



Spore

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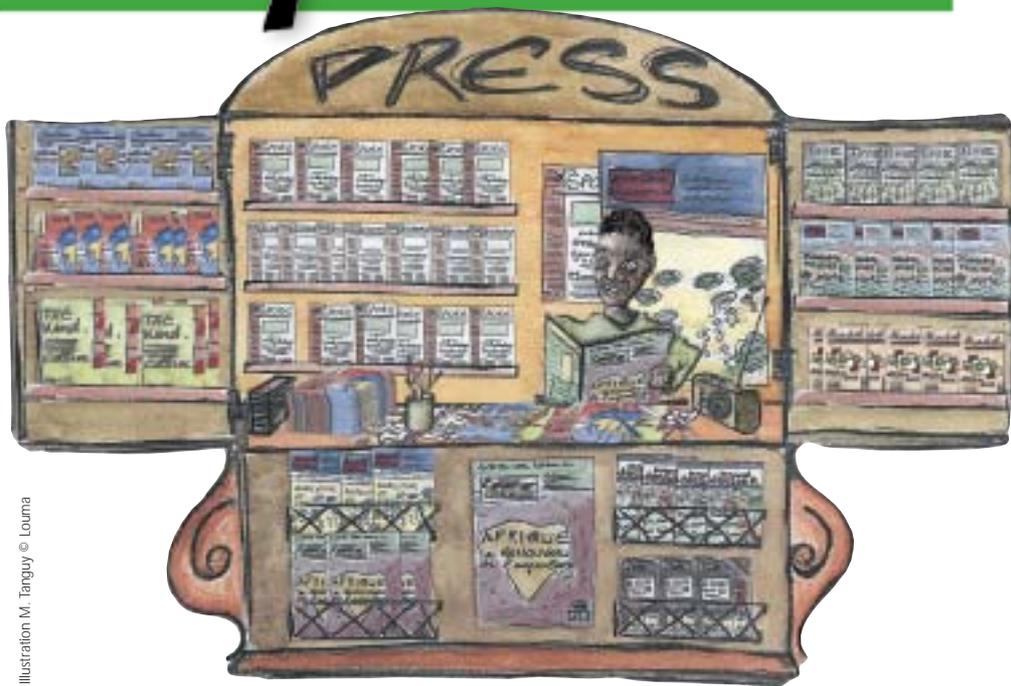


Illustration M. Tanguy © Louma

Media and agriculture

Headline news: New headlines

Agriculture is climbing back on to the world's major agenda, after a sad, bad absence. Some even ask, did it fall, or was it pushed? This time, we are here to stay.

In the endless bustle of the streets around the central post office in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the vendors will sell you anything, and everything – even the latest copy of *Spore*. Walk around, and amidst the cacophony of colours and noise you will notice *Spore's* familiar cover, in the kiosks and on the arms of those high-pressure salesmen-cum-street-children.

Our correspondent says the going price downtown is up to 2 dollars a copy but he has a tip: go to the student area, you'll pay no more than a dollar or its equivalent. Until he arranged a mail subscription early in 2002, he bought a copy for the NGO information centre he works with, where it is used by more than 200 readers (10 times more than the average copy with 'only' an estimated 20-odd readers).

This tell-tale sign of market forces at work is a tiny reflection of the supply-and-demand economics of the media. Demand for *Spore* has built up steadily since it was launched 100 issues ago in 1985, or our Portuguese edition *Esporo* 50 issues ago. Officially, the magazine is sent only to registered or paying subscribers, and is not available for sale in kiosks and shops. But these are merely the rules of the publisher and its funders; in reality, the market place has discovered that other people will pay for *Spore*. Whether that is right, we shall leave to others to debate and decide.

If *Spore's* amazing readership of one million is typical of the demand for agricultural information in popular scientific language, why is it, some may ask, that agriculture is not daily headline news in local, national and international media?



In this issue

You know the expression 'you're someone special, you're one in a million'? Welcome to the club! Our recent survey of readers has shown that, all things considered, each issue of *Spore* has at least one million readers. Starting with you, and the other people who are sharing this copy, whether it is in tip-top form, or all dog-eared from lots of reading, or as a photocopy, or on a computer screen.

Maybe this is the first time you have seen an issue of *Spore*. Maybe you are one of the revered few who go all the way back, through one hundred issues, to issue number 1. Or maybe you joined the club somewhere along the way.

To celebrate our One Hundredth issue, we are pleased to offer you a straightforward, normal *Spore*.

Articles about major issues on the world's agenda today and tomorrow, lots of practical information, research ideas, publications, readers' news and views. And – to celebrate the things you do with *Spore* – a small gift: a poster about readers like you. With our very best wishes.

The simple answer is that we are dealing with two worlds. One is the local, rural world, with its own pace and priorities, in which there are many undervalued initiatives in communication – as recorded in the book *Information Revolutions* (see end of article). The other is a world where tastes are dictated by urban preferences, where the thoughts of policy makers and media operators are strongly defined by the horizons of the city. In the words of the song, we all belong to one world, but live in different ones. The strength and quality of the link between these two worlds depends on their mutual awareness and understanding. This in turn requires well-managed and, especially, well-communicated information. In short, the media have a crucial role to play.

Back to the limelight

As the world becomes more urban, every rural person becomes more important. The Gibson Institute for Land, Food and Environment, an international think-tank based in Northern Ireland, explains this paradox thus: “By the year 2005, for the first time in global history, the majority of the world’s



PHOTO: FAO

Have you heard the news today? Or did you read it? Radio and word of mouth still reach more rural people than newspapers.

population will be classified as urban. (Already, an average of 40% of an ACP country’s people live in urban areas.) Rural issues will become ever more important. That moment will mark a historic watershed in the complex relationship between rural and urban. It will also call for renewed and radical attention on how these two sectors separate and interact.”

The agricultural sector in any economy, and especially ACP agriculture, in all its complex entirety, has to fight its corner with many competitors. And in a corner it seems to be. In the past few years, few meetings of agricultural practitioners or policy makers have gone by without the remark “we need to get agriculture back on to the agenda”. It does not matter who you are. Take your pick: you are the leader of a farmer’s organisation struggling to get attention for the

pain of fatally low commodity prices. Or a trader whose market has been washed away by the effect of Europe’s and America’s moronic subsidies on agricultural exports. Or a research director fuming at the priorities given by donors to non-agricultural issues. Or a farmer with a sack full of perishable produce who has missed the bus to market because it was commandeered for the funeral of some AIDS victims. Or a Minister for Agriculture emerging bruised, almost literally, from a Cabinet meeting where health, education and defence budgets were hiked at the expense of your own. Whoever you are, and whomever you know who has been there, we have all been scrambling for ways to get our sector back on to the agenda – and into the headlines.

This has been driven by our belief that there is something fundamental about agriculture. How can a person, a culture, a civilisation grow and feed its mind and its body without food? How can agriculture win attention, and keep it?

The signs are that the return to the top agenda is happening. In May 2002, Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, heaved agriculture fairly and squarely back up on to the top agenda of the UN’s World Summit on Sustainable Development, alongside health, water and environment. At the Summit, being held in August in South Africa, there will be sessions on ‘Agriculture and the Media’. There, practitioners will develop action plans to ensure that agricultural and rural issues are properly covered in the media, and thus command the respect of policy makers, stakeholders and external partners.

A for Agriculture

For the media – ranging from daily newspapers, through national and international television, to Internet magazines – to cover agriculture, we have to make sure that the sector is visible, understood, credible and capable of feeding them. For starters, as long as news agencies, Internet sites and other media suppliers classify the sector as some sort of subset of environmental affairs, or science and technology, or economics, we shall never get noticed. Editors please note: just use the A-word. Second, media professionals need to explain why the sector is crucial to food security, environmental management, employment and income generation. Third, they must follow the highest possible journalistic standards: seeking out stories rather than copying press releases; checking stories and then double-checking them; and, even though this is sacrilegious to some in the profession, refusing payment for articles and not demanding incentives such as ‘petrol money’ and ‘per diems’ before even talking about covering a story.

