

Outreach Abroad

OPERATION AGRI'S MAGAZINE



1961-2024



40 Service

Touching Lives...

...unities...

PRESSURE
SPRAYER

PRESSURE
SPRAYER

SRI LANKA:
Developing
organic
farming
methods

UGANDA:
Literacy opens
doors for
employment

Supporting
rural and urban
development
projects in
Christ's name



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AGRI
Christian love in action

NEW YEAR 2024



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

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Cover image: LEADS with the support of Operation Agri has provided a pressure sprayer to boost organic farming methods in Sri Lanka

Welcome
from the Editor

Empowerment

Empowerment: a definition 'the process of becoming stronger and more confident'. That theme runs through the projects presented in this edition of *Outreach Abroad*. More than that, it is one of the guiding principles behind every project supported by your gifts to Operation Agri.

Without your generosity many individuals, families and communities would remain weak, fearful, and unable to become the people God made them to be. 'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'

Ephesians 2:10

Thank you,

Nigel.

NigelJones@operationagri.org.uk



Communities learn to meet challenges together

Sulekha Thapa looks at how Oasis India is bringing positive change and transformation for families living in a Mumbai slum

Continued from the October 2023 edition of Outreach Abroad

A very difficult, recent, challenge, touched on in the last edition, is the demolition of more than 500 homes in the Kalwa East area of Mumbai. The authorities argue this action is necessary for safety, for protecting the environment, for protecting precious forests and natural habitats, or planned developments, but in the short term this demolition is leading to the displacement of already marginalised populations, raising critical humanitarian concerns. There is a complex interplay between urban development and environmental conservation, with local government grappling with the delicate balance between urban development and the rights of vulnerable communities. These 500 families, or more than 2000 individuals, now face homelessness, displacement and relocation, emotional distress, loss of livelihood, disruption

to education, health and sanitation challenges, and increased vulnerability.

With the above challenge in mind Oasis India's Community Empowerment Project (jointly funded by Operation Agri) witnessed a dedicated effort to improve the quality of life for community members, tackling issues such as inadequate infrastructure, access to clean water, sanitation facilities, safety and security, and healthcare services. By mobilising resources and building strategic partnerships, community members actively worked towards finding sustainable solutions.

Networking and Partnership

Networking, and partnerships with job placement agencies, played a crucial role in connecting trained individuals with suitable job opportunities. The project

collaborated with employment agencies, local businesses, and industries to facilitate job placements and internships for community members who had completed vocational training programmes. Additionally, career counselling and guidance sessions were organized to help individuals explore various career paths, develop job search skills, and create effective resumes and portfolios.

The project has also collaborated with vocational skills training providers to offer tailored training programmes. These programmes encompassed a wide range of vocational skills, such as training to be an electrician, air conditioning technician, hotel manager, IT operative and beautician.

Strengthening community cohesion

One of the objectives of the project is to strengthen community cohesion and foster a sense of belonging. Through various community-building activities, such as monthly meetings, cultural events, and sports practices and tournaments, individuals were given opportunities to connect with one another and build strong relationships. These efforts have not only bridged gaps between different social groups, but have also created a collective spirit that promotes solidarity and mutual support.

The formation of two Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Kalwa East Community is a heartening tale of resilience and empowerment. These groups have become catalysts for positive change, providing economic, social, and emotional support to their members and their families. Through collective efforts, SHGs are sowing the



seeds of transformation in the lives of women and communities.

Enhancing healthcare services

The project worked towards enhancing healthcare services within the community. Collaborations with healthcare providers were established to ensure the availability of primary healthcare facilities, vaccination programmes, and health awareness sessions. Community health workers were involved to provide basic healthcare services and education. By prioritising healthcare, the project aimed to improve the over-all well-being and quality of life of community members. 250 families in the community were provided with a nutritious meal to enhance their general health.

Advocacy and social justice

The fourth year of the community empowerment project is witnessing a heightened focus on advocacy and social justice. Community members actively



◀ Oasis: sports activity for girls

“

Tackling issues such as inadequate infrastructure, access to clean water, sanitation facilities, safety and security, and healthcare services.

engage in addressing systemic issues, advocating for policies that promote equality and justice. Collaborations with local authorities and like-minded organisations are established to tackle issues such as housing, human rights, access to education, gender equality, and the inclusion of marginalized populations.

