

Outreach Abroad

OPERATION AGRI'S MAGAZINE

UGANDA: Tailoring training in Kampala



1961-2024



Supporting
rural and urban
development
projects in
Christ's name

NICARAGUA Health care in remote rural locations



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SPRING 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: Uganda, SDKF vocational skills training

Welcome
from the Editor

Income generation

Operation Agri's ten Trustees continue to thank God for the many ways He releases resources into the vital work of tackling poverty amongst the most disadvantaged people in the world.

Regular and ad-hoc bank transfers from Harvest Festival offerings, individual supporters, *Presents with a Purpose* gifts, grant funders and legacies are some of the miraculous sources of income which we give to projects making a huge difference to many people.

Young people are equipped with employment skills, and families are trained to cultivate land in a more productive way in an earth-friendly manner.

Thank you for taking your part in God's work. Nigel.

NigelJones@operationagri.org.uk

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Donate

Zambian farmers convinced by benefits of *organic* fertiliser

Lawson Liao explains how a new initiative is prompting farmers to give up costly, imported, chemical fertilisers

Nyampande Organic Farmers' Cooperative

Operation Agri (OA) has recently started to support an agricultural project in Zambia. The 'Organic Fertiliser Farming Training project' is run by Pastor Lawson Liao of Kingdom Life Ministries. OA is partnering with the African Pastors Fellowship.

The purpose of the project is to show the advantages of locally made organic fertiliser (which is good for the environment) over costly, imported, chemical fertiliser. Practices that lead to deforestation, land degradation, soil erosion and land pollution will also be addressed.

Training

Training was given from 25th to 29th of October 2023 in the Petauke district of the Eastern Province of Zambia. Four hundred small scale local farmers were drawn from seven villages. A number of church leaders from different denominations, local Headmen and Headwomen, representatives of NGOs, (Non-Governmental Organisations), and government agronomists, observed the training.

Two groups, (one of 192 farmers and another of 208), were trained in two villages in the benefits of organic fertilisers and the dangers of chemical fertilisers.



Training session on making liquid manure

They were taught how to use local raw materials, such as animal manure, plants, and water to make organic fertiliser. The concepts seem to have been understood by those who attended.

The result has been that local village headmen and headwomen from the other parts of the chiefdom are asking to receive this training in April, so that they can prepare properly for this year's crops.

There is a map on the Children's Page (p6) which shows the location of Zambia and its neighbouring countries.

(We plan to bring you a more detailed article about this exciting project in the next, (July 2024), magazine.)

Lawson Liao

Smiles all round in Eastern Uganda



Dennis Ssettaala, from SDKF, explores how new skills are giving young people a fresh start

In 2006, SDKF started a vocational skills training centre in the slum areas of Kamwokya, in Kampala city, in order to reduce the problems faced by the young people living there. The centre offers training in tailoring and fashion designing, hairdressing and a motorcycle technician's course.

In January 2023, due to a request by the local leaders of Buyende, a district in Eastern Uganda, SDKF vocational skills training project agreed to train over 60 of their disadvantaged children/youth in vocational skills.

More than just skills training

Apart from providing skills to these young people, SDKF also provides them with accommodation and meals. We thank OA for supporting these young people with decent accommodation and funds to purchase food for the eight months they are with us. SDKF has also planted maize to reduce on the food costs and we expect to start feeding these young people from our farm grown food, starting March 2024. Our first planting of maize on our farm is now ready for harvest.



Janet's story

Janet graduated with a certificate in tailoring in September 2019. Fortunately, she got a job at a sewing business in Buyende which helps her to earn about UGX 50,000 per week (about £10.30). Her job has helped her to further develop the skills she acquired during the training. While at home local people bring her clothes for repair. Whenever she gets materials, she designs simple children's clothing to sell. This has enabled her to contribute towards the basic needs of her family, which comprises her mother, sisters, and brothers.

Betty's story

Betty Namusoke is a 21-year-old resident of Nawansaso village in Buyende. She was engaged in transactional sex in exchange for school fees while in senior school. Her parents found it very hard to



find the money to pay for her education. Her parents were peasant farmers. While in school, she was staying with a relative near the school, but this relative would not pay her school fees. In 2019, at the age of seventeen, she got pregnant and dropped out of school. She returned home to her parents and produced a baby boy. The man who got her pregnant did not offer her any support.

