

Outreach Abroad

OPERATION AGRI'S MAGAZINE

TANZANIA
Churches
mobilise to
strengthen
communities

FARMING and
creation care

Supporting
rural and urban
development
projects in
Christ's name



1961-2025



Operation
AGRI
Christian love in action

SUMMER 2025

3/4 2025



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

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Welcome
from the Editor



Abundant Provision

I saw my first bee this year recently on our allotment.

The life of a beehive is an amazing thing, with all the bees working together for one goal – the production of honey.

In scripture honey signifies abundance and blessing.

Deuteronomy 26:9 describes how God brought His people to a place of abundant provision.

So today, just like the bee, the work of Operation Agri in supporting projects is to see the production of honey (abundant provision) in the lives of some of the world's most disadvantaged people.

Bees play a part in this year's Annual Appeal too – see pages 19–20 for more details.

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Cover image: Tanzania: Utengule group members grafting trees at their tree nursery



Administrator turned Editor

Former Editor **Nigel Jones** welcomes **Jo Jackson** to her new role as Editor of *Outreach Abroad*

The trustees warmly and gratefully welcome Jo Jackson to the role of Magazine Editor following her three years as our Administrator and thank her wholeheartedly for volunteering to take on the magazine. The enthusiasm and skills Jo has already brought to Operation Agri will be put to good use at the helm of *Outreach Abroad* to further its purpose of bringing project news to our valued supporters and to new readers.

The magazine has evolved over the decades, and we eagerly look forward to the developments Jo will bring to this publication.

This is a good opportunity to ask you to commend the magazine to someone who does not currently take the free quarterly publication. It continues to be available in printed copy, on-line at operationagri.org.uk/magazine and by email. Please contact our Administrator for further details admin@operationagri.org.uk.

In addition, please add Jo to your prayer diary along with praying for the projects on the Prayer Page in the magazine. Seek that she may have wisdom and energy in preparing content and relating to the other important members of the editorial team. Thank you, Nigel.

New administrator

Joanna Legg-Bagg, joined the team in May



Joanna comments, 'I first heard of Operation Agri whilst working at BMS World Mission over 20 years ago. I never imagined I would be joining the team all these years later.'

'I left BMS to go to Bible College, thinking I might go overseas myself, but then felt led in other ways. After working in another mission organisation for 12 years co-ordinating logistics and administration for conferences and training events and overseeing department budgets, I moved to East Sussex to co-lead the team at Penhurst Retreat Centre, which specialises in supporting cross-cultural workers. After five years, including helping the centre through the Covid-19 pandemic, I felt the Lord moving me into a new season.'

'I love seeing God's Kingdom at work and look forward to contributing to Operation Agri's vision to show the love of Jesus in action.'

Education and mental health awareness in some of Mumbai's poorest areas

Lead-Community Worker **Lakhan Malavi**, reviews how Kalwa East is being empowered, in a year of growth, resilience, and hope



From April 2024 to March 2025, Oasis India's Community Empowerment Project in Kalwa East, Mumbai, impacted hundreds through a holistic approach that integrated education and mental health.

Addressing rising emotional distress, Oasis launched mental wellness sessions in schools, colleges, and homes. These sessions focused on emotional regulation, coping strategies, and strengthening parent-child communication. Over 170 young people participated, alongside 52 parents, creating emotionally supportive environments. The initiative's early intervention approach has already enhanced emotional resilience among many young participants.

Through education and mental health support, the project continues to lay a strong foundation for long-term transformation in the community. The After-School Programme supported 179 children with daily academic help, emphasising

English, Hindi, and Marathi. Foundational classes for four to six year-olds built early literacy and numeracy skills, supported by monthly assessments and regular parent-teacher meetings. Celebrating over 25 national and international days, the project fostered civic awareness, and environmental responsibility among students.

Oasis India's economic empowerment efforts in Kalwa East equipped 60 young adults with vocational training in fields like AC repair, retail, hotel management, and beauty care services. Twelve secured steady jobs, while others began home-based income generation activities.

Building confidence and financial security

Karishma 24, was among 61 women who completed a tailoring course, and for whom this training was a turning point – enabling her to support her family and launch a home-based tailoring business with pride and confidence.

