

Welcome to your spring updates

SHARED INTEREST FOUNDATION

Building a fairer world



Dear Supporter,

Welcome to your first newsletter of 2021, which brings positive news from our projects across Africa and Latin America.

Before we move on to our plans for this year, here are some of our highlights from 2020:

SHARED INTEREST FOUNDATION IN 2020



With the support of
973 DONORS
& 5 GRANT MAKERS



We delivered
7 PROJECTS IN 6 COUNTRIES
across Africa and Latin America working with 6 local partners



We worked with
28 CO-OPERATIVES
who support
142,637 PRODUCERS
(49,151 WOMEN)



Delivering training to
315 FARMERS
(42% WOMEN)
and providing
livelihood support to
1,200 FARMERS



Supporting
PRODUCERS
of coffee, tea, cocoa,
macadamia nuts,
ground nuts and
handcrafts



PROJECT UPDATES

GROWING FAIRER FUTURES: GHANA

In January 2020, we launched Growing Fairer Futures, to support 50 young cocoa farmers from 10 communities, in the Osino District of eastern Ghana.

You can read more about the project on page 10 of our [Annual Review](#).

This 12-month project has now ended and to conduct the final evaluation, we worked with an Extension Officer from the Ghana Cocoa Health and Extension Division (CHED). To understand the impact of this project we interviewed project participants and stakeholders.



Project Coordinator, Daniel Awuku Addo, told us that;

“The project has provided a platform to sustain cocoa production. It has motivated the youth to enter into cocoa and other farming activities and has also reduced rural urban migration.”

Project participant Philip Nyam shared how he now feels more hopeful about the support cocoa farming will provide to his family;

“After myself enjoying the produce of cocoa, my children can inherit it and enjoy it as well” (Philip Nyam, project participant)

As part of the evaluation, the Extension Officer also conducted farm assessments. Eighty-seven % of the participant’s farms achieved the highest rating based on the implementation of good farming practices, weed control and planting techniques, which is a fantastic achievement.



Extension Officer Dan Nimako speaking with Martey Francis, a participant in our Growing Fairer Futures project during an assessment of his farm.

BEES FOR BUSINESS: DAKORO

Two years after launching our first Bees for Business project in Burkina Faso, we are now supporting the Benkadi Women's Group to diversify into organic sesame farming.

Following our training in Good Agricultural Practices, the women have planted a hectare of sesame, using the seeds and materials provided, and the farm is now certified organic. The group are now using funds from their first harvest to expand their farm by an additional hectare.





Meanwhile, the group's honey production and sales continue to increase, enabling them to build a storeroom and support their local community.

"With the beekeeping project there has been a lot of change in my life. I have an understanding about modern beekeeping that I did not have before. I am able to help cover some of the children's expenses, especially in terms of schooling." (Abibata Ouattara)

You can read about the history of this project [here](#).

BEES FOR BUSINESS: SIDERADOUGOU

Our second Bees for Business project is supporting 75 women in the community of Sideradougou, Burkina Faso. Women in this region previously survived on as little as £13 per month, from collecting and selling shea nuts. As this was not enough to meet their families' basic needs, some women relied on goldmining for an additional source of income. This was dangerous work and damaging for the environment, leading to deforestation and reduced soil fertility.

Beekeeping will provide a sustainable source of income, so that the women are able to better meet the needs of their family and support the development of their community.

We are now connecting the group with another beekeeping co-operative who will share over a decade of experience. The plan is for the two groups to collaborate and combine their produce, enabling them to attract large orders and increase their profits.



The first group of project participants attend a practical demonstration on honey extraction

GROWING FAIRER FUTURES: CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Thanks to a donation from a Shared Interest Society member, we have replicated our Growing Fairer Futures project in Côte d'Ivoire. We are now supporting 50 young people from the communities surrounding Cooperative Agricole de Yakasse Attobrou (CAYAT) - a large cocoa co-operative in the La Mé region - to establish a sustainable cocoa farm. In December, the young farmers received training in planting techniques, disease and pest management and post harvesting activities. The farmers are implementing some of these new skills as they prepare their land for planting in May.



UPCOMING PROJECTS

In our next newsletter we will share updates on our new projects for 2021. These include supporting basket weavers in norther Ghana to diversify into soilless farming, and working with female sesame farmers in Nicaragua. You can read about all our new projects on page 20 of our [Annual Review](#).



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



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