they still face many challenges regarding access to water to irrigate their gardens. Finally, I thank God and Oasis for the initiative to bring these activities to this community.'



Cristina António Muchanga preparing home-grown kale for the family meal

Children's page

In Pakistan *Light for the Nations* is teaching women to sew and giving them sewing machines.



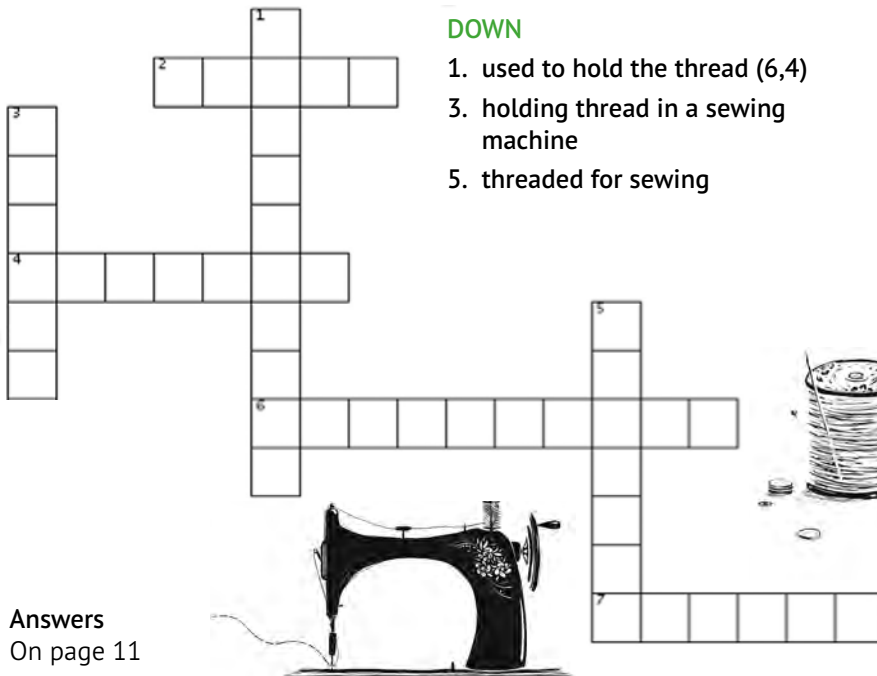
See how many words you can make from the words:

SEWING MACHINE



Crossword

Can you complete the crossword below about sewing and making clothes?



ACROSS

2. necessary for making clothes
4. used to do up coats
6. decoration for clothes
7. making clothes

DOWN

1. used to hold the thread (6,4)
3. holding thread in a sewing machine
5. threaded for sewing

Answers
On page 11



WE DID IT!!!

Over the summer I have been embarking on a cycling adventure for Operation Agri. And I've finished it!! I have been cycling all over the south of the UK, from the Downs area near my house to the pine forests of Warminster.

Some pictures are below that show off this amazing forest.