Karishma's life changed drastically in fifth grade when her mother passed away. With her elder sister working and her father's health declining due to alcohol, Karishma had to leave school to care for her siblings – cooking, managing the home, and playing the role of a mother. Determined to help financially, Karishma joined the

ess promotes resilience

- ◀ Discussing mental health awareness
- ▼ Boys' sports practice

tailoring training. She showed a strong desire to learn stitching and earn from home. With encouragement, she trained with dedication, despite emotional stress. Her sister, seeing her commitment, bought her a second-hand sewing machine on loan. Karishma began taking small orders from neighbours, building confidence and income.

When her father passed away in 2024, Oasis staff supported her, and she returned with renewed resolve. Now, she manages the household and stitching work, sharing responsibilities with her sister. Karishma regularly visits the centre, grateful for the opportunity that helped her become self-reliant.

Through the two self-help groups, 20 women were empowered to access microcredit and launch collective ventures, enabling both financial independence and community solidarity.

Partnerships with 12 job placement and training agencies, linked youth to real-world opportunities. Career guidance sessions introduced aspirants to careers in AI, digital marketing, journalism, and culinary arts – broadening horizons and building pathways to long-term economic stability and transformation for the community.

Health and hygiene, personal safety and prevention of human trafficking remained central initiatives. Three hundred and eighty individuals benefited from medical camps, dental and eye check-ups and over 1000 plus individuals gained knowledge

about personal safety through campaigns like the *Walk for Freedom*.

Sports participation boosts well-being

Sports impacted over 80 children. Aryan Kamble, a 16-year-old boy studying in year nine, lives with his parents, elder brother and sister-in-law. His brother was once a skilled kabaddi (a traditional Indian game where players attempt to tag or capture opponents) player but had to quit after a serious hand injury. Their mother, fearing similar harm, forbade both sons from playing sports. This restriction left Aryan emotionally withdrawn and addicted to his mobile phone.

A turning point came when Aryan visited a kabaddi practice session and expressed a strong desire to play. The trainer spoke with his mother, who, trusting Oasis India's work, gave her consent. Aryan began training as a raider, quickly picking up techniques and gaining strength, confidence, and social skills. His performance in matches impressed the trainer, who appointed him captain of the Oasis India team. Today, Aryan actively participates in all programmes, supported by his family, and continues to grow as a player and leader.



Dangers for farming of over-industrialisation

Flynn Duane, an agricultural graduate and good friend of OA, highlights **Wendell Berry's** Christian concern for agriculture



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Wendell Berry is a writer and farmer who was born into an era of deep agricultural change for America. Growing up in rural Kentucky in the 30s and 40s, he worked on his father's farm in a pre-tractor era. Over the course of his life, he saw significant agricultural industrialisation. A jack-of-all-trades, Berry is an accomplished poet, farmer, and writer, and he intertwines all these talents in a masterful way. It is his lifetime of farming experience and deep-rooted faith which feeds his writing and has given it such resonance with his readers over the many decades of his life.

Though Berry has written many different genres and books, it is *The Unsettling of*

“

‘the modern mind longs for the future as the medieval mind longed for Heaven’.

America which provides a key insight into his philosophy. His main premise is that the over-industrialisation of farming is a doctrine of the ‘futuristic worldview’ that undermines farmers and displaces rural communities, which he

contrasts to a Christian worldview.

This book cannot be classed as purely theological, agricultural, or ecological, but rather combines all three genres, woven ingeniously into his own story, giving Christians today, both rural and urban, a holistic and robust understanding of the stewardship which God calls us to. Berry outlines the ecological and theological problems of over-industrialisation in farming; ‘once, the place

of humans was thought to be above the animals and below the angels – between the natural and divine ... The growth of what is called the modern world has been, by turns, both the cause and effect of the destruction of that old sense of universal order'. That is to say, that the created order of the world is indeed subject to mankind,

but we in turn are subject to God. The abuses of the natural world occur because people have forgotten their place before God and see themselves as 'both creature and creator'.