Future interventions and initiatives

The empowerment of local leadership, strengthening of social infrastructure, promotion of sustainable livelihoods, enhanced healthcare services, environmental conservation, and social inclusion remain integral to the project's vision for a vibrant and thriving community. Recognising the urgency of climate change

and its impact on communities, eco-conscious initiatives will be launched in the future. These include tree planting drives, waste management workshops, and awareness campaigns on cleanliness and sanitation. There will also be prevention rallies on the issues of human trafficking. By instilling a sense of environmental responsibility, the project aims to create a greener and healthier community.

At the heart of the project will be the objective of fostering collaboration and encouraging active participation among community members. Monthly/quarterly meetings, focus groups, and open forums will provide platforms for individuals to voice their concerns, share ideas, and actively contribute to decision-making processes.

The last three years of the Community Empowerment Project showcased the profound impact of education on transforming lives and communities. Through its dedication to improving infrastructure, providing access to quality education, promoting holistic development, engaging the community, promoting sustainable livelihoods, enhancing healthcare services, and environmental conservation, the project has laid the groundwork for a brighter future. As the project moves forward, it will continue to build upon these achievements, fostering resilience, unity, and sustainable growth within the community.



Sulekha Thapa



Nepal

Trustee: Martin

Project name: CHEST Ghusel

Handing over for sustainability

**MCDS – Multipurpose
Community Development
Service**

PRAYER REQUEST:

As the three-year project in Ghusel village enters its final stage give thanks for the impact that has been made and pray that the income generation activities will be sustained and grow.

Nepal

Trustee: Martin

Project name: CHEP
Mahatgaun

**Health and education in a
remote village**

**MCDS – Multipurpose
Community Development
Service**

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray that the project team from MCDS will be able to work well with local people as they establish the activities of this new three-year project, and that these activities will be appropriate for the needs of the community.

Pakistan

Trustee: Martin

Project name: Women's
Literacy Centres

**Uplifting women with literacy
and skills training**

Light for the Nations

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray for the women's groups, leaders, and tutors as they continue courses on adult literacy and beauty skills. Pray that group members will continue to grow in confidence and the ability to earn their own income.

India

Trustee: Jerry

Project name: Community
Empowerment Project,
Kalwa East, Mumbai

**Empowering the urban poor
Oasis India**

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray for the success of the educational programmes, vocational training, sports activities, and awareness sessions. Ask for God's blessing on every activity and for positive impacts on the lives of the community members.

Sri Lanka

Trustee: Jerry

Project name: Enhancing the
Economies of Vulnerable
Communities and
protection of children in
Killinochchi District

**Vulnerable People –
More Marginalised**

**Lanka Evangelical Alliance
Development Service
(LEADS)**

PRAYER REQUEST:

Please pray for the LEADS team as they work with the vulnerable population who have been tipped into poverty, with poverty rates estimated to have doubled to 25% between 2021 and 2022.

Nicaragua

Trustee: Russell

Project name: Community
Based Primary Healthcare
Activities

**Mums and their sick babies
AMOS (A Ministry Of
Sharing)**

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray that lives will continue to be saved as Health Promoters in remote villages treat sick babies and refer difficult cases

to government hospitals. Praise God for the programme run by our partners AMOS.

Uganda

Trustee: Carin

Project name: SDKF Vocational Training

Growing food, imparting skills

SDKF – Setting

Development and

Keeping the Foundations

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray that all the current students will be kept healthy so they will be able to acquire the skills they are taught. Also pray for good rains so that the maize, planted to feed the new students from Buyende, will grow well.

Zambia

Trustee: Jane

Project name: Nyampande Organic Farmers Project (NOFP)

Organic farming

APF (African Pastors

Fellowship)

PRAYER REQUEST:

Please pray for this new project that will help farmers cope with climate change and the increased cost of imports. There have begun to be efforts mobilising farmers to attend training in compost making and associated skills.

UGANDA

Trustee: Jane

Project name: WALP Women's Adult Literacy Project

Capacity building through literacy

Baptist Union of Uganda

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for the dedication of the teachers who are willing to travel further on rough tracks to reach the new groups. Pray for the 'students' as they use their new skills.