“ **She was engaged in transactional sex in exchange for school fees while in senior school.** ”

Being vulnerable and at high risk of acquiring HIV, a community chairperson identified her and enrolled her on to the SDKF Vocational Skills hairdressing programme in February 2022.

In September 2022, she completed her hairdressing course. She got a loan along with another student, who had graduated in hairdressing and started a salon. She now earns UGX 30,000, (about £6.20), on average on a good day, but that can drop to UGX 3,000, (about £0.62), on a bad day. This helps her to pay her rent of UGX 40,000 monthly, (which is about £8.23), take care of her child and is able to save UGX 25,000 per week (about £5.14).

Swazi's story

Twenty-year-old Swazi Muluga is excited about his ongoing motorcycle mechanic training at a SDKF Vocational Skills

Training Project. He is hopeful this new venture will turn his life around. Swazi says with a wide smile, 'I don't see any other means to earn a living. I plan to settle and work as a motorcycle repair technician.'

He continues, 'My father remains in Buyende. My mother died while I was still young.'

The struggle to survive pushed him to join a six-month training scheme in repairing motorcycles at SDKF.

'Back home, I had no single skill and did not go to school,' he says. Due to the effects of poverty, Swazi says his father could not afford to educate him, 'I did digging work for people to get what I could to eat.' It's now three months since he enrolled for the training. He explains, 'I have learnt to replace the clutches for the motorcycles and adjust the chain.'

He is optimistic that the training will make him and others, who have benefitted from the programme, economic actors in their communities as they integrate into the labour market.

Dennis Ssettaala

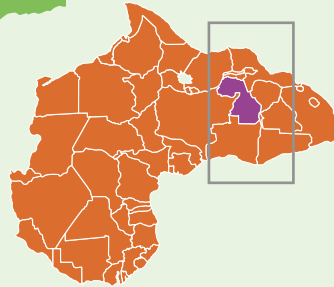
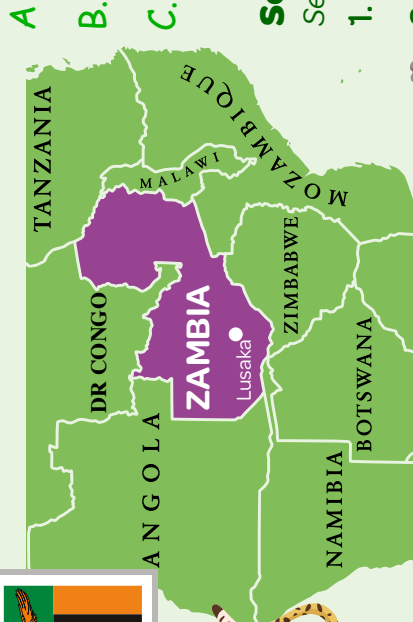
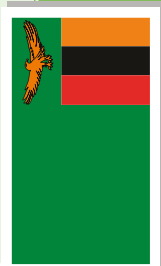


Children's

Page

By Janet –
a good friend of OA

Operation Agri has started to support a new project in Zambia. Below is a map showing where the country is in Africa, its surrounding countries, and the Zambian flag.

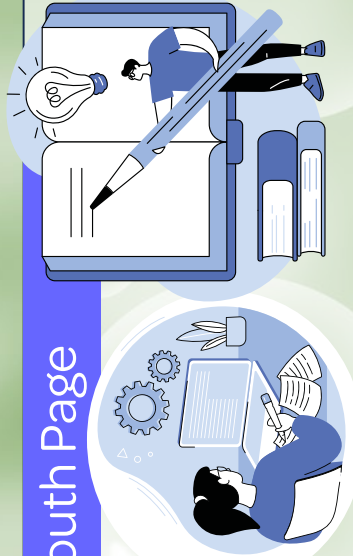


Some questions about Zambia

See pictures for question 4

1. How many people live in Zambia ?
2. Do you know the capital of Zambia?
3. Can you name the waterfall on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe?
4. Can you name the pictured animals that live in Zambia?

Youth Page



CALLING ALL WOULD-BE WRITERS!