In this minor paragraph he has picked up on something major; that human exploitation of the natural world is not what taking 'dominion of the earth' (Genesis 2) truly means. Instead, Berry recognises the positive stewardship that people are

called to and are able to have – but only when people are first subject to God. He goes on to highlight the dichotomy between the modern world's ultimate idol: 'the future', and mankind's ultimate object of worship: God. He writes, 'the modern mind longs for the future as the medieval mind longed for Heaven'. In doing so he highlights the fundamental difference between atheism and Christianity, that both yearn for a better reality, an ultimate end to pain, suffering, and death, but believe that this salvation will come from radically different means; one is in 'the future', a long-awaited dream of technological perfection, and the other is the Ancient of Days, God.

Over-industrialisation, then, is for Wendell Berry, the buy-in to the 'future-cult' in the

agricultural world. His concern was not so much with the adoption of any novel technologies or techniques, but with the zealous overoptimism of politicians and powerful corporations that ushered in the agricultural revolution in America.

His concern was with the disastrous implications for a huge number of American farms such as crippling debt, widespread pollution, and the degradation of rural community, which came *en masse* as a result of an industry-obsessed 'futuristic' modern societal elite, seeking to bring farming to heel with the rest of the industrialised world, to reduce *farming* to mere *food-production* so that they might create a marketplace for agro-industrial goods and services.

For Christians, Wendell's observations and predictions have deep-seated implications; we must recognise the serious ecological impacts we have on the creation that God has given into our care, but also that the solution won't be from a mere shift in practice, but a change in worldview. It begins with our devotional life; our relationship with God and challenging the doctrine of the inevitability of industrialisation. Whether we be rural or urban, we ought to challenge preconceptions of the status-quo of how our food is produced. Berry allows us to remember that farming is more than mere *food-production*, it's a God-given personal vocation, and must be subject to God's will.



Flynn Duane

Churches mobilise to empower communities

Jesca Mgimba and Ibrahimu Abdu, report on the IMARIKA project which is doing so much to protect villagers from the effects of drought and infertile soil in Tanzania

People in the Iringa region of central Tanzania, especially in rural areas, rely on agriculture for life's necessities. Therefore, events like drought, flooding and soil infertility, exacerbated by climate change, can be the cause of great suffering. The IMARIKA project, supported by Operation Agri (OA), encourages local churches to bring people together – to save money and work with each other to improve their communities and offer some protection from future drought and other disasters.

Local churches are mobilised through participatory exercises and Bible studies to fulfil roles in helping the community and the environment, and to recognise the resources they have available. Following the training, the church is encouraged to present what they have learned to the wider community and to form an action group.

As well as being trained in how to run village savings and loans (VICOBA), the groups decide on priorities and can choose to receive training on a range of interventions including afforestation, conservation agriculture; fuel efficient stoves; poultry farming, beekeeping, horticulture and milking goats.

The project had established 18 groups, four of which have graduated and are

self-running. Fourteen existing groups are still being supervised by the project team and groups have just started with core training in two new villages, Kiponzero and Makatapora. Overall the project has 869 project group members who, between them, have made a huge impact. They have planted 29,500 trees in their fields, distributed 88.55 Kg of seeds and distributed 136 Bibles. Twenty-five beehives have been established, conservation agriculture (CA) in group fields has yielded 29 bags of maize, 72 bags of sunflowers, 19 bags of groundnuts, 10 bags of onions, six bags of garlic and 200 boxes of tomatoes. The VICOBA activities have enabled the groups to save on average £298 per member last year.

The plan is to empower the existing members so they grow and mature and run things themselves and prosper. Also, it is planned to reach four more villages this year, comprising 200 members and two new students' clubs, at Lugalo Secondary School and Kising'a Secondary School.

A big part of the work for the project team is delivering the training. Also, the team will continue to facilitate networking by linking the groups to share different ideas and experiences and connect them with other different experts, including agriculturists, environmentalists and vets.

Many people have benefitted from the project, including Jackson Maliva, Migoli Anglican Church Pastor, who says that the project has helped the church to acquire chairs for use in the church and wider community. Tito Sanga used his Conservation Agriculture training to increase his harvest and he has been able to send his son and daughter to university and his other daughter to

secondary school. Lulamso Kadaga (Mlowa village chairperson) is grateful to see the improvement of money circulation in his village due to the impact of VICOPA savings. Finally, a great endorsement from Chotta Masege, the Iringa rural district development officer, who was so impressed she awarded 3,000,000Tsh (£1,000) for Mlowa group and 4,000,000 Tsh (£1,300) for Mafuluto group community activities.