The crucial point is to ensure high quality of the message. In recent years, much has been invested in helping stakeholders in the

agricultural sector to enhance the form of their message. This has ranged from improving skills in public speaking, through design of Web pages, to preparing press releases for journalists. The schools of journalism which have now taken root in Kingston, Suva, Dakar, Nairobi, Maputo, Johannesburg and many more cities have played their role too, even though not always with an adequate eye on agriculture. All well and good. The long haul to successful information impact does not lie, though, in prettying up flimsy messages, however true it may be that a fine orator (which few of us are) can convey a bad message better than a bad orator a good one. It lies in painstaking effort to achieve the optimal quality of the story, for a fine media person will always pick out the fakes and the institutional drone, and choose for the most reliable and newsworthy one.

One convincing way to convey the importance of the agricultural sector is to demonstrate its liveliness as well as its livelihoods. The new *Spore* poster, celebrating 100 issues of the magazine, carries 100 mentions of readers’ lives and *Spore’s* place therein. We hope that in celebrating the rich diversity and ‘buzz’ of our readership we have helped to highlight the confidence of the sector, and encouraged our colleagues in the media beyond agriculture to do the same. Just as we have done for 100 issues already, and intend to do for, ooh, many many more. Grabbing a few headlines on the way.

Spore 100 Poster

This issue of *Spore* has a supplement in the form of a wall poster featuring 100 *Spore* readers and the analysis of the 2001-2002 Uses of *Spore* Survey.



The World of *Spore* Readers – celebrating a magazine’s share in the agriculture and rural development of ACP countries
CTA, Wageningen, 2002
54 by 80 cm. ISBN 92 9081 263x
CTA publication 1083. 0 credit points



Information revolutions: How information and communication management is changing the lives of rural people
By P Mundy & J Sultan. CTA. 2001. 241 pp.
ISBN 92 9081 2289
CTA number 1037. 40 credit points
This publication can also be downloaded in pdf format, free of charge, in chapters, or in a full file of 1.9 Mb from the CTA Website:
www.agricta.org/pubs/inforev/index.htm

See special announcements on pages 14 and 15 (Section: Between Us) about media use of *Spore*, and transmission of *Spore* by satellite.

For agriculture to capture a leading place in mainstream media, it is necessary to:

- explain the fundamental importance of agriculture
- convey the vibrancy of farmers and farming
- develop media strategies which explain issues, not just praise institutions
- never err from reliable, credible stories
- maintain the highest possible professional standards

Wetlands

Still waters run deep

Wetlands are highly productive areas, offering a home to many plant and animal species and being a major storeroom for the world's water, oxygen and carbon dioxide. Among the competing claims of production, profit and preservation, what is the right balance?



Photo M. Edwards / Still Pictures

Every country in the world has its wetlands. The Okavango in Botswana and the Sudd swamps in southern Sudan are large well-known examples, as are the areas alongside the edges of the Niger Delta. There are equally important wetlands on the islands of the Caribbean and the Pacific. There are those of Vella Lavella in the Solomon Islands and the Sepik river system in Papua New Guinea. And on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago there are no less than 11 distinct wetlands. Worldwide, at least 570 million hectares are considered wetlands, about one-twentieth of the world's land surface.

What is a wetland? Estuaries, lagoons, swamps, marshes, peat lands, seasonal flood plains in river basins are all part of the definition. It covers areas where excess water dominates the environment and determines the flora and fauna. The water table is usually just below, equal to or just above the land surface and the water can be static, flowing, tidal, brackish, fresh or salt.

During the 20th century the world lost half its wetlands and the pace is not slowing down. Most of them fell victim to drainage and conversion to – irrigated – agriculture, to pollution or to overexploitation of resources, including fish, timber and water.

By the 1970s, the world had started to see the need to act. On 2 February 1971 – World Wetlands Day ever since – an inter-governmental treaty on the conservation of wetlands was signed in Ramsar, Iran, and it is now popularly known as the Ramsar Convention. At present there are 132 contracting parties to the Convention, with 1,178 wetland sites, covering a total of 102

million hectares. It was the first global treaty of its kind on the conservation and wise use of the world's natural resources. In the early days its focus was largely on conservation, primarily to save the habitats of water birds. In recent years, *wise use* has gained importance too, even to the extent of embracing cultural aspects. The next meeting of the Ramsar Conference of the Parties, to be held in Spain in November 2002, is on the theme of 'Wetlands: water, life and culture'.

Nature's treasure trove

In most ACP countries, wetlands are highly productive and are cultivated seasonally without the need for fallowing or fertiliser use. After the wet season, receding flood crops such as sorghum can be cultivated. In the dry season the areas are used for grazing by pastoralists and finally, during the floods, the soil fertility is restored and the area is used again for fishing. When the floods recede, the fish are restricted to creeks and rivers and with crop cultivation the cycle starts all over again.

But there is more that makes wetlands a country's wholesaler of nature. Of the commercial fish species caught at sea, most have their spawning grounds in wetlands. The wetlands are also the cradle of rice cultivation, the nests and pit stops for millions of migratory birds, the home of shrimps, and the nurseries for medicinal plants, mangroves and construction materials such as timber and thatching reeds.

In the Diawling wetlands in Mauritania, *Sporobolus robustus*, a perennial grass, is used for making mats and materials for fishing. *Acacia nilotica* delivers the tannins for traditional leather tanning and *Oryza barthii*, wild rice, provides food. These species were on the brink of extinction following the construction of the Diama dam upstream on the Senegal river in 1986. The construction of sluices and embankments in the mid-1990s restored freshwater levels and the species already are returning.

Proper sustainable management of wetlands, however, is more complex than simply keeping feet wet. The Nariva swamps

in Trinidad are a prohibited area, but in the 1980s farmers drained and occupied hundreds of hectares for rice cultivation, much to the dislike of the Pointe-A-Pierre Wild Fowl Trust and despite its Ramsar Convention status. Incompatible interests in the use of wetlands resources are not only a reason for conflict, they also disrupt the fragile balance that characterises wetlands.

Convert or conserve

Most wetlands are inhabited by a variety of users, who need to be part and parcel of any plan for sustainable management. Wetlands are multifaceted in nature and in use. In the past two decades, the conviction has grown that the multi-purpose use of wetlands seems the most sensible way forward for sustainable use. Land and water rights of the inhabitants and other stakeholders, not to mention health issues, need to be sorted out and arranged at government level. Local knowledge, which is often dispersed among the various users, and scientific knowledge need to be integrated.

The first examples of this multi-stakeholder, multi-use approach are beginning



Looking for Paradise Lost

Photo E

to bear fruits. In Zambia's Kafue Flats, the first partnership agreements, arranging water rights, have been signed between commercial sugarcane farmers, local communities and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). In Ethiopia's Illubabor zone a wetlands management programme executed by the Wetland Action consortium and the British University of Huddersfield has pinpointed the need to include all stakeholders in wetland management planning. Their conclusion, one that can be shared across the world, is that a multi-use approach which balances conservation with development is a viable way of maintaining a broad range of socio-economic benefits whilst allowing hydrological and ecological functions to work as nature intended.

See publications on wetlands, page 11

Renewable energy

The energy is in you

Home is where the hearth is, and those solar cookers of the 1960s never did win many hearts. Anyway, with solar panels on the roof, a village centre can light, wash and cool itself.

Renewable energy has become mainstream. The weird and wacky appliances of the seventies now mean big business and big opportunities for small farmers and small processors. Whatever next?



PHOTO FAO

At the mouth of the port of Dakar in Senegal, a kilometre or two off the coast, stands one of Africa's new landmarks: a navigation light. Standing nobly above the waves, on a firm concrete mast, it guides ships around a rocky bank on their port side, and on past the island of Gorée, an old African landmark of the former slave trade, on their starboard. Both landmarks have etched

their place in history, one chillingly and shamefully, the light for being powered by batteries fed by the sloping solar panels at the top of the mast. Even the marks left by seagulls in transit, themselves a form of biomass, cannot long hinder the sun's rays from being caught by the panels.