Uganda

Trustee: Jane

Project name: SAFI Sustainable Agriculture Farming Initiatives

Building farm businesses

Baptist Union of Uganda

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks that Phase K1 is completed in Kyegegwa. Pray that these farmers will continue to benefit from newly learned skills. Pray for Joseph as he starts teaching new groups of farmers in Phase K2.

Tanzania

Trustee: Jane

Project name: IMARIKA

Community development

Emmanuel International and Diocese of Ruaha

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks that new villages are being reached

with the training. Pray for the existing groups as they establish new enterprises based on the knowledge they acquired through the IMARIKA programme.

Malawi

Trustee: Jane

Project name: Growing Greener

Sustainable Farming

APF (African Pastors Fellowship)

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray for the training starting in 25 new communities. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity for Lloyd and his trainers so they can introduce the new ideas in an acceptable manner. Give thanks for a good replacement harvest for crops destroyed by the cyclone.

Tanzania

Trustee: Jane

Project name: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Unity, training and rain

Farming Partnership Initiative (FPI)

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray for the Farming Partnership Initiative team to work as one. Pray that the farmers in Phase 7 will apply what they are taught, also pray for weather, there is still a shortage of rain.



Healing hearts and rebuilding lives

Nargus Azhar looks at the important work LFTN is doing to bring Christians and Muslims together

Last August extremists in Faisalabad, Pakistan, targeted Christians, destroying 25 churches, displacing 300 families, and leaving 2,000 people homeless amidst blasphemy allegations. Families sought refuge in the fields, enduring three days of hunger, fear, and trauma.

Light for the Nation Trust, (LFTN) rose to serve humanity for their persecuted brothers and sisters. Men, women, children, and the elderly, all bore the scars of relentless trauma. The path to rebuilding shattered lives and dreams would be long and arduous.

The haunting image of burning homes etched itself into our souls. Then, like a beacon in the darkest night, LFTN discovered a flicker of hope.

Compassion

Stories started emerging of Muslim

neighbours offering shelter when mobs thirsted for blood. These neighbours stood as guardians, defending Christians against the tide of violence. However, sadly, as a consequence, the houses and families of some Muslim neighbours were also damaged.

Fuelled by compassion, LFTN extended support to both Christian and Muslim brothers and sisters, providing essential items such as food, hygiene, and household supplies to all without discrimination.

“**... LFTN extended support to both Christian and Muslim brothers and sisters, providing essential items such as food, hygiene, and household supplies to all without discrimination.**”

▲ Girls receiving sewing training certificates, Bibles, prayer cards and sewing machines at their graduation ceremony

This year LFTN stands on the cusp of celebrating a decade of unwavering service to humanity. LFTN is a non-profit organisation. Our vision is to create an environment where everyone lives with dignity and respect, and to facilitate and to educate the marginalised.

A bridge

In the future, LFTN aspires to serve as a bridge between these two communities, endeavouring to create an atmosphere of peace within their homeland, mirroring their ongoing efforts in the Kasur district of Punjab following the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs).

LFTN, through various projects, tirelessly serves humanity without discrimination. The female empowerment initiative invites Muslim sisters to participate in sewing, adult education, and beauty training centres. As women and girls from different communities spend time together, friendships blossom, and their perspectives shift, ushering in a positive transformation within society.

To attain the SDGs of response, consumption and production, along with life on land, women at our centres collectively focus on recycling old clothes and plastic materials, transforming the seemingly useless into beautiful decorations and useful items. The spirit of sharing and cooperation makes these centres beacons of love, peace, and harmony. They offer women and girls livelihood opportunities and social and economic protection.

10 years of service

Over the past decade, LFTN has positively impacted 9,206 individuals under the umbrella of these SDG's. LFTN is providing food and hygiene assistance, sewing training, beauty training, advocacy training, facilitating medical services to set people free from brick-kiln slavery, and support them to establish small scale businesses. Through adult literacy centres, educating children through LFTN schools, and providing emergency support we have empowered 2,051 girls. ▶



Ayesha

Ayesha Shaukat Ali, a Muslim student, aspired to become a beautician despite financial challenges. Some discouraged her, citing potential discrimination due to her religion. However, she ignored the warnings and enrolled, discovering a supportive, discrimination-free environment. Ayesha also learned about the true nature of

Christianity, dispelling her misconceptions. Today, she's living her dream, running a small home-based beauty parlour, and providing financial support to her family.