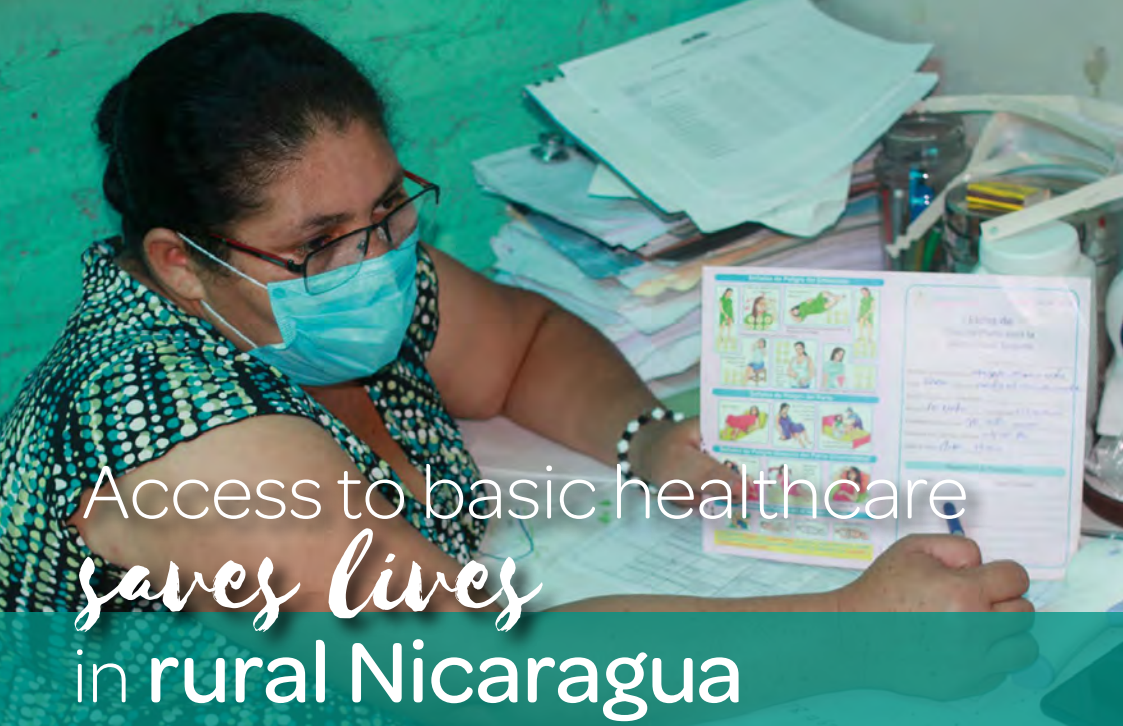
MEDIA

If you haven't heard, we have a new website. It's full of updates and news on our projects.

If you aren't following us on social media then do encourage others to join and follow us as there are fun and interactive posts and sneak peeks at upcoming magazines.

Josh





Access to basic healthcare *saves lives* in rural Nicaragua

Lydia Caldera from AMOS explains how training local leaders in health care leads to community empowerment and sustainable change

Living in Rural Nicaragua

Operation Agri, in partnership with AMOS Health and Hope, supports training Health Promoters to prevent disease and provide health education to improve maternal and child care for families in 23 remote, rural communities in Nicaragua.

Neymar, a three-year-old boy, lives with his parents and two older siblings in a small house in the middle of beautiful mountains in the region of Matagalpa, in Nicaragua. He and his family's story is typical of the many families, who live in similar conditions, and receive help from the partnership of Operation Agri (OA) and AMOS.

Neymar's family is poor. They grow corn and beans to eat, and sometimes they sell some of it to buy rice and other basic supplies.

They have a few chickens, too. Their house has a dirt floor and Neymar's mother cooks over a woodburning stove. They don't have electricity or running water. There is no paved road to get to their house. In fact, the path to get there is a very difficult one.

There is no hospital, doctor, nurse, or chemist nearby, and no regular public transport. The closest health unit is located hours away by bus, and an ambulance is not always available, even in emergencies.

An Emergency Call

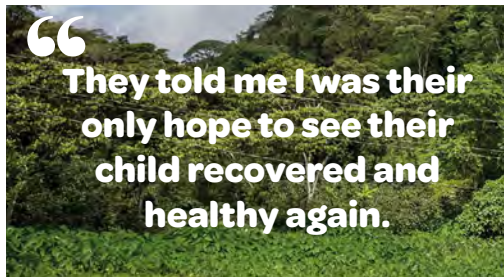
This year Neymar got very sick. He had a fever and diarrhoea. After a day with no improvement, his mother grew worried. She called the nearest health unit, but there were

◀ Aura Rivera talking to a patient

no medicines. Neymar's parents felt hopeless. They didn't have money to take Neymar to a private doctor or to buy medicines in the nearest town.

Fortunately, thanks to the partnership between OA and AMOS, the community of Tapasle has a trained Health Promoter, who knows how to prevent, identify, and treat common illnesses, such as pneumonia and diarrhoea.

So, Neymar's parents called Aura Rivera, the Health Promoter. She says, 'It took me an hour to get to Neymar's home walking, but I hurried because I knew it was an emergency. After examining him, I gave him oral rehydration salts, acetaminophen, and zinc tablets, all according to what I have learned in my training with AMOS.'