Jesca Mgimba
and Ibrahimu Abdu

JOYCE GWIVAHA

is thankful that the IMARIKA group supported her when she was ill. Her group members assisted her with medical treatment costs amounting to about 700,000 Tsh (£250).

JOSEPHAT says he enjoys the project as it has helped him to obtain fruits for the family and for sale for income.

MADAM MOZA, Deputy Headmistress at Ibumu Secondary School, says the project has wonderfully improved the school environment.

The IMARIKA PROJECT: empowering communities

MARIAM NYALUSI used VICOPA loans to finance building a better house.

VINCENT MTISI has harvested improved yields of maize from his field and through VICOPA he was able to get soft loans which supported him in establishing a shop.

PRAYER we invite you to *pray*

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ROMANS 12:12

Bangladesh

Project name: **Duaripara Family Development Project**

Partner: **Christian Ministry to Children and Youth**

Empowering girls through education

PRAYER REQUEST:

As the summer intensifies the extreme heat becomes increasingly difficult for the project girls living in poor housing with very limited access to electricity. Please pray for their strength and resilience to cope with these harsh conditions.

India

Project name: **Community Empowerment Project, Mumbai**

Partner: **Oasis India**

Empowering the urban poor

PRAYER REQUEST:

Please pray for the 60 students who have recently completed their basic tailoring and computer courses with Community Empowerment Hub, Kalwa East, Mumbai. Pray they find meaningful job opportunities that match their skills, passion, and aspirations.

Malawi

Project name: **Growing Greener in Malawi**

Partner: **African Pastors Fellowship**

Sustainable farming in Malawi

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for the new team running the project, particularly the leader, Hunta. Pray that the arrangements for the restarting of the project run smoothly and farmers continue to adopt and benefit from the teaching.

Nepal

Project name: **CHEST Ghusel**

Partner: **Multipurpose Community Development Service**

Handing over for sustainability

PRAYER REQUEST:

This project ends in July. Give thanks for all the work that has been done. Pray for a constructive and peaceful end to the project in July.

Nepal

Project name: **CHEP Rukum**

Partner: **Multipurpose Community Development Service**

Training in agriculture, education and adult literacy classes

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for the impacts recognised, particularly with the schools. Pray that new staff will continue to take on the responsibilities. Pray for wisdom in making decisions about the content of the final year, which starts in July.

Nicaragua

Project name: **Community-based primary healthcare**

Partner: **AMOS (A Ministry of Sharing)**

Expanding the work

PRAYER REQUEST:

Health and safety for health-workers and their patients. We pray for community health workers in rural Nicaragua. May God sustain their life-saving work with pregnant mums, children, and chronically ill patients. And, let's give thanks to the Lord for those who bring hope and healing in turbulent times.

Pakistan

Project name: **Women's literacy centres**

Partner: **Light for the Nations**

Literacy and skills training

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for the recent Graduates from the Beautician, Sewing and Literacy training centres, that their skills may bring hope and transformation to their communities. Also pray for the new centres which began in April.

Sierra Leone

Project name: **Joy Agricultural Project**
 Partner: **BMS World Mission and New Harvest Development Office (NEHADO)**
Building the capacity of subsistence farmers

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for success in identifying opportunities to improve subsistence farming. Pray for NEHADO project leaders as they introduce new activities and for the community representatives who will receive training.

Sri Lanka

Project name: **Helping vulnerable communities and protecting children**
 Partner: **LEADS**
Building resilient communities

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray for the children in the child clubs today, who will be sitting for their scholarship exam in August. Pray for wisdom and success in their efforts.

Tanzania

Project name: **IMARIKA**
 Partner: **Emmanuel International and Diocese of Ruaha**
Community development in Tanzania

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for the groups that are now self-sufficient. Also for the successful enterprises being undertaken, leading to farmers' ability to fund improved lifestyles. Pray for the new groups starting up, especially those based in the schools.
 Imarika is the focus of this year's Operation Agri Appeal *Trees Bees and Seeds*, see pages 19–20 and Editor's comment for further details. Pray for people to give generously to the appeal.