She is now a living witness in her community. She proudly teaches to her people that Christians are very different from what they imagine. She has told them that Christians really love and respect humanity.

In all these efforts we not only serve our Christian brothers and sisters, but also Muslim brothers and sisters.

Girls are getting beautician skills without discrimination under the guidance of Sumaira ►

Sahar

Sahar's world crumbled when her mother abandoned her family, leaving them in hunger, depression, sorrow, and loneliness. Education became a distant dream. In her early years she took responsibility for her siblings. She was depressed and wanted to change her circumstances. She wanted to get rid of the poverty and hunger that caused her mother to leave. Determined, Sahar joined the sewing centre to share her father's financial burden and fuel her educational dreams. Through sewing, she discovered a path to success. Today, Sahar not only pursues her education but also has different sewing assignments, which are her earning source. With the support of teachers, friends, and neighbours, her sewing and crochet creations find homes in different corners of Kasur. She aspires to enter the market. She has found a beacon of hope.



Sahar sewing



Sumaira

Sumaira, completed her beauty training at the LFTN beauty training centre, supported by Operation Agri, before she married. Sadly, she became a victim of domestic violence after her marriage, and her husband abandoned her and their children to remarry. Homeless and unsupported she fought alone against sexual harassment, abuse, and the taunts of society. She became a cursed woman in society because of her broken family. Today, Sumaira runs a parlour, she is a trainer, and earns enough to meet her children's basic needs. She inspires other girls to learn valuable skills for a brighter future. She also said that she is very thankful to Operation Agri for providing such a valuable skill, and is no longer a victim but a victor and a role model for other girls because of her beautician skills.

Editor's note: Operation Agri fully funds the centres but Nargus coordinates the whole work using other funders.



Nargus Azhar

Youth Page

In the previous issue of *Outreach Abroad* Josh signed off as the author of this page.

The trustees of Operation Agri are truly grateful to him for his faithful service which has spanned five years.

That's 20 pages!

In those pages Josh challenged you with *Presents with a Purpose*, gave personal testimony to his link with Uganda and brought you opportunities to think and pray for the projects.

Is this a calling you need to test out?

If you are in your teens or early twenties, have a good capability with the English language and, most importantly, a Christian passion for the project work, please let me know.

NigelJones@OperationAgri.org.uk

Pakistan – Light for the Nations

Light for the Nations teaches women from a Brick Kiln village to read. These families are among the poorest people in Pakistan. Many are Christians and long to read the Bible. They also need to read documents to be sure they are correct and genuine!

Uganda – Women's Adult Literacy Project

In Uganda, many women missed out on school, and never learned to read. The Women's Adult Literacy Project makes a real difference to these women, who learn the reading, writing and numeracy skills others learnt at home, and in primary school.

Your Year Ahead?

Visit *Presents with a Purpose* to give the gift of literacy as a Birthday, Anniversary or Congratulations present to family or friends:

<https://operationagri.org.uk/presents-with-a-purpose/>



- ◀ Top left: Carting grain at harvest time
- ▶ Flynn helping a sickly calf to get on its feet

How does theology impact *farming?*

Flynn Duane – studying Global Agriculture and Food Security at Edinburgh University – delves into the relationship between farming and Christianity

Farming's Place in the World

Basic economics teaches that, 'Agriculture is the foundation of all sedentary civilisation'. Our lives are intimately tied to its products, its practices, and its people. Agriculture is more than mere food *production*; and possibly more than just another factory conveyor belt with raw materials at one end and the finished product at the other. Rather, agriculture is a cultural, philosophical, political, economic, and theological phenomenon.

How we treat our land has wide-reaching implications for all of creation and all people living within it. Indeed, the state of our landscape is also a key indicator of our cultural proclivities, our political

allegiances, and the philosophical or theological schools we follow.