We still have a need for someone to take over writing the Youth Page

THE WORKLOAD: about three hours, once a quarter.

THE SKILLS: good grasp of the English language.

THE MOTIVATION: keenness to share with other young people.

CALLING:

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

YOUR YEAR AHEAD ?

Do you need something a little different to support a project you are preparing? Operation Agri works with local Christian partners in ten countries to help grow food, increase incomes, teach skills and empower women and much more that could provide a fascinating addition to a piece of coursework for school. Or is there a voluntary project you are working on with Scouts or Guides or a resource that could contribute to a Duke of Edinburgh award?

Whatever your need, Operation Agri may be able to provide you with background information or other helpful resources. Do please contact us so that we can assist you. In turn, we might be able to feature the resource you develop in our promotional materials.

GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITIES

Looking further ahead – talk to us about the possibility of visiting a project as part of your gap year. We may have just the right opportunity for you.

Please email your interest to our Administrator, Jo.

admin@OperationAgri.org.uk



PRAYER we invite you to pray

Sow righteousness, reap love. It's time to till the ready earth, it's time to dig in with GOD. Until he arrives with righteousness ripe for harvest. HOSEA 10:12 THE MESSAGE

Nepal

Project name: CHEST Ghusel

Partner: MCDS – Multipurpose

Community Development Service

Handing Over for Sustainability

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

Project name: CHEP Mahatgaun

Partner: MCDS – Multipurpose

Community Development Service

Health and Education in a Remote Village

PRAYER REQUEST: Pray that the MCDS Team will build good relationships as they continue to develop the capacity building of local groups in this remote location. Pray for safety in travel as Team Members walk around the project area and especially on the dirt road that links it to the rest of Nepal.

Pakistan

Project name: Women's Literacy Centres

Partner: Light for the Nations

Providing Women with Literacy

PRAYER REQUEST: Give thanks for the work of this project over the last five years of Operation Agri support.

Pray for Nargus Azhar as she coordinates the multiple Women's Groups and their different situations. Pray for women who have graduated from the courses, that they will be able to establish or find ongoing work, and the income they need to feed and provide for their families.

India

Project name: Community Empowerment

Partner: Oasis India

Empowering the Urban Poor

PRAYER REQUEST: Pray for the project team as they plan interventions in a new project area called Waghoba Nagar. In May 2023, forest authorities conducted a large-scale demolition of houses in the community, subjecting families to numerous hardships. Residents face issues like mosquito infestations, the impacts of natural storms, and poor access to drinking water. Many families have rebuilt their houses.

Sri Lanka

Project name: Improving Economies and Protection of Children

Partner: LEADS

Vulnerable People – More Marginalised

PRAYER REQUEST: Pray for the members of the Village Child Development Committees, (VCDCs), who work on child protection and village development concerns. Pray that they will have the perception to identify the most important child centred issues and the wisdom to find workable solutions. Pray that the various capacity building workshops for the VCDC members will be effective.

Nicaragua

Project name: Community Based Primary Healthcare Activities in Nicaragua

Partner: AMOS (A Ministry Of Sharing)
Health and Hope

Community Based Primary Healthcare

PRAYER REQUEST: Pray for the team saving children who would otherwise die from preventable or treatable diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. Pray for the health of those who are health promoters in rural and remote areas where there is no doctor, no

hospital, no pharmacy, and the closest health unit might be hours away.

Give thanks for the pregnant women who give birth safely and see their children grow up healthy and thriving because of the work of AMOS.

Uganda

Project name: SDKF Vocational Training

Partner: SDKF – Setting Development and Keeping the Foundations

Growing Food, Imparting Skills

PRAYER REQUEST: Pray that each vocational teacher will be filled with wisdom and love so that they can pass on the vocational skills to the students.

Pray that the students will use the skills they have been taught to bring change to their lives and communities.

Pray that students will be excited about their studies and complete their courses successfully.

Pray that the teachers and students will be kept healthy in body and mind.

Zambia

Project name: Organic Farmers Project

Partner: APF (African Pastors Fellowship)

Organic Farming in Zambia

PRAYER REQUEST: Give thanks that many farmers received training in Compost Making.

Pray that the farmers will continue to use their training resulting in a better harvest.