Uganda

Project name: **Sustainable Agriculture Farming Initiatives**
 Partner: **Baptist Union of Uganda**
Building farm businesses in Uganda

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for farmers from this phase and previous ones who are committed to using improved Agricultural practices.
 Pray for the health of the teachers and students; that ill health will not prevent the students attending classes.
 Pray that the Lord will protect the students and the teachers.
 Pray for a successful conclusion to this Phase and good collaboration amongst farmers, project team and community leaders.

Uganda

Project name: **Women's Adult Literacy**
 Partner: **Baptist Union of Uganda**
Capacity building in Uganda through literacy

PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for the new opportunities the training has given. Pray for continued dedication and enthusiasm of the teachers and students. Pray for the continued spread of the good news about the benefits of being part of WALP.

Zambia

Project name: **Nyampande Organic Farmers Project**
 Partner: **African Pastors Fellowship**
Organic farming in Zambia

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray for Lawson as he prepares to introduce the teaching to a new area.
 Pray that the repairs to Lawson's home and printing business lead to things getting back to normal after the damage caused by February's floods.

Operation Agri supports projects in 11 countries.

Write the country names in the blue boxes starting with the letter 'S'.

If you need help, go to the Prayer Page.

When you have completed the grid add the name of the missing country to the boxes below the grid.

Which country has the project where people without access to healthcare are given this important service?

Youth page

Summer prayer
for African farmers



July
August
September

AFRICA

A right time

Various travel websites suggest that these months are some of the best to visit Africa. In the east and south of the continent it is the dry season, with the winter season leading into spring.

As you relax after a year of studying and examinations and start to gear up for the next academic year, some farmers in Africa are preparing to sow their crops for the coming year.

Unseasonably high winds and rainfall can wash away the seedlings and soil whilst a lack of rain prevents proper plant growth.

Meet up with a friend once a week, or more frequently, electronically or face-to-face, to pray for the farmers, their families and their livelihoods. Thank you.

A right time to plant and another to reap, ...

Ecclesiastes 3:2 The Message

Children's club brings peace, *unity* and *joy*



'... child rights and child protection phone numbers were given to us, along with the contact details of officials working with children.'

Shadrach M Simon examines profound changes brought to villages in Sri Lanka by a child protection programme

LEADS help vulnerable communities and protect children in Sri Lanka. The 'Enhancing the Economies of Vulnerable Communities and Protection of Children' project in Kilinochchi District operates with the support of Operation Agri. The project has set up a Village Child Development Committee and a children's club. Additionally, techniques for cultivating organic home produce were introduced, and self-help groups were formed to create a sustainable economy for vulnerable families.

Jinu, aged 16, is the Secretary of Ilanthalur Children's Club and has been part of the project for the past four years. She says, 'LEADS visited our Aladi and Alagapuri villages, in February 2022, to launch the project.

'Activities included the formation of a children's club, the formation of a Village Child Development Committee, livelihood



assistance for women-headed households, cultivating produce in home gardens and the formation of self-help groups.

'In March, 2023 we (children between the ages of 11 and 18) came together and registered 96 children of Aladi and Alagapuri villages to Ilanthulir Children's Club, under the guidance of the Child Rights Promotion Officer.

'That day new friendships were made, and children in our village, whom we had not known, were introduced to us.

'We were told about child rights and child protection phone numbers were given to us, along with the contacts details of officials working with children.

'We started a home garden at our gathering place and also created individual gardens at our homes, using organic methods. This initiative helped us develop nutritious eating habits.

'We also put together a project report for LEADS. Other benefits of the project included a safe gathering place, a bucket lock for the toilet (this is a more hygienic option) and seedbeds for home gardening. They also provided sports equipment.

'In both villages, the children built good relationships through the games they played using the sports equipment. We also held cultural and religious events which helped build unity.

'To strengthen the relationships of the children, the children's club, which ran under the guidance of LEADS, came to our village from Trincomalee. The children made our village aware of child protection and child abuse, drug abuse and domestic violence – that affect children in the family – through street dramas. It was suitable

for our village, and this also became an opportunity for some families to change.'