We see this in history – the rise and fall of kingdoms and empires, the emergence and decline of particular peoples and cultures, their beliefs and the evolution of how they view themselves within God's creation. One doesn't have to look far to see that the treatment of the land takes root in overriding theological and cultural dispositions. Noteworthy are the early monastic gardens, which valued self-sufficiency and direct contact with the land as a natural outworking of their theologies. Later, the spread of protestant movements and their convictions, pertaining to work and political autonomy, had an extensive impact on the land, especially in the

Americas. Whether this is actively sung or unsung within a particular theology, there always exists an ethic (an outworking) of ecological practice arising from philosophy and theology.

Christianity within farming

This is then true also of British people, in British farming, and of farmers worldwide. Since leaving secondary school I've worked around the agricultural industry in the UK and have been captivated by its unique ability to leave its profound impact on me.

I have always been concerned about ecology. Growing up as an atheist in a fairly urbanised area, I had a deep longing to preserve and restore what I referred to as 'the natural world'. I mourned the destruction of ancient forests, the pollution of our rivers and oceans, and the changing of our climate. This mourning, however, often took the form of a deep-seated anger at fellow mankind and became quickly a spiteful dichotomy presenting man versus nature. When I first came to Christ, I was confronted with the falsehood of such beliefs. That is to say, it is when you are confronted by the truth in the Bible, you can only see that mankind is an inherent part of creation, set apart as a steward, to 'tend' the land (Gen 2:15) and therefore to bear responsibility for all the creatures that live on it (Gen 1:26).



... early monastic gardens valued self-sufficiency and direct contact with the land as a natural outworking of their theologies.

This view helps me to navigate a world that is quickly becoming polarised. In Britain, movements against traditional agriculture, such as rewilding, tend to embody these polarising views, with the notion that certain land should remain uninhabited and untouched. When man is presented as the problem, that only leaves room for his removal from the land as the solution. This principle, I have since realised not only tends to exclude people from the land, but also paradoxically maintains a mankind-dominated landscape as the land is still manipulated for particular biodiversity benefits or climate change mitigation. Rather, when his participation is regarded as a necessity, only then can responsibility be exhorted from him and any attempt at ecological harmony be synthesised.

Operation Agri understands this well. Its projects focus on the inclusion of people in the landscape, whilst focussing on the key issues affecting the people at the local level. This is particularly prominent in its supported projects around the globe, of which empowerment is championed and locally specific solutions identified. This is how Christ functions as the foundation for good land stewardship, by recognising the vital nature of mankind's role in order to truly support families, builds communities, and protect cultures as a way of promoting God's creation.

Flynn Duane

Editor's note: We met Flynn Duane at Heathfield Agricultural Show and he kept in touch with us whilst studying. In this article, written for this magazine, he draws parallels between his experiences and the work of Operation Agri. A second instalment will appear in the next edition.

Organic farming gets a boost in Sri Lanka

Shadrach Manoj explains how LEADS is helping farmers embrace organic methods

Sri Lanka has a well-known history for producing an abundance of crops. In the ancient past, Sri Lanka was often referred to as the 'Granary of the East'. The food demand was high because of the increasing population, which made farmers use chemical fertilisers to get a high yield.

Chemical fertilisers banned

Knowing the importance of Organic Farming, in 2019, the President banned chemical fertilisers. As the farmers were not ready for this unplanned change our country went into a food crisis where we had to import food. The initiative which the President took made the people look towards organic farming methods for growing vegetables and fruits. They decided to do this because of the benefits of organic farming, and because of increasing demand for the export of organically grown products.

Working together

LEADS, (Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Services), with the support of Operation Agri, was able to introduce organic farming in Kilinochchi district. We have supported the beneficiaries by giving technical knowledge and livelihood support to organic farming. In addition to this we conducted Child

Protection awareness programmes, formed youth clubs and savings clubs, nutrition awareness and family wellbeing workshops.

In Sri Lanka most annual food production units grow two crops per year in seasons determined by the monsoons. Looking back at past years this routine has been disturbed because of Global Warming. We experience rain, floods and drought in the off seasons. Crops get drowned and destroyed because of floods. The minerals in the sand wash away with the rushing water. So, the farmers have to prepare the land again from the beginning for farming. The unexpected drought causes the plants to wither and lose their vibrancy. The fruits and vegetables become dehydrated, causing them to lose weight and making it difficult to sell them at the expected price. The Farmers find it challenging to plan their financial budget because of these, very possible, natural disasters.