Similar new landmarks are in place in more than half of Africa's 400,000 villages, and in most of those of the Pacific and the Caribbean. They are now at the forefront of what, two decades ago, was just another dream in the complex area of rural electrification. Then, they lay like discarded toys in a pile of broken dreams that came to be known as a 'technology graveyard', solar panels alongside ill-sited windmills. Now, times have changed, and while the sun and the wind were patiently waiting, the engineers have climbed their learning curve and simplified maintenance, and costs have fallen. Solar panels and well-sited wind pumps stand as a symbol of appropriate renewable energies, pointing, like those coastal navigation lights, a relatively sure way towards affordable energy supply in rural areas.



PHOTO FAO

Here comes the sun

With all these so-called renewable energies, solar, wind, biomass, you may be tempted to ask "which is the fairest of them all?". Well, first get some definitions sorted out, because most of them are solar energy, when you think about it.

Solar energy is known principally for three aspects:

- passive use, such as in ventilated cooling or drying systems
- thermal use, in warming up water, to be heated further by other fuels
- photovoltaic cell collectors, which convert the sun's light rays into electricity, for direct use, or for storage in batteries.

Solar energy lies behind winds, causing winds to rise and fall. It is also in plants, which use the sun's light to photosynthesise, and are later burnt or decomposed to produce gas.

Not that the sun is behind all renewable energies. As well as hydroelectric power from water turbines, and geothermal energy from warmth in the earth, there is tidal and wave power, which is generated by turbines placed in the water. Which is where the moon plays a role, as the pulling force behind tides.

Energy is the key

Energy. It is in energy that we can find the key to development, according to many of those who search for the way to heave a society onto a virtuous spiral of progress. Others will say it is in education and the book. Or in health and nutrition, to tend and feed the body and mind. Or transport and trade, to get closer to markets and better income. Or digital technology, to get the 'right' information.

None of these options, and they each have their impassioned proponents, can work without energy. Energy is the light for extended learning and training time; the healthier heat for cooking; the cooling for perishable crops, food and medicine; the pumping for irrigation.

It is in the processing and storage of products that reliable energy supply can

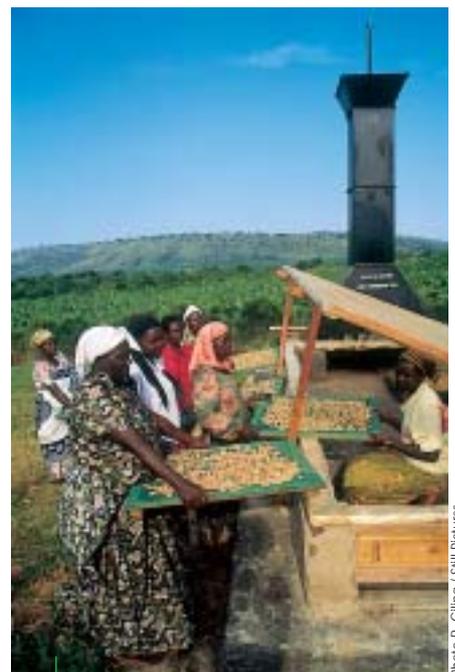


PHOTO R. GILLING / STILL PICTURES

Sun-dried fruits boost local markets, and windpumps raise water and income

add the most value to agricultural production. Of course, this is not to belittle the need for energy in the field. In water pumping, more use can be made of wind and solar energy. In mechanised cultivation, the need is for dependable access to fuel and, if possible, to shift away from fossil fuels. Yet in most ACP countries the localised production of alternatives to petrol and diesel, such as ethanol distilled from sugar cane, is still even farther away from the drawing board than the planner is from the field.

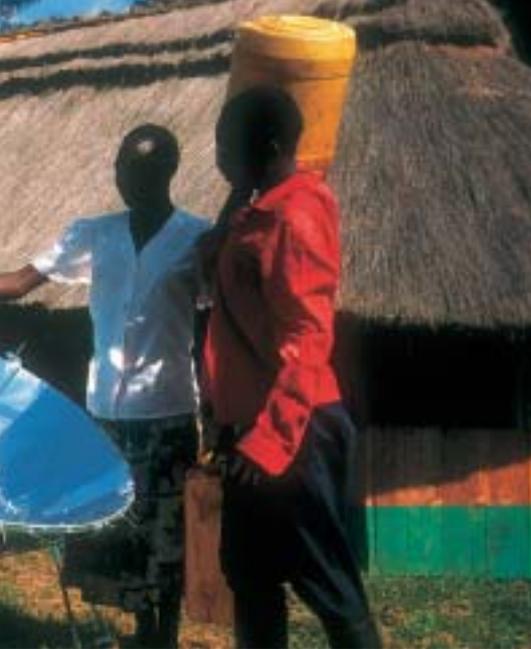


Photo E.

Africa, or *ban uk suf* in Senegal, which have noticeably reduced both wood consumption and unhealthy smoke for millions of households and small food processors.

Grappling with the grid

There is, though, no real alternative to the use of electricity, and here there are many mountains to climb, perhaps literally, before rural supply is a common feature in most villages. In Uganda, for example, less than 1% of the rural population is connected to the national grid, reflecting the fact that extensive rural grid connection is hindered by high, uneconomical cost. This barrier, says a recent government report, has led to increased self-electrification in

Power sharing

In several regions of the world, ranging from western Europe to southern Africa, so-called 'pools' have been established where one country's surplus in power generation can be exported to another which needs more than it can produce. The southern Africa pool, for example, allows power to be switched across the region, from South Africa to Tanzania. Indeed, one group of Western electricity companies is even examining linking an African grid to a South American grid. This would allow Africa's electricity to be sold to, for example, Brazilian homes and industry during the African night for the South American peak time of evening meal preparation. Alright if you can get it.

Creating demand

In those dispersed areas where isolated grid systems are not viable, many countries are starting to opt for individual and institutional solar photovoltaic systems. Clinics, schools, guesthouses and small workshops, as well as better-endowed individuals, are shifting towards solar-powered buildings and homes. To really achieve a critical mass of demand, these steps require several support mechanisms: credit to help purchasers, and loans or grants to subsidise the initial cost for local manufacturers. These are exactly the same mechanisms as were used 20 years in Europe to get solar energy off the ground, as it were. And exactly the same as were used to ensure the widespread dissemination of improved wood-burning stoves. Third time lucky, they must be thinking in the ACP solar sector.

And, yes, these steps are now being taken in a positive way. The recent launch of the African Rural Energy Enterprise Development (see *Links*, page 10) is an example of how public-private partnerships are being developed to yank up the production of equipment for affordable energy generation or efficient consumption. It is this business-like approach which will ultimately determine whether the slogan 'power to the people' also works for rural communities.

If the new Global Environment Facility of the UN system, due to emerge in early September 2002 from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, is looking for a priority area to work in, alongside changes in consumption in the industrial world, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars, cows, rice paddies and factories, then it is in rural electrification. Maybe the future that only visionaries can see, 30 years from now, is full of new forms of electricity generation, such as covering massive desert areas in ACP countries and elsewhere with vast arrays of solar collectors. In the meantime, if the world cannot bring power to the rural people, then at least help them make it themselves. Sustainably.

Making better biomass

Increasing the efficiency and cleanliness of charcoal is a key area of research in renewable energies. Extensively used in cooking and heating, it is often a household's prime source of energy, and is preferable to the burning of wood.

The challenge is to develop affordable machines for the carbonisation of vegetable matter from agricultural residues such as straw and husks, and offcuts from wood, reeds and bamboo, and their compression into charcoal briquettes.

The importance of this technology is demonstrated by the award, in late June, of the Altran Foundation's 2002 prize for innovation to the scientist Guy Reinaud. President of Pro-Natura International, Reinaud is working on low-cost machines for local rural enterprises, in Senegal and elsewhere, to produce briquettes which are easy to use and release no smoke.