Positive changes for the children:

- Children in both villages have become good friends
- Once a month the children work together to keep the village clean
- There is more school equipment and more evening educational activities
- Due to safety training a friend called courage has appeared with the children
- Relationships have been bridged between the children of the outlying villages
- Talent, leadership and helpfulness are more evident among the children
- Connections have been made with government departments
- Two children are now members of the District Child Development Committee
- Transport for the students at the orphanage has been arranged
- A girl who was subjected to child abuse has been placed in a shelter
- A boy who was a victim of domestic violence has been placed in a shelter.

We are very happy that after the completion of the company's project there are still considerable benefits and we have now handed over our children's club to the regional and district child protection officers.

Shadrach M Simon



Meeting old friends and making new ones at the Baptist Assembly

Each year Operation Agri is pleased to have a stall at the Baptist Assembly (held 16–18 May this year). As always, it was great to meet church leaders who value our work, and to promote our Video Appeal Resources to use for Harvest Festival or other events. It was also a good opportunity to meet old friends who have been supporting OA, as well as to introduce our work to new people, and inspire them with what our projects are achieving.

A Marathon Achievement (twice)



Ben Short ran the Brighton Marathon for Operation Agri on 6 April. Despite a hot day, he did really well, coping with some earlier injuries and a weak knee, and he finished in 5 hours 50 minutes.

Joel Morgan ran the London Marathon on 27

April, following the example of his father Dai Morgan who ran for OA in 2018, and he ran with the Welsh flag on his back. The race was the 4th warmest in the 45 years it has been running! Joel started really well, but later suffered under the hot sun but got through to finish in 5 hours 25 minutes.



Between them, Ben and Joel have raised over £2800 for Operation Agri!

If you would like to congratulate them with an additional donation, their fundraising pages are:

Joel: <https://2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/joel-morgan>

Ben: 2025brightonmarathonweekend.enthuse.com/pf/ben-short-bcc24?mc_cid=c76e9ad02a&mc_eid=746518ff7d

Thank you to Ben and Joel for all their efforts.

Get involved ...

It's that time of year to get your Annual Appeal Pack. Further details and an order form are on Page 19–20 or visit:

operationagri.org.uk/current-appeal

Our *Presents with a Purpose* gifts are available all year round, so why not buy a summer gift from our range. Contact admin@operationagri.org.uk to order a brochure or visit: <https://operationagri.org.uk/presents-with-a-purpose/> to order on-line.

Could you offer your time and skills as a volunteer? Contact:

admin@operationagri.org.uk to start a conversation about how you could get involved.

Or maybe you could request a second magazine to give to a friend to let others learn about Operation Agri. Contact: admin@operationagri.org.uk to place an order.



OA bees a hit at Spring Harvest

Alexandra Lear shares stories of hope with attendees at one of Europe's largest Christian festivals

Spring Harvest. Two words that don't usually go together? So what exactly a 'Spring Harvest' was, I didn't know, as my bees (of the furry kind) and I trundled off to join the throng of exhibitors at Butlins, Minehead. I quickly learned that we were to harvest no crops, not in the physical sense, anyway.

Cultivating Connections

Spring Harvest goers were lured to our stall by the Tanzanian style top bar hive bursting with bees. We were able to share about this year's annual appeal, *Trees, Bees and Seeds*, raising funds to support the work of our partner IMARIKA in Tanzania. From behind our tree adorned stand, we handed out bees, seed packets, Operation Agri magazines and leaflets. We answered the question, 'So what do you do?' more times than I can count, shared stories of hope from each of our projects and let people know how they could get involved.

In God's Field



And by the end of the week, I think I'd finally realised what 'Spring Harvest' meant, at least to us. It's that strange mix of putting faith in the future, of planting a seed with a heart that is rejoicing in the harvest, before it's even taken place.



“

From behind our tree adorned stand, we handed out bees, seed packets, Operation Agri magazines and leaflets.

At the start of this year, I sent letters out to our supporters, encouraging them to plant seeds of promise for a harvest of hope, through exploring ways Operation Agri could work with churches. We didn't know what those letters would yield, but we were encouraged by the response, with talks now lined up in new and existing supporting Churches for the harvest season.

We don't know what harvest our time at Spring Harvest will yield, but to paraphrase 1 Corinthians 7–8, 'it's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the centre of this process. It's God who makes things grow, and we're in His field.'