Pray that many others, who now want training, will have the chance to learn these skills.

Uganda

Project name: Women's Adult Literacy Project

Partner: Baptist Union of Uganda

Capacity Building Through Literacy

PRAYER REQUEST: Pray those who 'graduated' last year, will continue to use, and build on the skills they have learnt.

Give thanks that the teaching in the new area groups is also enhancing the lives of the women who come.

Uganda

Project name: SAFI

Partner: Baptist Union of Uganda

Building Farm Businesses

PRAYER REQUEST: In Kyegegwa a new phase has started.

Pray that the new ideas taught will be understood by all the farmers.

Pray that the farmers will have the confidence to put the techniques into practice.

Pray for wisdom to know what further innovations would be successful.

Tanzania

Project name: IMARIKA

Partner: Emmanuel International and Diocese of Ruaha

Community Development in Tanzania

PRAYER REQUEST: Praise God that the work continues to be welcomed in new villages.

Pray for the team as they prepare people in the fundamentals of community work.

Give thanks that new ideas to increase well-being have been successful.

MALAWI

Project name: Growing Greener in Malawi

Partner: APF African Pastors Fellowship

Sustainable Farming in Malawi

PRAYER REQUEST: Weather events led to crops being destroyed.

Pray for protection for the project areas.

Pray that ideas to mitigate crop damage will be successful.

Pray that changing to 'winter' crop growing in the Lower Shire will result in a good harvest.

Tanzania

Project name: Tanzania

Partner: Sustainable and Rural Development

Unity, Training and Rain

PRAYER REQUEST: FPI aims to increase oilseed crops to generate economic benefits. To this end, FPI has distributed sunflower seeds to farmers. When they have grown and are harvested, the seeds will be used to produce cooking oil and the by-product will go to make livestock feed. Please pray for this venture to be successful.

Education bridges the poverty-gap for young people in Bangladesh

Shyamal Sarker outlines the huge task of building a healthy community in slum conditions

Duaripara Family Development Project, (DFDP), is a Christian Ministry to children and youth, (CMCY). It operates with funding from Operation Agri to help vulnerable slum-dwellers in Bangladesh by raising awareness of issues such as education, health, and malnutrition. Better education in these areas decreases the vulnerability of women and children to commercial and sex exploitation, trafficking, and dishonour. According to local data at Duaripara, in Dhaka, there are over 20,000 people living in unhealthy slum conditions and, therefore, at risk. They often lack access to good housing and sanitation, decent jobs, education, vocational skills training, and the safety net of the local government, since they have no proper or fixed address.

The slum environment is filthy dirty with stagnant water, which promotes the breeding of mosquitoes. Residents suffer from various water-borne diseases including blood dysentery, diarrhoea, malaria, typhoid, and jaundice. They need constant support and health awareness to stay well. CMCY is extremely grateful to Operation Agri for its generous funding for many years, which has enabled us to serve 125 girls and their families with



education, sanitation, and self-help group programmes. We also organise national and international days to promote respect and joyfulness.

CMCY expresses thanks and gratitude to Operation Agri for extending their support for another three years from 2024 to



◀ Duaripara street scene

▼ Girls from the project education centre walking home at the end of the day

to excel in their education and avoid dropping out of school. The project offers educational coaching and materials for the girls to access. DFDP organises creative classes, and Bengali and English club activities, to help girls pronounce words correctly and confidently and help them to promote discipline, perseverance and respect for others. Finally the aim is to help the girls to think differently and creatively and to reach their true potential.

Nutrition

It is found that, almost each day, 20% of the 100 girls attending the DFDP centre for coaching arrive without having eaten. This leaves them reluctant and unresponsive towards their lessons and duties. So, DFDP plans to provide a snack for the girls five days a week, for ten months, to mitigate their hunger and make them more attentive during activities.

Healthy living

The *Dhaka Tribune*, in a recent report, highlighted that the slum dwellers have fewer opportunities to access health care. There is poor sewerage, poor housing and poor ventilation. All these factors increase the likelihood of developing respiratory problems, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Insufficient, and unhygienic toilets, are a threat to health. DFDP uses many opportunities, such as organised rallies, and national and international days, to promote interest on how to live in a healthy way.