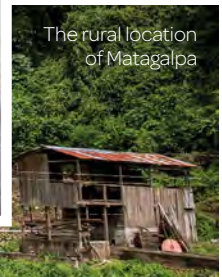
During the next three days Aura visited Neymar to check on his progress. 'Thanks to God and the support of all of you, Neymar got better after receiving the right medicine,' says Aura. 'His parents were very worried for him. They didn't have money to take Neymar or any of their children to a private clinic. They told me I was their only hope to see their child recovered and healthy again.'

Lives changed

At AMOS, we believe strengthening the local capacities of community leaders creates long and sustainable change. In nearly 15 years of ministry in Nicaragua, our team has seen this strategy help to reduce child and maternal deaths, rates of parasitic diseases, and child malnutrition in the communities we serve. For the past 11 years OA has partnered, alongside AMOS, to change the lives of vulnerable children, pregnant mothers, and others, by investing in the greatest resource of all: our people. Together, we have facilitated community empowerment and strengthened the capacities of local leaders to create positive, life-saving change.



◀ A child from Matagalpa



The rural location of Matagalpa

As Aura reflects, 'You give hope to the people of Tapasle by making sure poor families have access to free health care, by allowing us to have essential medicines and be trained on how to treat diseases and help people improve their health. Thank you!'

*Lydia Caldera
and the AMOS
Communications Team*





The fellowship of *Believers*:

'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.'

ACTS 2:42

It's a New Year but also the third year of COVID-19 impacting all of us. Give thanks that:

- We're still here and Operation Agri (OA) is very much alive and well.
- Despite a reduced budget for our projects most have continued or restarted. It's time to 'take stock', to be thankful and hopeful. Please pray for our work, our

projects, our supporters. For safety, wisdom and faith. Despite the challenges our great In-Country Partners are finding ways for groups and communities to move forward.

We thought this would be a good time to look at all the projects we've budgeted to support this year, and how they fit into a bigger picture.

First our core work with subsistence farmers, helping them towards larger harvests through new ways to farm:

Malawi and African Pastors Fellowship (APF) Farming

- Pray for our Growing Greener in Malawi Project, that the restructuring to train smaller groups will protect everyone from COVID-19 as they learn and apply new farming practices.



Tanzania FPI Farmer Training



- Pray for the successful restructuring of roles following the untimely death of Paul Kyalimpa in Uganda, who led the training aspects of this project.

Uganda, Sustainable Agricultural Farming Initiative (SAFI)

Led by the late Paul Kyalimpa for the Baptist Union of Uganda.

- That God would be with Joseph, Paul's son, as he takes on the leadership of SAFI.

- Pray for the new ideas that Joseph is proposing for the project.
- Second**, agricultural work, but also addressing the other challenges of life in rural farming communities:

Multipurpose Community Development Service in Nepal

- As the CHEP Rukum, East project enters its fourth year of five, we give thanks for the ability and commitment of the project team to supervise activities in remote village situations.
- Please pray that the new CHEST Ghusel project, which started in July 2021, can become established despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 risk.

Imarika Project of Emmanuel International in Tanzania

- Give thanks that modifying project activities to minimise the risk of COVID-19 has limited infections, and plans for establishing two new groups can go ahead this year.

AMOS (A Ministry of Sharing) in Nicaragua



- Pray for the safety of the Village Health Workers who are trained by the OA supported project. Their work involves a lot of local travel around remote villages.

Uganda, the Women's Adult Literacy Project



Started by the late Paul Kyalimpa for the Baptist Union of Uganda.

- Pray for the safety of the women's groups in WALP as they continue learning and expand their activities to include training on livelihood options.

Third, farmers need money to buy farming tools, consumables, and other non-food essentials.

We support projects focused on getting food to market and other income generation opportunities.

Oasis Mozambique, Commercial Farming Project

- Pray that the smaller groups required for COVID-19 mitigation can continue to meet, and that the new opportunity to develop fish farming in ponds will go ahead.

LEADS in Sri Lanka

- Pray that the COVID-19 situation will be an opportunity, rather than a prevention to the new livelihoods focused project in Killinochchi to establish relationships and activities.



Finally, the cities. Cities are often the 'market' for village products, but also for exploitation. Cities are a pull with cash jobs available, but the bright lights are not always friendly. In recent years our work has extended into urban poverty and vulnerability. In-Country Partners work on safety, rights and income generation.