Alexandra Lear
Charity Development Officer



Getting ready for a *New Season* in Zambia



Organic fertilisers reap financial and conservation benefits



© Photo Family, Darren Baker / Adobe Stock

Training intended to discourage farmers from continuing to use chemical fertilisers has taken place over two years in two areas in the Eastern part of Zambia, the Petauke district.

Chemical fertilisers are very expensive, leaving many farmers vulnerable and in debt to money lenders. This is particularly true in years when drought has led to small or non-existent harvests. The teaching encourages conservation farming and shows farmers how to make organic fertiliser from locally sourced materials. Use of these has proved to be a practical means of retaining soil fertility.

OA expects further training to be carried out this year, in a new area, in time for the farmers to make their organic fertiliser before planting takes place.

Janet, *Friend of Operation Agri*, Streeter



Ten years ago, Janet accepted the invitation to create the Children's Page in our magazine *Outreach Abroad*. During that time, we have seen Oppy, (the globe-trotting rabbit), roam far and wide across the projects, puzzled over mazes and coloured in the artwork. In these and other ways children have been introduced to the work of Operation Agri and to the conditions in which people live in other parts of the world. It is now time to thank Janet for the forty Children's Pages she has faithfully delivered as she puts pen and pencil aside and passes on the baton to the next generation. The trustees are extremely grateful to Janet for helping children, and perhaps many adults, learn about and pray for people in Africa, Asia, and Central America, whose lives are changed for the better by the projects supported by Operation Agri.

Childrens' page answers



Which country has the project where people without access to health care are given this important service?

Nicaragua

Strengthening communities in Tanzania



◀ Working together to weed guava tree seedlings

nutrition and incomes! Over 7000 trees have been planted.

They also are shown ways to grow crops that protect and nourish the soil – boosting harvests, to feed families and to sell at market. Several groups have also been equipped and trained for beekeeping – with protective gear much needed for the vicious African bees!

This project is uniting communities, uplifting families, and helping those in most need. They gain skills, give loans to start small businesses, improve their homes and educate the children. The IMARIKA team is extending the work to new villages, and also working with schools, training students to grow and plant trees!

Available now: Order the *Trees Bees and Seeds* Resource Pack (see the order form), for Harvest Festival and Creation Care events, raising support for Operation Agri. The pack includes: ideas for worship with a sermon outline, news of the project, a role play, children's activities, photos, poster, leaflets etc. Alternatively, the video and some of the resources can be downloaded via OA's website.

IMARIKA is an exciting and very worthwhile scheme, involving the local churches in reaching out to whole communities – gaining lasting practical skills and the ability to improve livelihoods and environment.

This year's Operation Agri video appeal is *Trees Bees and Seeds*. It features the IMARIKA project which OA supports in central Tanzania. Imarika means 'strengthen' in Swahili, and the project encourages local churches to strengthen their community. They bring people together – to save money, invest in each other, and work to improve their area. As a sign of pride in their IMARIKA group, members often wear a 'uniform' – IMARIKA T-shirts with their group name, or dresses in matching material!

Working together: The video shows village tree nurseries, set up with training from the IMARIKA team. Years of deforestation has affected their climate. So, they grow trees for shade, for timber and for fruit: guava, avocado, papaya – a vital 'fruitful' way to improve their environment,



- Improve livelihoods
- Restore the land

Operation Agri: transforming lives

2025 OA Appeal Resource Pack
with video, poster, handouts, family worship ideas

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

To order by post	
Full Pack: USB stick with video, A2 poster, Resource Book, 25 leaflets, 25 envelopes <i>(delete items not needed)</i>	Quantity
	packs
Extra handout Leaflets (25 per set)	sets
Extra Gift Envelopes (25 per set)	sets
Extra Poster	
Extra Resource Book	
Contribution to production costs and postage	£5.00
Donation to Operation Agri	£
<i>(Cheques to 'Operation Agri')</i> TOTAL	£

Ask about an OA
speaker for
your church

Name

Address

Tel

Email

Church



Please include me in email news updates Yes ☐ No ☐

I'd like to make a regular gift

to support the work of Operation Agri
by standing order

Mariam Nyalusi
used VICOBA loans
to finance building a
better house in Tanzania.



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 AGRICULTURE

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 £
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- ☐ **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.

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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.

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