Jerry Clewett

2026. Over this period, DFDP will have the following activities for 100 girls and their mothers.

Education

The primary goal of DFDP is to support 100 girls. This support enables them



Self Help Groups

DFDP will run Self Help Group (SHG) programmes with 120 members dividing them into six groups named Shapla, (Water Lily), Lotus, Lily, Joba, (Hibiscus rosa-sinensis), Bokul, (Spanish Cherry), and Rose. Each group contains mothers of the girls and mothers of previous students. The SHG programmes will be a great resource, enabling members to share experiences of daily life, and will ensure mutual support, respect, and hopefully a good response towards each other's needs. In each of the three years five destitute SHG members will receive BDT 5,000.00 taka, (about £36 and non-refundable), to undertake sustainable income generating works, with the aim of rising from severe poverty. The SHG members will select these 15 members as per their committee decision and approval.

Rahi

Rahi is a 12-year-old girl in standard year six of her educational journey. She has

“

DFDP lessons, awareness classes, the activities of the Bengali and English clubs and creativity classes have made her smart, confident, and clever.

come from the greater Gopalganj district of Bangladesh. In her village, there were many financial challenges. So, hoping for a better future, and selling all they had, her family took shelter in the large Duaripara slum. There her parents started a grocer's shop and were happy and profitable. However, one night they were robbed. Rahi's father took out a loan with high interest and restarted the shop. But unfortunately they were burgled again and this time the whole family were helpless and suffered greatly. Rahi became a school-drop-out.

In 2021, DFDP teachers discovered that Rahi was not attending school and urged her parents to send Rahi to DFDP for her

education. At that time DFDP made all necessary provisions for her schooling. Furthermore, by frequent visits, DFDP staff motivated her parents towards change. Now, Rahi's father works as an electrician and her mother is a garment worker. Rahi's family members have greatly benefitted from the DFDP care, counselling and awareness development programmes. DFDP support has brought happiness to their life. DFDP counselling has brought Rahi's parents closer and made them determined to support their children to be happy in life.

Rahi is determined to complete her education so she can have a bright and prosperous future. Rahi and her family members are very thankful to the DFDP authorities and staff.

Susmita

Nando Biswas and Chobi Rani, a poor Hindu couple from Aatghoria, Pabna, Bangladesh have two daughters. Nando Biswas is a barber and Chobi Rani Shil is a garment worker. Due to extreme poverty, they left their native village and settled in the Duaripara slum in 2000. Poverty made Susmita drop out of education.

In 2016, Susmita, (age 17, in Standard Higher Secondary Certificate, First Year), got admission at DFDP in standard four. Then she was a shy girl. She liked to hide and sit at the back. She hesitated to take part at the DFDP programmes. DFDP lessons, awareness classes, the activities of the Bengali and English clubs and creativity classes have made her smart, confident, and clever. Care at DFDP has helped her to grow up holistically. This year, Susmita is a college girl. She attends her classes and is

◀ Preschool girls in the Education Centre

▼ Jerry Clewett with the Family Development Project and CMYC staff

determined to have a bright future in life. Susmita acknowledges that without DFDP care and guidance and support, she might not have reached this development stage. Susmita and her parents are thankful to the DFDP's Manager and staff.

Shyamal Sarker, Director of CMYC Dhaka, Bangladesh



We felt that 2023 was an appropriate time to evaluate the Duaripara Family Development Project so that it could become even more effective. The project has been supported by Operation Agri since 2008. December 2023 marked the end of a five-year phase of implementation and Trustees were considering the extent of support from January 2024. The well-qualified evaluator was from Bangladesh and therefore understood the cultural context well. Through numerous interviews and group discussions, he was able to develop a clear recommendation which we all considered in developing the new project proposal for 2024–2027, which Operation Agri has now agreed to support.

Jerry Clewett, Operation Agri Trustee

A life saved in Nicaragua



Lydia Caldera looks at the challenges of tackling health emergencies in rural villages

In Nicaragua, the poorest Spanish-speaking country in the world, there are still children who die from preventable or treatable diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, especially in rural and remote areas where there is no doctor, no hospital, no pharmacy, and the closest health unit might be hours away.