CMCY in Bangladesh

- Pray that we can continue supporting all 100 girls and their families in the Duaripara slum, despite a reduced budget and lockdown restrictions.

Oasis India's Kalwa Hub in Mumbai

- Give thanks that the project team in Kalwa have been able to continue this new project, (started 2020), which we recently agreed could have a one-year extension to get all the work done properly.

Light For The Nations (LFTN) in Pakistan

- Give praise that LFTN has successfully registered as a charity, and pray that members of the women's groups will continue to find ways to support each other as they learn important skills and knowledge.

Trade training by SDKF in Kampala, Uganda



- Praise God that despite courses having to close during multiple lockdowns the students have almost all kept in contact and attended training whenever possible.
- Pray that everyone involved will be kept safe and able to continue training and learning.

Our thanks to everyone in the UK and overseas who makes OA possible. We couldn't do any of this without you.

ANSWERS to crossword on page 6

ACROSS	DOWN
2. Cloth	1. Cotton Reel
4. Buttons	3. Bobbin
6. Embroidery	5. Needles
7. Sewing	

Rewarded in Heaven

Former 'farming evangelist', **John Mellor**, offers up a slice of OA history

John Mellor was a Baptist Missionary Society, (Now BMS World Mission), agriculturalist in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, (the Republic of Zaire between 1971 and 1997), for many years. He was supported by Operation Agri and now lives in retirement in North Wales.

At his own expense John produced a 64-page A5 booklet earlier last year, about his time in Congo and has gifted a number to OA. It's an impressive autobiography complete with colour pictures. He says, 'It was in 1967 that my wife, Rena, and I were accepted for service with the mission founded by William Carey. The mission and Operation Agri called folk like us, "*Farming Evangelists*". Following our acceptance, and one week after our wedding, we began an academic year at the Mission's training college.' He adds, 'The mission had wanted to send us to India. We had never specified that we were "*called*" to Africa, but



neither of us believed that we would go to India. The Mission had added us to a list of half a dozen that were already waiting for the Indian government to give them visas. In due time we were designated to go to Congo instead.'

To read more, order the booklet which is £6.50 including packing and postage to any UK address by one of these options:

Writing to:

361 First Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX

Emailing:

admin@operationagri.org.uk

Calling: 0800 915 3201



With thanks to Malcolm



After 16 years as Operation Agri's Administrator, Malcolm Drummond has taken up the full-time pastorate of Campsbourne Baptist Church, Hornsey. The Trustees pray

God's richest blessing upon Malcolm in his new ministry.

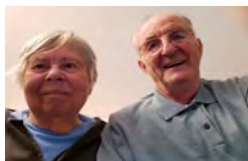
Whilst this is an exciting move for Malcolm and his wife, Linda, his departure has left a significant gap in the charity.

Operation Agri has used Malcolm's phone number and address, but both will be changing. Our new phone number is: 0800 915 3201

and will be answered by a Trustee. Please be prepared to leave a message with your name and number. We can't confirm a new address yet, but all mail addressed to Operation Agri, 361 First Lane, Palmers Green, London, N13 5LX will be redirected.

In addition the admin@operationagri.org.uk email address will also be redirected.

Diamond wedding prompts generous gift



The editor bids us tell how we raised £1,000, or thereabouts, for Operation Agri (OA). This is a

dubious proceeding in the light of Matthew 6:2–4, (excerpt: ‘So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets’), so we ask forgiveness from heaven and earth.

Our scheme was neither original nor spectacular. As the September 2021 celebration of our Diamond Wedding approached, the question arose as to what presents we might like. We told our nearest and dearest that we didn’t need presents, in that we already possessed what we needed, and could afford to buy whatever we might need in the future.

Instead, and after consultation with OA, we invited our families to send a money gift in support of the ongoing Imarika project in Tanzania. In due time, we asked to know what the resulting accumulated sum was, (it was very generous), and added what was necessary to provide a round sum for this vital work.

Bruce and Anne Hardy

Editor: Do you have a special day in 2022 that you could similarly use to benefit Operation Agri?

