

Welcome to your summer updates

SHAREDINTEREST FOUNDATION

Building a fairer world



Dear Supporter,

Welcome to your summer newsletter. In this edition, we bring you news from Africa and Latin America where we are working with farmers and artisans to create sustainable incomes in rural communities.

Before we move on to project news, we are delighted to share that we have been shortlisted in the **Third Sector Awards** in their Small Charity, Big Achiever category. We could not have done this without you; thank you for your continued support.

A special mention goes to Anne, who has set off on a cycle journey from John O'Groats to Land's End in support of three charities including Shared Interest Foundation. Find out more on our [blog](#).



PROJECT UPDATES

GROWING FAIRER FUTURES: RWANDA

In western Rwanda, we are working with coffee co-operative KOPAKAMA to support 50 young people in establishing their own coffee farms. In the spring, they began to learn about preparing the land and how harvesting works.

With the help of the farming tools, equipment, and materials provided, 95,000 coffee seedlings are currently maturing in nurseries ready for planting in September. We look forward to updating you on their progress in the autumn.



Project Co-ordinator, Justin Tuyisenge, recently participated in a live discussion about this project as part of Volunteers' Week. You can watch the recording [here](#).

INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF COFFEE FARMING HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL UGANDA

Thanks to a grant from The Marr-Munning Trust, in April we began working with Bukonzo Organic Farmers Co-operative Union in western Uganda.

In this mountainous region, coffee farming is the primary source of income. However, many farmers are struggling to meet their livelihood needs, earning under £200 each year.



This project will support 365 farmers to improve their coffee crop, as well as diversifying into passion fruit production to generate an additional source of income.

Over 18,500 passion fruit seedlings are being prepared for planting in September. In the meantime, the coffee farmers are learning how they can nurture the passion fruit vines once they begin to grow.

To ensure the crops have suitable growing conditions, 3,650 trees have been planted to protect against soil erosion and provide shade.



"The farmers of Kinone and Burangwa are very happy because we are going to plant passion fruits which will be another source of income and will improve our income at household level. Thank you so much"

(Hannington Bwambale, coffee farmer and project participant)



INCREASING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN THROUGH SOILLESS FARMING

In February, we began working with a group of 120 basket weavers living in the northern region of Ghana. The sale of their handwoven products relies heavily on the tourist industry and as travel restrictions increased, annual income dropped by two thirds.

Our in-country project partner, TradeAid Integrated, is providing weavers with the skills and tools needed to diversify into soilless vegetable farming.

This method uses boxes and locally available products including poultry manure and rice husks in place of soil. The group will grow a variety of vegetables including carrots, peppers and beans to be sold locally, providing a second source of income.



A warehouse is now being refurbished to wash, sort, and store the vegetables. With our support the group has also purchased a motorbike and trailer to transport vegetables from the box farms to the pack house. The vegetable seeds will be planted in early autumn and we look forward to the first harvest in December.



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR WOMEN IN RURAL NICARAGUA THROUGH ORGANIC SESAME FARMING

In rural Nicaragua, we are working in partnership with local sesame and peanut co-operative Coproexnic to support 40 women in establishing their own organic sesame farms. The group also plans to make sesame candy to sell locally. This is a simple snack made from toasted sesame seeds and caramelised sugar.

Following training in Good Agricultural Practices the farmers are now preparing their land for sesame planting in late August.



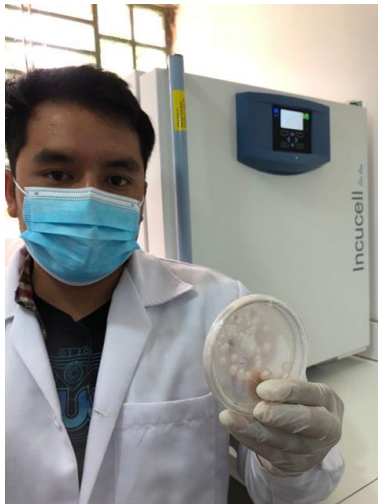
IMPROVING ORGANIC COFFEE PRODUCTION IN PERU

Working in partnership with local coffee co-operative CECAFE, we are supporting coffee farmers in the northern jungle of Peru to increase their resilience to a devastating pest. The coffee borer beetle can damage up to 50% of a farmer's yield. Last year, CECAFE reported the beetle

destroyed almost 300,000kg of the co-operative's coffee to the value of £438,000, representing almost 20% of farmers' annual income

CECAFE has developed an eco-friendly way of controlling the borer beetle at their Centre for Innovation. The resulting *Beauveria Bassiana* fungus is currently in development, with the first batch expected to be ready by the end of August. It will then be distributed to 200 farmers affected by the coffee borer beetle.

In addition, a site has also been prepared for organic compost production. Here, 1,000 tonnes of compost will be produced annually and sold to the farmers at a low cost to enable them to increase their production of organic coffee.



BEES FOR BUSINESS: BURKINA FASO

Since 2018, we have worked with the Benkadi de Dakoro women's group in the rural community of Dakoro. After supporting the group to establish a beekeeping enterprise, we secured additional funding from the Evan Cornish Foundation to enable the group to diversify into organic sesame production, providing an additional source of income. The women have also been trained in business and finance skills, to enable them to manage both their beekeeping and sesame businesses sustainably.

The project ended earlier this month and we are delighted to share that the women's monthly income has already increased from £6 to £26. This additional income has been used to pay for their children's school fees, make home improvements, and contribute towards community development initiatives;

“We have gained credibility because our co-op supports the village in providing equipment including mattresses, blood pressure monitors and solar kits.” (Project participant)



Our second Bees for Business project in Sideradougou is ongoing. Group leaders have been trained in leadership skills and a well has been constructed to provide a permanent source of water for bees. The group recently finished their first honey harvest – look out for updates on our social media channels



GROWING FAIRER FUTURES: CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In Côte d'Ivoire, our Growing Fairer Futures project working with young cocoa farmers is also progressing well. The farmers have received training in Climate Smart Agriculture techniques and farming tools and equipment. To provide shade on their new cocoa farms, 625 shade trees have also been planted. This project is delivered in partnership with Fairtrade cocoa co-operative Cooperative Agricole de Yakasse Attobrou (CAYAT).

You can read more about our Bees for Business, and Growing Fairer Futures in Côte d'Ivoire, in our previous [Spring Newsletter](#).

INCREASING FARMERS' CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH TREE PLANTING

Throughout our projects, we aim to increase the resilience of farmers and artisans against the devastating effects of climate change. Tree planting provides a natural way of protecting crops against soil erosion and increasing temperatures.

Our projects have seen us plant **160,275** trees this year, including:

4,275 shade trees in Africa and South America to increase soil stability, reduce erosion and provide natural shade to cocoa and coffee crops

1,000 Moringa trees in Burkina Faso to increase biodiversity and support beekeeping activities

60,000 cocoa trees in West Africa and **95,000** coffee trees in East Africa to enable 150 young farmers to establish their own farms.



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

We have enjoyed taking part in a series of Shared Interest online Supporter Events to raise the profile of our work. Please do get in touch if you would like to help us promote Shared Interest Foundation. This could be anything from speaking at a virtual event or providing literature for a stall. If you have an opportunity you would like to discuss with us, email foundation@shared-interest.com or call us on 0191 2339115.

Remember: You can keep updated on all our projects by following our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Thank you for your ongoing support. To help spread awareness, please consider sharing this newsletter with your friends, family, and networks.

Yours Sincerely,

Harriet Urwin

Foundation Development Officer