These are places where women face many challenges in accessing health care – a particular worry during pregnancy, when giving birth, and in seeing their children grow up healthy and thriving.

That is why AMOS Health and Hope partners with Operation Agri to serve alongside 23 vulnerable rural communities – training local leaders, and facilitating community empowerment. We do this so that their own community leaders can

prevent and treat illnesses, know what to do in emergencies, and help to save lives.

A few months ago in the rural and remote community of El Bambu, in the South Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua; a one-year-old baby boy called Yosai had been sick for three days. At first, his mum thought it was just a cold. But then, in just a few hours, his condition worsened. It was late at night and raining. Yosai was burning with fever, and he was having trouble breathing. His mum cried as she thought her beloved baby boy wouldn't make it through the night. Her heart ached and she felt hopeless since it would be very difficult for her to get help.

At this time the dirt road to El Bambu was damaged due to heavy rains and the bus had stopped coming. There was



therefore no public transport in or out of the community. Motorcycle riders charge around \$20, (about £15.75), to transport people to the nearest town, but not at night, nor under heavy rain. The cost of this transport could be the equivalent of a week's worth of food for a family, which is a hard and unjust choice to make for any parent.

Yosai's mum knew their only hope was José Gómez, an AMOS-trained Health Promoter serving the community. She prayed José could come to their aid. She called José over the phone, explained the child's condition, and urged him to come. José – who became a Health Promoter after losing his niece to pneumonia

several years ago – didn't hesitate for a second. Thanks to the partnership between

Operation Agri and AMOS Health and Hope, José has been trained on protocols to identify and treat illnesses, especially in cases of children under five-years-old, some of the most vulnerable people in rural villages.

José took his supplies, some medicines and a lamp, and rushed to Yosai's house. It was a difficult walk to do at night, but José knew Yosai needed help. He was determined to find a way to help Yosai survive.

He says, 'When I examined Yosai, his symptoms indicated he had pneumonia. I told the mum she needed to take him to the nearest health centre, but the mum asked me to help him and do something for him. She didn't have a way to take him to town that night or the following day, and no vehicle could get to the community because of the damage to the road. She

“ **She was scared he would die that night.** ”



▲ Health Committee in El Bambu

◀ (p14) José Gómez

was scared he would die that night. So, I treated Yosai with medicines according to my trainings with AMOS and I also used a nebuliser we bought with funds from the community.'

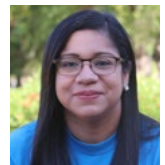
José kept visiting Yosai in the following days to apply the medications and follow-up on the

treatment. He says, 'As Health Promoters, we are humble instruments of God. Together with AMOS, we strive to be a blessing for families in our communities, for those who need us. I know I am loved by my community and I love and care for each of them, too.'

On the third day, Yosai was already much better and eventually made a full recovery.

Yosai's mum was truly grateful. On her darkest night, José found a way to bring hope to her and her family. In her time of greatest need, her prayers were answered.

*Lydia Caldera,
Development and
Communications Manager
AMOS*



ANSWERS TO P6: A. Malawi, B. Mozambique, C. Tanzania, 1. 20 million, 2. Lusaka, 3. Victoria Falls, 4. Leopard, Hippopotamus, and Lion

Responsibility to land drives mo and God-given principles

Flynn Duane considers the parallels between British farming and the projects supported by Operation Agri *(Continued from the new year edition)*

The principles which Operation Agri uphold find many parallels in my own studies, and experience of British farming. British farmers, to a greater or lesser degree, view themselves as stewards in relation to their farms. Whether Christian or not, there remains the notion of duty and responsibility in relation to the land. As a result, many have made attempts to become both more ecologically and socio/culturally sustainable, with varying success.

The feeling of responsibility that every individual farmer I have worked for, either owner or tenant, had for 'their lot', has never ceased to surprise me. Almost all viewed their farm as something to be cared for, protected, and improved as something which has value beyond the mere sum of its parts. Land degradation, environmental pollution, excessive greenhouse gas emissions do not, in my opinion, stem primarily from a lack of respect for the land, but are intricately related to the political, cultural, and economic pressures faced by the farmer.

In my experience, farming in Britain responds to these pressures in a few

distinct ways, some of which can, interestingly, bear great similarities to the approaches of Operation Agri supported projects.