Trustees and Chair of Trustees

Our most recent webinar was on Monday 8 November last. Thank you to everyone who attended to hear the latest news of some of the projects.

During the webinar we announced the need for more Trustees. Trustees are needed to enable us to take up some of the opportunities we have and, thereby, expand the work. There is also an upcoming need for a Chair of Trustees. Someone with some experience of coordinating a group of self-motivated people will be needed in the coming months. Advisors are also needed to bring their skills and knowledge to the benefit of OA without people becoming Trustees.

To start with an informal chat, please email the Secretary:

NigeUones@operationagri.org.uk

Paul’s marathon effort

Paul Reddaway volunteered to be OA’s runner in the 2021 London Marathon.

He clocked a very good time and has raised over £4,000 towards projects that help some of the world’s most disadvantaged people across three continents improve their lives. Our sincere thanks to you, Paul, for all the training mileage you chalked up, and the many hours you committed to the event and to OA.



The future

As Operation Agri enters its seventh decade of service to the poorest in society, can you offer your time, your skills, and your gifts in fellowship with us? Please email the Secretary:

NigeUones@operationagri.org.uk

with your thoughts and ideas.

Digging for *victory* over Covid 19



Nadeesha Rajakaruna explores how a project to encourage home-grown fruit and veg is providing much needed income for families in Sri Lanka

Why help is needed

Sri Lanka has been regarded as a country that has achieved great success in maintaining high levels of literacy, school enrolments and health outcomes, despite low levels of per capita income in development economics for many years. However, poverty in Sri Lanka is still high and widespread.

The significant impact of COVID-19 has aggravated the issue due to extended lockdowns, resulting in loss of income for the majority of the population who depend on daily wage income, and state policies creating food shortages. Food availability depends mainly on production and marketing. Food supply and availability is an issue

in rural areas due to a combination of remoteness, poor access to markets and deficit production. Poor road access and the lack of infrastructure hinders physical access to markets. Many are living in uncertainty and depending on welfare systems to keep their families afloat.

Our interests would be served by improvement in our agriculture, especially as the majority of our population is still dependent directly, or indirectly, on agriculture-based income.

LEADS (a charity dedicated to producing safer spaces and brighter futures for the children of Sri Lanka), saw the need and has been engaged in working with communities in the North to improve household resilience through varied interventions, including encouraging families to grow their own fruit and veg.

COVID-19

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, and quarantine curfew times, children suffered with lack of play time with friends, as schools were closed for almost the entire year, and parents had no means to provide for their children due to lack of work. All these factors have meant that home gardening has been a successful initiative. Recent surveys have also highlighted the issue of domestic violence and the risk of harm to children during these



isolated times. Therefore, promoting home-grown fruit and veg has been a catalyst to bring families together to work and play and to put food on the table.

At a time when organic cultivation is a much talked about topic in Sri Lanka, the support from Operation Agri towards such LEADS initiatives has been a beacon of hope for

many families over many years. Through the current project LEADS, in partnership with Operation Agri, funded over 30 vulnerable families. With your support we can truly make a difference.

*Nadeesha Rajakaruna,
LEADS Community Transformation Manager*

Jeyanthini's story ...

More than a garden

Jeyanthini, 41, lives in a rural village in Killinochchi, together with her husband – a daily wage earner and four children, the two youngest are at school. She says, 'We have been living on the income my husband received through daily paid labour work. But ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit our village we have been going through a very difficult time. He has been struggling to get work and we have to depend on welfare or help from others to survive.'

'In the past, we had a small home garden, but that was not enough to continue as our main source of living. At this time LEADS was working with us, providing agriculture training and supporting families with home gardening packages – especially organic produce. Since we had no

other opportunities, we decided to try this out. I am so happy we took this step because today, our small home garden has developed into an income generating market garden.'



... today, our small home garden has developed into an income generating market garden.

Jayanthini's hard work has paid off. Her garden is flourishing with varied kinds of vegetables and green leaves. During harvest time the produce is plenty. In recent times she has gathered produce such as lentils, tomatoes, brinjals, chilies, green leaves, lady finger and lettuce from her own garden. The produce not only provides an income for her family, but also provides



nutritious food for her hungry children.