Induja's story

LEADS chose Induja, who is one of our beneficiaries, to establish our model farm. We supported her by giving her a water tank, sprinkler set and seeds. Her father used old technical methods to farm. So, it was easy for Induja and her family to adopt organic farming techniques. She has



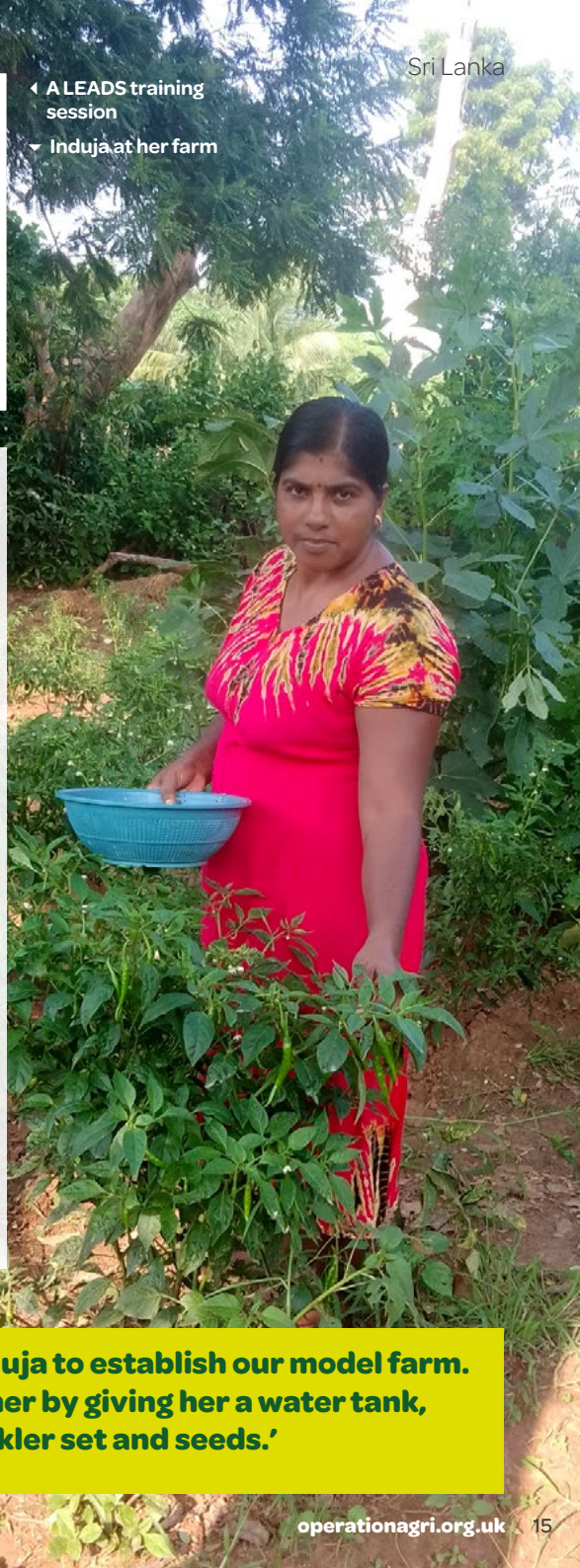
- ◀ A LEADS training session
- ▼ Induja at her farm

the support of her father, mother and husband to become a farmer. She has conducted training sessions for twenty beneficiaries on preparing composted fertiliser. Induja says because of unexpected rain her onion plants were drowned and destroyed recently. During the drought season she uses the sprinkler to water the plants. She had a concern about her monthly electricity charges because the government increases it often. She said that she earns LKR* 10,000 to 15,000, (about £25–£37), as an income on the seasonal periods and LKR 6,000 to 7,000, (about £15–£17), on off seasons. Induja and her family are really happy to be a part of this project. She says, 'I am happy to produce nontoxic vegetables and fruits for my villagers and my family.'

* LKR = Sri Lankan Rupee



Shadrach Manoj



“

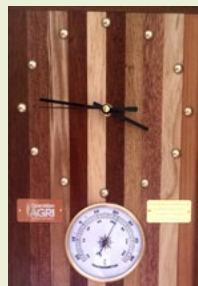
... LEADS chose Induja to establish our model farm. We supported her by giving her a water tank, sprinkler set and seeds.'