The first is that of tradition. Farmers can often be inclined to farm the way their fathers and grandfathers did before them. This can be from a reactionary mind-set. However, it is often rather a trust in the

'tried and tested', built upon a system which has found its success for their land specifically, stood the test through the different seasons, climatic variation, and even economic turbulence of a

whole lifetime. On the one hand there may not be any explicit movement towards ecological principles, but there are the benefits of a very intimate knowledge of the land and how it has changed (or not) throughout decades and generations, which often lends itself to soil conservation, aesthetic maintenance, and often the systems are only partly intensified, meaning there is not a wholly dependent relation to chemical inputs.

Another is that of the new or revived traditional farmer. Here there is a cognitive switch to a theoretically sustainable

“**Almost all viewed their farm as something to be cared for, protected, and improved as something which has value beyond the mere sum of its parts.**”

ve towards ecological

Field margin with wild flowers ▶



© Paul Maguire, Adobe Stock

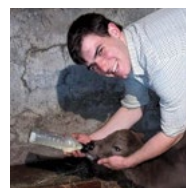
approach which may have been tried before, but is instead not adopted by being handed down from generation to generation, but rather from an empirically proven one. One farm I have worked on which has embodied this has managed to cut out all chemical inputs for their beef herd. By breeding for grass-feeding efficiency and selecting superior traits, they have been able to transform their herd to entirely grass-fed production. The techniques employed prioritise minimal soil disturbance, and permanent pasture. In keeping with this, they are planting several miles of hedgerow to divide the land up in order to enable this regenerative approach, but also to minimise soil erosion and to increase biodiversity on their farm. This approach is especially valuable in their location as the nearby river is famed for the quality of fishing, but subsequently under pressure from soil erosion from nearby intensive farms.

Finally, outside both of these, there is the more intensified pathway. This is the approach of increasing efficiency of inputs through automation, investment in emerging technologies, but also – with rising frequency, adoption of new practice innovations such as 'Integrated Pest Management' (IPM) techniques. These farms, though not wholly driven by environmental sustainability, are seeking

to respond to governmental chemical input curbs by adopting a more holistic system of pest mitigations.

It is these latter two systems of farming that resemble most the principles of Operation Agri. By adopting these principles, the farmers move away from the model of viewing the land as a factory with inputs and outputs. The land is increasingly viewed with the complexity it deserves – with people and food at the forefront, but encouraging biodiversity and soil protection, it begins to feel more like an ecosystem to be managed, thus fulfilling the creation mandate more successfully. On these principles, projects like the 'Growing Greener Project' with New Life Christian Church in southern Malawi, and the OA supported work of the Sustainable Agricultural Farming Initiatives (SAFI) are of particular relevance. We can take great encouragement that restoring degraded land, protecting biodiversity, and encouraging non-invasive cultivation techniques are some of the ways OA and British agriculture are both moving towards better fulfilment of God's creation mandate.

*Flynn Duane, Final year
Agricultural Science Student
at Edinburgh University*



Make a *difference*

Nigel Jones on how Operation Agri continues to expand its reach

Upcoming Operation Agri events

The Trustees have continued to expand their promotional activities in the wider world. Here are this year's events:



**APRIL
22**

EARTH DAY

Victoria Station Concourse
7.30am–7.30pm

**MAY
17-19**

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

(Telford)

**MAY
25**

Heathfield Agricultural Show

8.30am–17.15pm

**JUNE
8-9**

Lambeth Country Show

13.00pm–20.30pm

**AUGUST
25-26**

Edenbridge & Oxted Agricultural Show

8.00am–18.00pm

**AUTUMN
TBA**

Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Carshalton
Beeches Baptist Church
Autumn date 10am–12 noon

**DECEMBER
6**

Yulefest

Carshalton Beeches Baptist Church
4.30pm–8.30pm

If you live nearby any of the venues, or are visiting nearby, please come and see us and make yourself known.

Perhaps you know of an event where you could make Operation Agri more widely known. Please let Jo know.

Amazing help for remote rural communities in Nicaragua

We recently received the Annual Report from AMOS Health and Hope. Here is something to give thanks for:

This past year, your generosity and compassionate love touched the lives of more than 10,900 vulnerable people living in 23 rural remote communities in Nicaragua. The grant was £8,000.