The award, worth about € 1 million, was shared with another scientist looking at how to power a radio from a small flame on a petroleum lamp, using thermo-electric cells to convert heat to electricity. The 2003 Award, incidentally, will be in the field of technological innovation and early childhood, including food and education.

Altran Foundation for Innovation
251 Boulevard Pereire
75017 Paris, France
Fax: + 33 1 4409 5440
Email: communication@fondation-altran.org
Website: www.fondation-altran.org

Applications of renewable energy in agricultural processing come in two forms: direct, and through generated electricity. The use of solar dryers for processing fruit and vegetables is now standard practice in most villages; the ubiquitous towers of trays of produce are ventilated by the convection of warm air, which can be boosted by small solar-powered fans. Similarly, panels of water-filled collectors absorb solar radiation, even on cloudy days, to warm up water for cooking and cleaning, reducing the need for wood or charcoal use in stoves. And, of course, there are the infamous improved small stoves, known as *jikos* in eastern



Photo M. Edwards / Still Pictures

rural areas, with people using diesel-powered generators and, increasingly, solar photovoltaic collectors. Such scenarios are known in most ACP countries – more than 40 use traditional fuels (mainly wood) for more than three-quarters of their fuel consumption, according to extensive data provided by UNDP's *Human Development Report 2002*.

In recent years, many technical advances have been made in the extension of national electricity grids, in particular on overcoming the tremendous losses of power over transmission lines several hundred kilometres long. Grids are also being linked, one to another, so that they can share electricity. A massive project is currently underway to share power from the Manantali hydro-electricity dam in Mali with Senegal and Mauritania.

Using national grids is not, frankly, an option in most rural electrification programmes. They need to be based mainly on the generation of electricity at the local level, in 'stand-alone' systems or isolated grid mini-systems serving a locality. In these, power can be generated from such sources as sugar mills; bagasse is heavily used in, for example, Jamaica, Mauritius and South Africa. Other agricultural wastes, such as rice husks or coffee shells, can also be used. In Uganda, isolated systems will serve relatively concentrated areas with a potential for use by rural enterprises, providing a model for better serving market towns. Their source of power will be mainly from micro-hydro plants, a growing sector in the field of renewables.

Networking by numbers

■ Networking is largely lived, not learned, or at least not taught. But some basics of networking between organisations can be shared, and in two-week training sessions in June, a good three dozen agricultural policy makers from eastern and southern Africa learned some new tools of the trade: network concepts, analysis and governance, and change management to improve policy formulation. A new word too: 'institutiogramme', or a sketch of an organisation. The workshops were held jointly by CTA and regional policy making partners ECAPAPA in Nairobi, Kenya, and FANRPAN in Gaborone, Botswana.

Bees for coffee

■ Although coffee does not need pollination to produce berries, visits by African honeybees can induce more and heavier (25%) berries. According to researchers from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, the coffee tree benefits from the exchange of genetic variation caused by the bees. This could explain the recent drops in yields in Africa and Asia, where the natural habitats for bees have shrunk and the intensive cultivation of coffee has been replacing multi-storey, mixed plantations.

Source: *Nature*, June 2002

Hundreds of heifers

■ As part of a government crossbreeding programme to increase milk production, small dairy farmers in Byumba in northern Rwanda received 85 Jersey heifers with young in June 2002. Another 85 heifers arrived in early July. Supported by the USA-based Heifer Project International, the programme had already distributed 88 heifers to Rwandan farmers in 2001. The cows produce 15 to 20 litres of milk per day.

Cutting costs more than trees

■ A combination of sawdust and wheat bran moulded together into a banana-shaped briquette is now an alternative to wood and charcoal fuel. The Jerriton Bakery and Coffee Factory in Kampala, which developed the briquette, cut down its fuel costs for baking and roasting coffee beans. It had been using 9 tons of charcoal a month. In June 2002, only 1 ton of briquettes was needed.

Safety nets for improved tilapia



Photo: H. Legendre/IRD

"Any movement of fish between natural ecological boundaries such as watersheds may involve risk to biodiversity"

■ With more farmers adopting aquaculture as an option for improving food production and farm income, scientists are looking at ways to raise productivity through genetic improvement. This carries a number of risks, principally in terms of the fish escaping into the wild and endangering endemic species.

Much of the fish breeders' focus has been on the Nile tilapia species, *Oreochromis niloticus*, which has captured a place in both the local and export markets of many countries in Africa, the Caribbean and beyond. The Netherlands' growing import volume of tilapia, for example, comes

mainly from fish farms in Jamaica.

Specialists, almost 50, from 10 African countries and scientific and international organisations gathered in Nairobi in February 2002 to develop guidelines to foster the development of aquaculture while maintaining biodiversity. The meeting, organised by ICLARM the World Fish Centre, in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, CTA, FAO, IUCN and UNEP, issued the sort of Declaration that is so fashionable in seminars these days. All good stuff: identifying areas in Africa with unique wild stocks and ma-

naging them as conservation areas, protected from alien or genetically altered species; strengthening the collection of baseline data on fish genetic diversity; drawing up international codes for the movement of germplasm; drafting incentives and legislation for ensuring that those "to whom benefits accrue" also bear the costs of rectifying damaged environments. These safety nets, though, are full of holes before they start. Delegates spoke of poor implementation of existing protocols, weak institutions, and lack of trained personnel and financial resources. Get darning!

Intensive cultivation

■ My, how they pack them in in South Africa! With 107 presentations in two days, plus poster sessions, bringing together a total of 140 papers, the agroforestry community of southern Africa brought itself up to date at its packed workshop on 'Agroforestry impacts on livelihoods in southern Africa: putting research into practice.'

It was, after a decade or more of research and practice in the region, time to take stock, and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) had caught the mood well, with support from a wide raft of donors and technical agencies, including CTA. The 180 delegates looked back with

satisfaction at the options and innovations which have developed with farmers since their last gathering in 1991, including improved fallows for soil fertility, fodder crops for livestock, woodlots on farms, and the domestication of indigeneous fruit trees. Through scaling-up, partnerships and replication programmes, hundreds of thousands of farmers are already using these options, and with measurable impact on household and community livelihoods and environmental quality.

The challenges ahead are almost as numerous, concluded the meeting's Declaration: more capacity building, a more business-like approach and

links with the private sector, mainstreaming gender in research, facing the devastation of HIV/AIDS and malaria, solving the poor supply of planting materials and – watch out for this one, it is going to become an art-form in many professions – dove-tailing agroforestry into the framework of NEPAD, the New Economic Partnership for African Development. Watch out too, in a few months, for the workshop proceedings; likely to be one of the richest nurseries of replicable experience, from jam-making to enabling environments, ever. How do we know it went well? Even the region's parliamentarians stayed put throughout.

The cow and the butterfly

■ The spectre of rinderpest has long haunted Africa, ever since its arrival on the continent through the Ethiopian port of Massawa in 1888. Since then it has spelt death to millions of animals. It seems to have largely disappeared, at least for the moment, but is forever lurking quietly, reproducing itself, and ready to strike at any moment. The line 2 of the rinderpest virus, which afflicts wild buffalo, cannot be spotted by traditional monitoring tools. This

has led to research on new monitoring instruments which could trace the virus and help to contain it quickly and efficiently.

Three organisations in the world are working on this: the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) of Pirbright (UK); Cirad, the French centre for international cooperation in agricultural research in Montpellier; and the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute ISRA in Dakar. They are testing a kit comprising plates which, when some animal cells and reagents have been placed on them, show up in specific colours

which indicate the virus's presence. The special feature of the kit which has been developed by ISRA is that the protein used to trace antibodies is produced by a butterfly (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) into which the gene of the virus has been added. At present, the research centres' tests are being validated by the Nairobi-based International Bureau for Animal Resources of the Union.