'We have received an income of SLR 22,600 through our recent sale of green gram, chillies, lady finger, brinjal, tomato and lettuce. It is far more than we could have hoped for. Next month we are hoping to harvest turmeric and cassava.'

She concludes, 'All this started with a simple training on organic agriculture, a little support with tools and seeds provided by LEADS. We have also shared our experience and learning with our friends and neighbours. The support from LEADS changed my circumstances and source of income and I'm very thankful to the organisation.'



Planting trees *transforms* village life

The Lupembelwasenga group preparing the tree nursery.

Ibrahimu Abdul, outlines how a rural development project in Tanzania is helping to reduce poverty

Imarika is a rural development project encouraging Village Community Banking (Vicoba), tree planting, conservation agriculture, animal husbandry, beekeeping and entrepreneurship in the village groups that are set up. These groups are instigated by the local village churches, but participants join from the whole village.

Activities

Conservation agriculture helps to increase farm yields or harvests. We provide education to improve the soil and how it is maintained. In this way it helps the community reduce poverty through increasing harvests from their farms.

Vicoba helps communities to improve their lives by saving shares and then getting cheap loans for running small rural businesses, and often we see the community get more money from Vicoba after completing the first rotation. We provide Vicoba training and supervision in each group that is established because we find this is the major way to increase income in the community.

Tree planting helps to improve the community environment. Over time, community health improves because they get fruit from the trees they planted in their fields, and they earn money because they can sell timber trees. Agricultural trees help to improve the soil. When the family health is

good it helps the villagers work hard in order to improve their lives.

With animal husbandry, community life is improved by raising a variety of livestock, for example, chickens, as sources of protein. Also beekeeping provides the health benefits of honey, and the possibilities of selling it for income.

Entrepreneurship we teach by building the capacity to make business laws (and know business law) to increase income in the family. We also build the churches' ability to solve the challenges facing the community around them through Church Core training.

Current progress

The COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania has seen communities lose many people, and many more were ill and so they could not meet their work and business goals as they hoped. This also affected our delivery of training and the various meetings in each community. But we thank God we still had great success in terms of Vicoba, as the groups were able to meet and buy a lot of shares and get their credit, and when they met they were able to follow the



“
... community health improves because they get fruit from the trees they planted in their fields, and they earn money because they can sell timber trees.

▲ Albina Kivike and Victoria Mbugi, members of Lyamgungwe group, with avocado plants.

health rules about social distancing.

Conservation agriculture has been the key activity alongside Vicoba in the groups last year, and it has been amazingly successful. For example, the Mafuluto group saved shares totalling Tsh18M (£6,000), the Utengule group saved Tsh15M (£5,000) and the Lupembelwasenga group Tsh13M (£4,300). Despite the impact of COVID-19 farmers have had good harvests using the conservation

agriculture methods.

Stephano Ludege reports a yield increase of 10 fold! Another farmer, Anton Lukinia, says he has been able to plant many trees this year, although he does not expect to see the benefit of them for 20 years or so.

So Imarika is reducing poverty in the community by providing theoretical and practical training and instructions to the community. Sometimes in training we use examples from the Bible like Acts 3:1–10 (*I don't have any silver or gold for you, but I will give you what I have*), or 2 Kings 4:1–7 (*Elisha helps a poor widow*) and apply them to the present.

Ibrahimu Abdul, Team leader, Emmanuel International Iringa Office, Tanzania.



Nepalese Adventure

We've long been fascinated by Nepal, that mysterious Himalayan kingdom, closed to outsiders for many years.

When we visited, we trekked up the foothills of Machhapuchhre mountain to see where MCDS, (the Nepal Baptist Church's development arm), was starting work on a water tank, taps and latrines, plus health and nutrition education. The highlight was visiting a completed drinking water scheme near Kathmandu.

We've been involved in OA for almost all our married life, so we did not hesitate when the Lord led us to think of a way to celebrate our Golden Wedding in 2021. We invited friends and relatives to help fund a clean water supply for a remote Nepali village in East Rukum. We are delighted to have raised around £3,500, meeting the total cost of the work.



Russell and Gill Ashley-Smith

Cycling challenge complete



Josh Andrewartha completed a series of sponsored bike rides for OA over last summer, and raised £90.