Brighton Marathon Weekend 2025

Operation Agri has three places for runners in the Brighton Marathon at least two of which have now been transferred to the 2025 marathon. No date is advertised yet but it usually occurs in April. If you are a marathon runner and would like to use one of these places to support Operation Agri next year, please contact Jo Jackson at admin@operationagri.org.uk



Postal Address and Finance Matters

Operation Agri's Freepost mailing system from within the UK continues to work 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!). Also, we changed our bank account when we became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation so, 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.

Social Media



Active on these channels but not yet seen the Operation Agri output? Just click a button above if you're viewing the electronic version.

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

By the way: we have found someone who is able to refresh our LinkedIn account. Please check it out.



In Your Will ...

Last year a significant amount of our income was by way of a bequest. Since we don't usually know that Operation Agri is in someone's Will we are surprised when we receive them. They usually allow us to attend to something 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 then:

- 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.

Volunteering

In the last few months, we have received voluntary help with different aspects of the work of Operation Agri. One volunteer has skills and experiences that allow us to move into areas of promotion that we had not previously considered. We are thankful for the rich surprises the Lord gives to us.

Please email me for more information about volunteering with Operation Agri. We will value hearing from you if you have experience in scrutinising project proposals, reports, and evaluations especially for overseas projects. However, whatever your abilities if you can offer a couple of hours a week or a month, please let me know: NigeJONES@operationagri.org.uk

Russell Ashley-Smith – OA Trustee

Since last December Russell has been receiving treatment in hospital. He's now home but awaiting further treatment. He, Gill, and the rest of the Trustees would value your prayers for a full recovery. Thank you.

Annual Public meeting of OA (CIO)

This meeting is scheduled for Monday pm 10 June. For details of how to attend online please apply to admin@operationagri.org.uk

- Organic crops
- Healthy families
- Better incomes



Operation Agri: helping farming families

2024 OA Appeal Resource Pack

with video, poster, handouts, family worship ideas

To order by post

Full Pack: USB stick with video, A2 poster, Resource Book, 25 leaflets, 25 envelopes
(delete items not needed)

Extra handout Leaflets (25 per set)

Extra Gift Envelopes (25 per set)

Extra Poster

Extra Resource Book

Contribution to production costs and postage £5.00

Donation to Operation Agri £

(Cheques to 'Operation Agri') TOTAL £

Quantity

packs

sets

sets

Post this to: **FREEPOST**
OPERATION AGRI

Or order online:
[operationagri.org.uk/
current-appeal](http://operationagri.org.uk/current-appeal)

The video can also be downloaded

Email: admin@operationagri.org.uk
Tel: 0800 915 3201

Ask about an OA
speaker for
your church

Name

Address

Tel

Email

Church

Please include me in email news updates Yes ☐ No ☐



Operation
AGRI
Christian love in action

CIO registered charity no: 1189098

I'd like to make a regular gift

to support the work of Operation Agri
by standing order

José Gómez, an
AMOS-trained
Health Promoter,
in rural Nicaragua



Standing Order

Please complete the details below, in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name and full postal address of your Bank

To the Manager:

Bank name

Bank address

Postcode

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 (Please delete those not applicable)

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, (within the UK use) Freepost, OPERATION AGRI

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

admin@operationagri.org.uk

● Please fill in your name, address and email overleaf, and whether you would like our magazine.

● Please tick below as appropriate:

☐ I have left a gift to Operation Agri in my Will

☐ I am considering leaving a gift to Operation Agri in my Will

☐ I would like guidance on setting this up

Other ways to give

Gifts to Operation Agri may be made online:

www.operationagri.org.uk/product/make-a-donation

Legacies

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

For guidance please ask the Administrator.

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.

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



operationagri.org.uk



Yes, 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**
- ☐ **Please send me the Operation Agri email newsletter**

Please complete the details below, in BLOCK CAPITALS

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

Church or Organisation and Position (If applicable)

Address

Town/City

County

Post Code

Email address

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.

giftaid it

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, *(within the UK use)* **Freepost, OPERATION AGRI**

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

admin@operationagri.org.uk