J. Sarr
ISRA-LNERV
BP 2057
Dakar, Senegal
Fax: +221 832 21 18
Email: josarr@refer.sn

Berry, berry good

■ Almost since the beginning of time, people have been making wines from all sorts of plants, and not just from grapes but also from wild and cultivated berries. The wine of the Marula berry is much loved throughout eastern and southern Africa, but it could soon be facing competition from the berry of the Eembe tree *Berchemia discolor*. Researchers in Namibia have produced a very passable wine from the fruit of this tree which can grow up to 18 metres high in dry areas ranging from Sudan to southern Africa.

The Windhoek university team bought its dried fruits on the market, dissolved the pectins, and added citric acid to increase acidity. They used commercially available yeasts rather than natural yeasts to bring on the fermentation process. The initial must had an alcohol strength of 8.6°; adding extra sugars brought it up to 12.3°. Aerobic fermentation lasted for 5 days, and the anaerobic for a further 3 months. Taste tests showed that added sugar and sulphur dioxide improved quality.

The method has been written up in detail in Volume 6, Number 3, 2001 of the *Journal of Food Technology in Africa*. Consume in moderation.

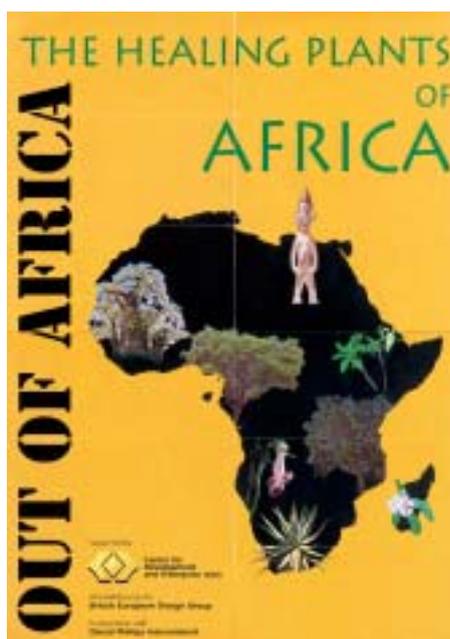
E L Keya and T N Ngwira
Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Namibia
P/Bag 13301, Windhoek
Namibia
Email: ekeya@unam.na

A healthy income

■ If you are into conquering new markets, having a stand at a local or regional agricultural trade fair is a good way of extolling the virtues of your goods. If your produce is more suited for export, it is better to team up with others or have others do the promotion for you.

The *Out of Africa* trade exhibition has been travelling through Europe since mid-2002, promoting Africa's medicinal plants. It has visited such trade fairs as Vitafoods in Geneva, Switzerland in May and the Natural Products Expo Europe in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in June.

Out of Africa is built around seven medicinal plants, each representing an African region. The African sausage tree, *Kigelia pinnata*, for example, is used for treating ulcers and sores and was chosen to represent south-east Africa. The devil's claw, *Harpagophytum procumbens*, now widely used to treat rheumatism and arthritis, represented south-west Africa. West Africa sent the baobab tree – used for skin care – as its ambassador, and the



island continent of Madagascar sent its periwinkle, a source of alkaloids used in treatments against leukaemia and Hodgkins disease.

More than a dozen African companies from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan and Tanzania have leaflets, photos, products and plant materials on display on the stand. *Out of Africa* was designed by the British European Design Group in association with Denzil Phillips International Ltd (www.denzil.com), with support from the Centre for the Development of Enterprise.

Once upon a time

■ The remains of what is thought to be the oldest settled African agricultural community have been discovered on the outskirts of Asmara, capital of Eritrea. On the basis of excavations and discovered artefacts, such as needles, gold earrings and farm implements, archaeologists from the University of Asmara have painted a picture of a community that lived in stone houses, ate goats, drank beer, tanned leather and cultivated fields. The discovery has been dated at 800 BC and is one of the richest heritage sites in Africa.

Bio-cocoa

■ On the Vanuatuan island of Mallicolo, cocoa is an important cash crop. With four out of five farmers cultivating it organically, the French confectioner Cémoi got interested in its potential. It supported the re-organisation of Mallicolo's cocoa sector with a cooperative storage and credit facility, and a cocoa drying plant. Producers are now getting a 40% higher price through their cooperative from Cémoi than they would otherwise.

Biocides united

■ A good collection of natural products traditionally used for crop protection can be found in the online database of Natural and Traditional Pesticidal (NTRAP) materials in eastern Africa. For instance, *Phytolacca dodecandra* – known, as *uwoko* in Luganda (Uganda) – is a climbing shrub whose fruits are crushed and extracted in a 1% solution toxic to *Bromophalaria* spp., the intermediate hosts of bilharzia. The database is not very user-friendly, but slow and steady gets you there in the end.

Website: www.ippc.orst.edu/ipmafrica/db/index.html

Fishing for Ghanaians only

■ A new law in Ghana now reserves trawling for fish in territorial waters for Ghanaians only. The law also stipulates that 50% of investment in tuna fishing (previously 25%) is reserved for Ghanaians, while foreigners may invest in the remaining 50%. The government hopes that, with this change, annual local production will increase from 400,000 to 500,000 metric tonnes and imports of fish can be reduced.

Agriculture's contribution

■ The next annual conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists will look at reshaping agriculture's contribution to society, with sub-themes including environmental stewardship, efficiency in food and farming systems, consumer safety and food security. It will be held in Durban, South Africa, from 16 to 22 August 2003.

📍 *Event Dynamics (Pty) Ltd*
 PO Box 98009,
 Sloane Park 2152
 South Africa
 Fax: + 27 11 463 7195
 Email:
 iaee2003@eventdynamics.co.za

Who's in for success?

■ The *Farming Solutions* Website, recently launched by Greenpeace, Oxfam, Pesticide Action Network Africa and the Information Centre on Low Energy Input Agriculture is by nature a success story. It presents successful initiatives and projects which improve food security and environmental care. Send in your own examples of what works for you!

Website: www.farmingsolutions.org

Pop corn

■ Senegalese farmers have shifted en masse, to a man, and to a woman, from groundnuts to maize for the 2002 season. The falling prices and demand for groundnut, together with privatisation, the closure of the statal main buyer Sonagrains and the lack of private alternatives, seem to have really put the boot into groundnuts.

Bye, bye borer

■ A 3-year project to introduce parasites to biologically eradicate the coffee berry borer (*Hypothenemus hampei* Ferrari) in Jamaica is making headway. As an environmentally sound alternative to the insecticide endosulfan, in 1999 the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) introduced and mass reared the parasitoid *Cephalonomia stephanoderis* Betrem, that parasitises the immature stage of the borer. Now this has become established successfully, CARDI has introduced a new parasitoid to fight the adult berry borers and is currently establishing protocols for mass rearing this wasp.

📍 *Kathy Dalip*
 CARDI at UWI
 St Augustine
 Trinidad, West Indies
 Fax: 1 868 645 12 08
 Email: infocentre@cardi.org

A street cart called Hope



Beignets, fritters. High tea, Haiti.

■ Often a thorn in the flesh and the oh-so-tidy minds of city traffic and hygiene departments, food vendors serve a burdgeoning market – and not just the poor – amid annual city growth rates of 10%. The sector, about as informal as can be, provides income for peri-urban farmers and for sizeable chunks of any city's population, often women, working from their street carts and little stands. Their food is fast, filling and familiar, and good value too.

Recognised by nutrition workers in the mid-1980s as the best way to deliver nutrient supplements to many city dwellers, street vending still awaits broad recognition from city planners. Hope is at hand: "breakthrough comin' through", as one Jamaican vendor told *Spore* recently.

Early in 2002, Ghana's Food Research Institute reported on its census of the Accra's food vending sector, undertaken with the Natural Resources Institute (UK). It employs 60,000 people; its annual profits are US\$ 24 million; turnover US\$ 100 million. Two-thirds of Accra's workers take their main meals there; many children and students nowhere else.