Josh's sponsorship will help provide healthy nutrition (nutritious snacks for 60 children) and rural healthcare, which helps save lives and promote good health in remote, rural parts of Nicaragua. For more on Josh's rides, see the Youth page.



Covering the miles

Having proposed the C-Sixty Challenge I was honour bound to volunteer to take part! Several options became apparent to me, but I settled on, 'Nigel's Walks' aiming to walk 60 miles to raise funds for projects which benefitted children most directly.

Eventually, I managed eight walks and accrued the miles. One was almost 11 miles long, and for the final one I only needed just over one mile to complete the 60. My

grandson, Dan, accompanied me when he was available and my wife, Brenda, walked at Chartwell to end the Challenge.

Nigel's sponsorship of £159.10 will be allocated as follows:

Educational Materials (x4) supporting 8 students for one year.

Girls' School Uniform (x5) providing dresses and shoes for 10 girls.

Healthy Nutrition (x2) giving nutritious snacks to 60 children for one month.

Sports Coaching (x2) enabling 20 children to learn from the sport of cricket.

Girls' School Uniform (x5) providing dresses and shoes for 10 girls (a partial contribution).

To find these and other Presents

go to: <https://operationagri.org.uk/product-category/presents-with-a-purpose/all-gifts/>

Thank you for your sponsorship of all of us.

Nigel Jones



Response Form

I want to support the work of Operation Agri:

- ☐ I enclose a personal gift towards the work of Operation Agri £
- ☐ I enclose a cheque / postal order / CAF charity voucher to the value above made payable to Operation Agri
(Please cross out words that do not apply).
- ☐ I enclose a gift from our church / organisation towards the work of Operation Agri
£
- ☐ I enclose a cheque / postal order / CAF charity voucher to the value above made payable to Operation Agri
(Please cross out words that do not apply).

Please send me the free 'Outreach Abroad' magazine by post every 3 months **Yes / No**

Please send me the Operation Agri email newsletter **Yes / No**

BLOCK CAPITALS please:

Full Name: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Rev / Dr:

Church or Organisation and Position (If applicable):

Address 1:

Address 2:

Town/City:

County:

Post Code:

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate to Operation Agri.

Gift Aid can be reclaimed by Operation Agri from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must complete the information below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ and any donations I make in the future
or have made in the past 4 years to:

Name of Charity: **Operation Agri**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of
Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title: First name or initial(s):

Surname:

Full Home address:

Postcode

Signature:

Date

Please notify Operation Agri if you

- ☐ want to cancel this declaration, ☐ change your name or home address,
☐ no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you
must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to
adjust your tax code.

Please detach this Response Form from the magazine and send to:

The Administrator, Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX

A photocopy of this form is acceptable. Scanned copies or other images may be emailed to:

admin@operationagri.uk

giftaid it

Standing Order Form

To support Operation Agri regularly by standing order, please complete the details below, in BLOCK CAPITALS

My Bank Details

To The Manager:

Bank Name: _____

Bank Address 1: _____

Bank Address 2: _____

Town/City: _____

County: _____

Post Code: _____

Sort Code: - - -

Account No: _____

Account Name: _____

Please pay to Operation Agri at: Bank of Scotland PLC, Edinburgh, PO Box 1000, BX2 1LB

Sort Code: **80-22-60**

Account No: **20935768**

The sum of £

Starting Date ____/____/____ and every Month / Quarter / Year until further notice from me in writing.

This order is in addition to / replaces my previous instructions to the charity.

(Please cross out words that do not apply).

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Please detach this Standing Order and Response Form from the magazine and send to:

The Administrator, Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX

A photocopy copy of this form is acceptable. Scanned copies or other images may be emailed to:

admin@operationagri.org.uk

Other Ways to Give

Gifts to Operation Agri may be made online: www.operationagri.org.uk/donate



GDPR We have procedures to keep your personal information secure.

We comply with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

We never sell your data and we will never share it with another company or charity for marketing purposes.

We only share data where we are required to do so by law.

Legacies

Please remember Operation Agri in your will. Many projects have been funded from legacies.

For guidance please ask the Administrator.

Operation Agri is registered in England and Wales as a charity, No. 1189098