Faithful *service*

Russell Ashley-Smith receives a fitting tribute

Last year we reported that, after many faithful years of service as a Trustee, and Chair of Trustees of Operation Agri, Russell Ashley-Smith had stood down from the role of Chair of Trustees.

Wishing to mark his significant contribution to OA over many years, a clock was commissioned from Theo Lambourne who produces magnificent items from reclaimed or recycled wood. The beautiful clock he crafted was assembled from ten selected woods, including mahogany from an old bed, meranti from a friend, and iroko from a school lab. Stan Crees, our longest serving Trustee, and Nigel Jones, our current Chair of Trustees, presented the timepiece to Russell on behalf of the Trustees. We continue to give thanks to God for Russell's leadership and his continued active service as a Trustee.



Brighton Marathon Weekend

Operation Agri has three places for runners in the Brighton Marathon on Sunday 7 April 2024.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in running in the marathon, and would be ready to use this as an opportunity to raise funds for Operation Agri, please contact Jo Jackson at: admin@operationagri.org.uk

To find out more about Operation Agri follow the link operationagri.org.uk

Social media

Active on these channels but not yet seen the Operation Agri output? Just click a button below if you're viewing the magazine on-line.



If you are reading the printed magazine, find a device and go to: operationagri.org.uk then click on the icons.

By the way: we want to refresh our LinkedIn account. If you have experience in this area and are happy to give us a little time each month to update our page, please let me know:

NigeJones@operationagri.org.uk

NEW! OA FREEPOST address

Postal address

The Freepost mailing system from within the UK is working well. Thank you to everyone who has made the switch. A reminder to anyone still needing to change from the Palmers Green address please use: Freepost OPERATION AGRI (and no stamp!).

Bank Account

If you do not have this Operation Agri bank account in your personal or organisation's system Sort Code: 80-22-60, Account No: 20935768 please make the change now. Thank you.



In your Will...

Most of the bequests that come to us arrive as a complete surprise, but are tinged with

some sadness as it means a faithful and generous supporter has received their home-call. We can't budget for these gifts but, when we receive them, we are able to attend to something that is not in the annual budget, or they enable us to support a project we previously thought not possible.

If you would like to consider this way of supporting Operation Agri please go to the last two pages of this magazine, complete the sections as necessary, email the form to our Administrator Jo Jackson, admin@operationagri.org.uk, (or use the Freepost OPERATION AGRI option), then include Operation Agri in your Will. Thank you.

Calling potential trustees



A Trustee's job is to steer the right course while the employees do the daily work such as checking the bank accounts, contacting supporters, and designing advertising materials.

The role of a Trustee of Operation Agri is a voluntary one where we each take a responsibility and discharge it in what we call our 'free time'. Most of us are retired, but those who are still in employment have become adept at using their time to great effect. The use of voluntary Trustees in this way increases the percentage of your donations which go in grants to the projects.

We currently have ten Trustees, but there is always room for more people with a wide spectrum of skills and abilities to join this ministry to some of the world's poorest people. You may have a capability we don't currently have which could be put to great service. Alternatively, you may be able to take on a shadowing role, being ready to step up to cover for holiday or sickness. The role of Trustee carries legal responsibilities, but we also have other supporting roles which do not have these legal responsibilities.

[Please email me for more information:](mailto:NigelJones@operationagri.org.uk)
NigelJones@operationagri.org.uk

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV) *'A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.'*

Literacy: a vital lifeline enabling *women to work*

Joy Ahurra highlights the challenges of climate change, and being unable to read and write, for women in Uganda

Our Women's Adult Literacy Project (WALP) provides adult literacy

in the Kyenjojo district of Western Uganda. A basic level of reading, writing, calculation, and livelihood empowerment skills are taught. The training is conducted in 12 centres with 370 women. We are so glad, this year, that six new centres were opened. With this expansion women – who turn up in big numbers – will be attending classes without walking long distances.

Oliver, aged 46, a woman from the Kyankuta village says, 'I am a bread earner for my family of eight. Getting what to eat was always a struggle. With no capital and no business knowledge, I had given up in life. I took care of my children and grandchildren after my husband passed away. This is when I heard of WALP from a neighbour. Joining WALP has changed everything. Now I am able to read and write and I have a business of my own.'