The Accra study, uncannily paralleled by another by Alice Mboganie Mwangi of Nairobi University, points to greater health risks than seen in earlier FAO studies a short decade ago. More food is being grown with waste 'grey' water and contaminated soils. Storage, preparation and serving are at times unhygienic, as is waste disposal.

The studies serve up their key message - better to improve the sector than forbid it –in helpings of practical measures: provide vendors with access to running water, toilets and energy, and give them hygiene training on safe vending, just as the food giant Unilever did for 4,000 vendors in Accra, in return for promoting their products.

The critical measure – to recognise and nurture the sector – received a massive boost in mid-June when the International Labour Office decided to better address the needs of workers and enterprises in the informal economy.

📍 *StreetNet Association*
 PO Box 61139
 Bishopsgate, Durban 4008
 South Africa
 Fax: +27 31 306 7490
 Email: stnet@iafrica.com
 Website: www.streetnet.org.za

More summits than mountains

■ It's the Year of the Mountain, but it's not just the summits of Mount Kilimanjaro, the Blue Mountains and the highlands of Papua New Guinea which are getting crowded these days. Take a look at the diaries of the world's political leaders – chock-a-block with summit meetings, sometimes two in one week.

In mid-June 2002, squashed between an environmental summit in Brazil and a richest nation moot, with NEPAD partners, in Canada, was the 'World Food Summit – Five Years Later' in Rome, Italy. There, under the absent eye of most northern Heads of State, and with massive (but very porous) security, the leaders of many developing countries, powerless and budget-challenged, reaffirmed the previous summit's pledge in 1996 to halve the number of hungry people in the world within the, by now, next 12 years.

Tying up the time of 6,613 participants, 74 Heads of State or Government, 181 country representatives, 1,200 civil society people and 1,601 media representatives (the equivalent of 250 working years), have such summits become exercises in pompous insincerity, or do they have a value? In terms of promises kept, no. The networking, though, driven by the hundreds of southern NGOs that made the journey, was a joy to behold. The rapprochements between NGOs and the World Bank, the furtive search of the life science industrialists and farmers' leaders for partnership, the opportunity to coax the EU representative almost to seek forgiveness for subsidised agriculture – all these mark a new phase in cooperation which could change the face of ACP agriculture.

That makes a summit worthwhile. And it brings out the occasional chance remark that could trigger off quite a debate, such as that by Nobel prize winner Amartya Sen on poverty and hunger: "What really matters is that people can buy food; where it is produced is not important."

Photo S. Sprague / Panos Pictures

Goat's milk against malaria

■ In a couple of years, your herd of goats could be able to supply the entire population of Africa with a vaccine against malaria. Numerous research efforts around the world, all seeking *the* remedy against malaria, are on the brink of

breakthroughs. However, few seem promising in terms of availability and affordability for the millions of people exposed to the parasite (see *Spore* 97, main article).

A researcher at the US-based National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Anthony Stowers, is one of many to take up the challenge of developing a medicine which is cheap to manufacture, for use in countries hardest hit. NIAID teamed up with the Genzyme Transgenics Corporation and produced two transgenic mouse strains that carry a form of the

gene of a surface protein from the lethal malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*. The cells in the mammary glands switch on the transgenes, releasing the vaccine protein in the animal's milk.

Since mice produce very little milk, a similar test was carried out on goats. With reasonable success. In January 2002, NIAID announced that the vaccine in goat's milk worked for four out of five vaccinated monkeys, whereas six out of seven unvaccinated monkeys died of malaria. The laboratory will start clinical tests with humans in 2003.

Website use increases

■ Almost 40% of *Spore* subscribers now have email, and some sort of access to the World Wide Web computer network. Two years ago, it was 12%.

No wonder that the use of CTA's Website is growing. In early July 2002, it had 720 users a day, reading 2,000 pages, with 8,950 'hits', a way of counting all the parts of a page shown on the screen. A page with a heading, two texts, four photos and four captions has at least 11 parts. The 'hits' parade means less than user numbers, but it places CTA's Website higher than, for example, the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centres.

What are people looking for (and usually finding)? Addresses, research projects, courses, books, journals, marketing tips, and lots of policy and technical details such as vanilla processing, raising ducks, impact assessment, apomixis, network planning, sorrel juice and hydroponics. All of which they'll find in the *Spore* pages – the most popular, followed by CTA's Publications Catalogue.

Since almost half the visitors have addresses marked as .net (network), .com (commercial), and .org (non-profit), instead of country markers such as .ke for Kenya, we do not know where some users are. Some we do, with 80 countries marked, including Belize, Fiji, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and St Lucia, and a lot of Asian, European and South American people making use of ACP information. You're all welcome! Even the person from .mil, a military body.

Website: www.agricta.org



A li'l bit a guinea corn porridge Wid a li'l bit a goat milk
Is the sweetest thing you ever taste Believe me ya stomach da feel like silk
Daisy "Wong" Richardson (Anguilla)

The shame of one million deaths

■ More than one million people die each year through work-related accidents and sicknesses in the agricultural sector, according to new statistics from the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Previous figures said that more than half of the world's 1,700,000 occupational deaths were in agriculture; now it is the same share of a total of 2,000,000.

Most of these fatalities could be avoided, ILO claims, by full adherence to labour standards which include the ILO Convention 184 on Safety and Health in Agriculture, adopted in June 2001 (see *Spore* 94). At

the May 2002 meeting of the agricultural group of the International Union of Food Workers, calls were made for governments to ratify Convention 184: by mid-July, only one had done so. Two are needed for it to come into effect.

Many agricultural workers, incidentally, stand to get further protection if current initiatives to include the informal sector in labour laws can reach the statute book. The first step: get the sector on the formal agenda. It happened at ILO's June 2002 General Conference where a major theme was "Decent work and the informal economy".

Press gang

■ There'll be some changes soon in the quality of articles in several West African newspapers and radio programmes. At the end of May 2002, in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, 19 journalists from seven francophone countries followed a course on packaging agricultural information for the press, run by the West Africa Rice Development Association and CTA. Let's hope they are all as proud of their future output as they were of their time-keeping on the course. And remember, you 17 guys and 2 women: always double-check those sources !

Best articles rewarded

■ The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) has launched an award scheme for the best article on education to appear in the African press. A paid study visit in Europe and prizes of € 2,000 and € 1,000 will be granted to the winners, to be drawn from African journalists writing in either English or French.

ADEA
7-9 rue Eugène-Delacroix
75116 Paris, France
Fax: + 33 1 45 03 39 65
Email: adea@iep.unesco.org
Website: www.adeanet.org

Water in dry regions

■ An international scientific conference on the hydrology in Mediterranean and semi-arid regions will be held from 4 to 10 April 2003 in Montpellier, France. It will address the hydrological effects of climate change and seasonal fluctuations, erosion, salinisation and pollution, and seeks to contribute to the search for new arable lands in these fragile regions.

IRD Centre de Montpellier
911 avenue Agropolis
34032 Montpellier Cedex 1
France
Fax: + 33 4 67 41 62 57
Email: valerie.rotival@mpl.ird.fr
Website: www.mpl.ird.fr/montpellier2003/

A forest of studies

■ Eight forestry training institutes – four in Cameroon, the others in the Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Gabon – extended their harmonisation of curricula, research and communication in March 2002. They also adopted new foci, including non-timber forestry products, protected areas and wildlife management in relation to food security. The coordination of the network is being assumed by ENEF, the Gabon-based national forestry school.

The gain in a chain

The work-style and the attitudes of many development agencies have become more commercial and business-like in recent years. Where once they focused on handpumps and health, they now also debate the issues of interest rates for small loans, the management of market information and enterprise development services.

One of the pioneers and leaders in this "get real" trend is the US-based not-for-profit agency EnterpriseWorks Worldwide – the name says it all. It started life as Appropriate Technology International in 1976. By the early 1980s, it had expanded its attention from the technology side of fuel-saving stoves, solar cookers and oilseed presses, and shifted towards the economics and politics of producing them at low cost. Soon after, it was dealing with issues of franchises, replication strategies and tax incentives for rural workshops.

Value chain analysis

EnterpriseWorks has now incorporated this approach into the strategy of improving the incomes of groups of small-scale agricultural producers (it does not support individuals directly) by adding value to the products they cultivate. It undertakes sub-sectoral analyses of the value chain of a natural product. The 'life' of a product is mapped from cultivation through raw material production to processing and marketing, including all the costs of inputs, investments and sales. EnterpriseWorks then picks out those links in the chain where an intervention could achieve considerable financial gains for a large group of producers.

In Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, the value chain analysis has shown that cashew growers can increase their returns if they sell the nuts processed instead of

raw. Interventions here include the introduction of treadle pumps to improve cashew irrigation, the development of cashew processors and the training of local entrepreneurs to manufacture and sell these. EnterpriseWorks has also helped to improve marketing efficiency by linking producers with exporters and organising marketing campaigns.

In Haiti, the focus lies on improving the processing and marketing of 'Haïtien Bleu' quality coffee. In Uganda, oilseeds such as sunflower became the focal point (see *Spore* 99), and in Niger and Côte d'Ivoire it was market gardening.

The 'how to' manual on making a value chain analysis – *Enterprise Development of Natural Products* – is downloadable from their Website at: www.enterpriseworks.org/resources.asp where you can find a good range of manuals and publica-

tions on both technology and business processes.

Over the years, EnterpriseWorks has developed an impressive list of processing technologies; besides those already mentioned, these include a cassava slicer, a meat grinder and a peanut mill. EnterpriseWorks works with decentralised partner offices in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.



EnterpriseWorks Worldwide
1828 L Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036,
USA
Fax: +1 202 293 45 98
Email: info@enterpriseworks.org
Website: www.enterpriseworks.org

Save your energy

Doing business costs energy, figuratively and literally. One way of helping an enterprise to produce more efficiently and sustainably is to cut back on energy costs. As part of its commitment to Agenda 21, and with funding from the UN Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched the African Rural Energy Enterprise Development (AREED) in 2002 to encourage businesses that use clean, efficient and renewable energy technologies to meet the energy needs of under-served communities in rural areas. These include solar, wind, water and biomass.

With a total loan fund of about US\$ 2.5 million, AREED can assist start-up entrepreneurs with early stage

funding, enterprise development services, training and partnerships with financial institutes and NGOs. The support can also be provided in a phased approach: for example, by first making a small loan to fund the preparation of a business plan. Then, if the plan is viable, AREED can allocate a loan to finance the starting-up of the company. Finally, as the company becomes established, further loans can be provided by other investors, partners or banks and AREED's support is no longer needed.

AREED currently works in five countries in Africa and has 22 enterprises in its project pipeline. It is likely to expand to other ACP countries in the near future, and sister organisations are already present in

Brazil (BREED) and China (CREED).

In early 2002, the Senegalese company AME signed a loan agreement to start a business servicing solar hot water systems in Senegal. The first part of the loan has already been advanced to help AME build up a portfolio of service contracts, with the remainder of the loan depending on the success of this effort.

In Zambia, the KBPS company will receive a US\$ 73,000 loan to produce charcoal briquettes from sawmill waste. The company wants to construct another 15 efficient brick kilns and develop a marketing and distribution network.

So, for the innovative, energy-focused and entrepreneurial minds among you, if you are resident in one of the five countries, ask for the application form or download it from

AREED's Website, which also features business training courses and publications.

AREED Mali
I Togola
Mali-Folkcenter
BP E4211 Bamako
Email: i.togola@datatech.toolnet.org
Fax: +223 20 06 18

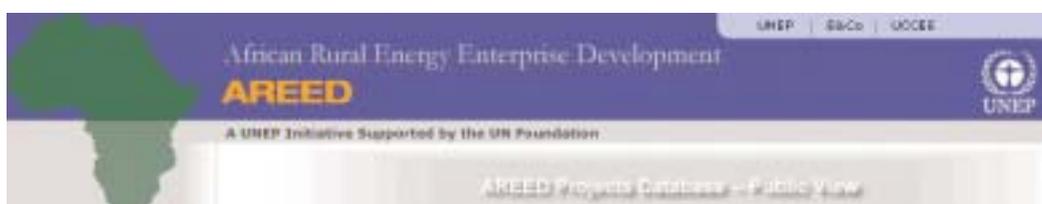
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S Sarr
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AREED Zambia
Prof F Yamba
CEEEZ
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Email: f.d.yamba@eng.unza.zm
Fax: +260 1 26 24 82

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c/o UNEP DTIE
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75739 Paris,
France
Fax: +33 1 44 37 14 74
Website: www.ared.org



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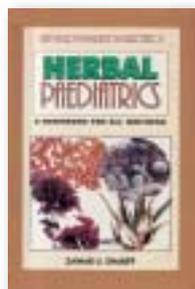
Growing your cure

■ This set of three manuals on using herbs as a treatment for ailments, written by a pharmacist, is ideal for places and cases where modern medicine remains unaffordable or unnecessary. With so much talk about herbal medicines, this is a must for every home. Many of the plants described are well known and used daily in the kitchen. The author's writing is clear and the manuals are well structured.

Modern herbal therapy touches on the use of herbs in curing in general and is structured according to ailments. *The herbal first aid kit* is organised the other way around and lists the herbs and recipes, and what they are used for.

Herbal paediatrics is for mothers who frequently need to treat minor ailments in children. The emphasis is on preventative health care through good nutrition, and safety in the use of simple, available and affordable herbs.

Modern herbal therapy for common ailments
By Z U. Shariff, *Natural Pharmacy Series, Vol 1, Spectrum Books Nigeria, 2001. 103 pp.*
ISBN 9780292500
GBP 12.95 • € 20.30



Herbal paediatrics
A handbook for all mothers
By Z U. Shariff, *Natural Pharmacy Series, Vol II, Spectrum Books Nigeria, 2001. 20 pp.*
ISBN 9780292535
GBP 5.95 • € 9.30

Herbal first aid kit
A book for the family
By Z U. Shariff, *Natural Pharmacy Series, Vol III, Spectrum Books Nigeria, 2001. 42 pp.*
ISBN 9780292551
GBP 5.95 • € 9.30

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And now...in print

■ For or against biotechnology in agriculture? It's always good to discuss the differences in opinions. From March 2000 to May 2001, FAO organised an email conference on agricultural biotechnology in developing countries, in six 2-month sessions. No less than 1,300 people from 47 countries – 40% from developing countries – took part.

The first four sessions dealt with current technologies for crops, fisheries, forestry and live-stock, the fifth with the relationship between biotechnology and food security and the sixth with intellectual property rights.

It is often difficult to summarise discussions, but the editors did well with a lively style, letting people have their say in a clear structured framework. Above all, they did well to put it



in print, to let people without email access share in the results.

Agricultural biotechnology for developing countries. Results of an electronic forum
FAO Research and Technology Papers, 2001. 122 pp.
ISBN 9251047022
US\$ 14 • € 14.20
FAO Sales and Marketing Group
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Fax: +39 06 57 05 33 60
Email: publications-sales@fao.org

In short: Water

■ Water is a source of life. And a source of conflict. While many fear interstate conflicts over water in the near future, most actual water conflicts today are



being fought out at local level, between communities, between households and between agriculture and industry. While at interstate level water treaties are being put in place, perhaps more effective solutions are being found at local level. At least, that is what the author of *Water* argues. This concise booklet brings together 30 years' experience in water management research by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). It serves well as an introductory guide to local water management issues, briefly describing technologies, such as rainwater harvesting, irrigation, wastewater use and fog catching, from the perspective of policy and decision makers.