I buy food from the farms in my village and resell it in the local market. I don't put in much transport costs, as I use my head to take the food to the market. With the profits I get, I use them to pay school fees for my grandchildren and we eat the surplus of the food from the market.'

The project team is comprised of seven trainers who ensure that women are trained every week in reading, writing and numeracy, both in Rutooro, (a language of Western Uganda), and English.



Mary, 32, is a seamstress. She says, 'I am so happy to have this opportunity to be

“ ... I don't put in much transport costs, as I use my head to take the food to the market.

in class again after being hopeless for so long. I believe many doors will be opened and my business will change for the best. Previously I could not communicate with customers who didn't know the local language. Meaning I would miss out on those customers, now I am able to speak with my customers and I translate in my local church from Rutooro to English.'

Every woman is visited in her home to see whether what she learns is practised in her home. During these visits, trainers offer a hand to help either in the garden or in the construction of animal houses. Women are given assessments to monitor their progress in their training.

Beatrice Banura 42, comments, 'I never went to school because my parents didn't find value in educating girls. So, I was married off at a very young age. I

work in the tea plantation now and had difficulty writing my name and signing for my salary. Since I joined WALP I am able to read and write my name with ease.'

The team continues to visit the villages through the local leaders. They meet local leaders, and other members of the community, to tell them about the literacy programme and why it's in their village. Through these meetings, more women

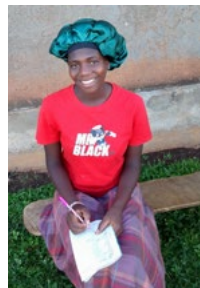


joined the literacy classes.

The vital importance of literacy is underlined by Carolyn Kemigisa, 25, who lost her job because she couldn't read and write. She says, 'After struggling to find a job as a cook little did I know that I would lose it because I didn't know English. I was cooking for managers in a tea plantation, but communicating with them was a problem since I didn't know English. That's how I lost my job where I was getting money to cater for my child. Now I am studying English and hope to reapply for the same job.'

As well as opportunities to learn to read and write, climate change proportionally affects women more than men. Women are significantly at a higher risk of experiencing the negative effects of climate change because of their widespread reliance on the natural environment. Climate change will threaten the livelihood of women farmers and this is particularly evident as the seasons change because women use resources around them, as they are easily accessed and cheap. The food security of their families and the communities they live in will be threatened too, which will lead to increased poverty and hunger. The vulnerability of women to climate change makes it even more important that they have literacy skills, which will help them find work and secure food for their families.

Joy Ahurra



Children's

Page

By Janet - a
good friend of
OA

Fill in the missing letters (only vowels needed):
cl_m_t ch_ng_s wh_n
th_r_s _ ch_ng_n th_typ_c_l
w_th_fr_r_g_n — such_s_h_g
_nd_lw_tmp_r_trs_nd_n the_
_m_nt_fr_w_fll — _vr_lng
p_r_d_ft_m_. Sc_nt_sts_h_v_e_f_nd
th_t,_vr_ll,the_rth_s_w_r_m_ng.
Th_s_r_s_n_g_l_b_l_t_m_p_r_t_r_e_s
s_m_t_m_s_c_l_l_d_g_l_b_l_w_r_m_ng.
Th_s_s_c_n_e_r_n_fr_p_r_t_n
_gr's_p_r_t_n_r_s:h_w_t_g_r_w_c_r_p_s_n
_ch_ng_ng_c_l_m_t_.

What will you do to help slow global warming?

Tick everything you plan to do:

1. Walk or cycle more
2. Turn off unnecessary lights
3. Avoid wasting water
4. Use a re-usable water bottle
5. Recycle paper, cans and bottles
6. Grow insect and bee loving plants

Anything else you plan to do?

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to support the work of Operation Agri
by standing order

Helped by
LEADS, Induja
is using organic
farming methods



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Bank address

Postcode

Sort Code - - Account No

Account name

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Sort Code: 80-22-60 Account No: 20935768

The sum of £

Starting date

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

(Please cross out words that do not apply)

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Date

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