Water. Local-level Management
By D B Brooks, *IDRC, 2002. 80 pp.*
ISBN 0 88936 996 8
CAD 15 • € 9.95
Full text available at www.idrc.ca/water with many links to resources.
IDRC
PO Box 8500
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9
Email: pubs@idrc.ca
Website: www.idrc.ca

The way forward

 The current agricultural policy process is not adequately equipped for achieving sustainable development. Both documents stress that capacity building, policy networking, international cooperation and exchanging information are important conditions to improve effectiveness. Also available as download from: www.agricta.org/pubs/polnet/index.htm

Agricultural policy networking: the way forward
Full proceedings of a CTA workshop. Entebbe, Uganda, 6 - 10 November 2000. CTA, 2002. 193 pp. ISBN 92 9081 2583
CTA number 1082. **20 credit points**

Agricultural policy networking: the way forward
Summary report and recommendations of a CTA workshop. Entebbe, Uganda, 6 - 10 November 2000. CTA, 2002. 38 pp. ISBN 92 9081 2559
CTA number 1076. **5 credit points**

Empowering negotiators

 In one cover, records of two regional meetings to help African negotiators prepare for the world stage. (English section is only 20 pages.)

L'Appui aux pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre face aux aspects agricoles des négociations multilatérales : *Rapport d'un atelier international, Dakar, Sénégal, 2000.*
Agricultural policy of African countries and multilateral trade negotiations: Challenges and options *Summary of an international workshop, Harare, Zimbabwe, 1998.*
Published by CTA – DSE – ZEL, 2002. 281 pp. ISBN 3 934068 60 x
CTA number 1077.
40 credit points

A wet variety

■ A formidable set of papers from just one workshop on 16 examples of participatory management of wetlands, including Djoudj in Senegal; Logone in Cameroon; Lake Nakuru, Saiwa and Yala swamp in Kenya; and the Bangweulu in Zambia. It is a good 'reader' on the topic, with articles in English and French. Not available in print but only downloadable from: www.wetlands.org/pubs&nwdnloads.htm which features several other workshops.

Strategies for wise use of wetlands: Best practices in participatory management
Proceedings of a workshop held at the 2nd International Conference on Wetlands and Development in November 1998, Dakar, Senegal.
Edited by M Gawler, IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International, 2002.
116 pp. ISBN 90 1882 0084

Farmers' fish-bait

 A report on information dissemination and extension activities for agro-pisciculture systems as a viable option for smallholder farmers.

Sustainable agro-pisciculture systems in sub-Saharan Africa
Report of a study visit. Malawi, 1999. CTA, 2001. 28 pp.
 ISBN 92 9081 2516
 CTA number 1053. 5 credit points

.....
Nothing to sleep upon

■ A concise specialist paper, on the state-of-the-art of an integrated phased approach to sterile insect technique application aimed at creating tsetse-free zones in sub-Saharan Africa.

Integrating the sterile insect technique as a key component of area-wide tsetse and trypanosomiasis intervention
PAAT Technical and Scientific Series, FAO, 2001. 76 pp.
 ISBN 9251046468
 US\$ 8 • € 8.10
 FAO Sales and Marketing Group
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 00100 Rome
 Italy
 Fax: +39 06 57 05 33 60
 Email: publications-sales@fao.org

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Make a virtue of necessity

■ Ever thought of domesticating the rodent *Thryonomys swinderianus* as an income-generating activity? This handy booklet, published with CTA support, fills the knowledge gap on how to keep these animals.

Practical handbook on cane rat domestication
YDC Extension Series No 2, Youth Development Centre (YDC), Cameroon, 2001. 33 pp.
 US\$ 10 • € 10.15
 YDC
 PO Box 1321, Limbe
 Cameroon
 Email: ydclb@yahoo.com

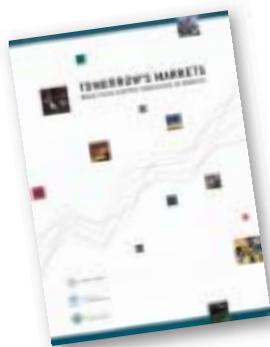
.....
All there is to water

■ A varied collection of papers from a conference held in October 2000 in Barbados, on a broad range of land and water issues related to crop cultivation, forestry, soil management, sea fishing and coral reef management. Published with CTA support.

Land and water resources in the Caribbean
Edited by C L Paul & J Opadeyi, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the University of the West Indies, 2001. 258 pp.
 ISBN 976 617 010 x
 US\$ 15 • € 15.20
 CARDI at UWI
 St Augustine
 Trinidad
 West Indies
 Fax: 1 868 645 12 08
 Email: infocentre@cardi.org

What's up tomorrow?

■ Are you planning a new activity, an expansion of your business, a change in your crops? With so many changes underway in institutions, climate and finance, it would be good to understand what those changes are, and what effect they will have on future trends. How will export demand change when fuel prices rise? What certainties can be found in unsettled weather? Will the organic bubble burst, or become permanent?



Tomorrow's markets shows how your success is shaped by many variables, including population growth, climate change, urbanisation, education, infrastructure, labour and communication, and offers an overview of the most important factors. Unfortunately – perhaps understandably – the data provided are rather general, give only a rough indication and sometimes state the obvious. As a broadly comprehensive introduction to change, however, this book could be very useful.

Tomorrow's markets. Global trends and their applications for business
 Co-publication by the World Resources Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 2002.
 62 pp.
 ISBN 1 56973 497 6
 US\$ 22 • € 22.30
 Stock number: 3017
 Earthprint Ltd.
 P O Box 119
 Stevenage, Herts SG1 4TP
 England
 Fax: +44 1438 748 844
 Email: customerservices@earthprint.com
 Website: www.earthprint.com

Paint the town green

■ This video from the Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture shows the urban food chain and the variety of approaches taken by town farmers: a goat in the basement, some herbs on a balcony and inner city vegetable gardens along the railway line, with issues such as soil fertility, labour, land and water availability playing key roles. With cameos of cultivation, marketing, technologies and stakeholders (including a few errant goats), the video opens a window on Ecuador, Senegal, Tanzania and Vietnam.

In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, garbage collectors separate organic waste from the rest and sell it as compost to the public. In Dakar, Senegal, a water treatment plant experiments with *Pistia stratiotes* (water lettuce) to clean (not purify) waste water and use it for irrigation.

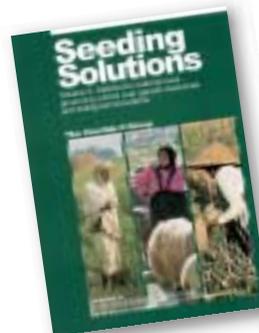
The video is good material for use in workshops or training



ing sessions for urban planners, NGO staff and others whose work touches on the 'green spaces' in urban areas.

Urban agriculture
 Video available in English, Arabic, French or Spanish. RUAF, Netherlands. 2002. System VHS/NTSC. Duration: 45 minutes. With story book, 34 pp.
 Price available on request
 RUAF
 PO Box 64
 3830 AB Leusden
 Netherlands
 Fax: +31 33 43 260 00
 Email: ruaf@etcnl.nl

.....
Seeding legal options



have served their readers well and enlivened the subject matter. They chew over the judicial implications of having complicated issues covered by laws and present the reader with options. All the issues confronting a policy maker on one topic are presented in one article, pointing out possible conflicts, complementarities and options.

This is a novel way to prepare a policy maker's homework. The real proof of the pudding will come when the first national body tries the options. Who wants to go first?

■ The 'Seeding Solutions' series addresses issues related to plant genetic resources, their use, conservation and property rights. Volume I, published in 2000 (see *Spore* 90), dealt with facts and figures, and now Volume II focuses on the national laws needed for the conservation, innovation and enhancement of plant genetic resources and the rights of indigenous people as the owners and guardians of biological resources.

Legal issues often seem boring to many, but the authors

Seeding Solutions: Volume 2
 Options for national laws governing access to and control over genetic resources
 The Crucible II Group,
 Co-publication by the International Development Research Centre, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, 2001.
 300 pp.
 ISBN 0 88936 958 5
 CAD 35 • € 23.25
 For IDRC address, see page 11

Heading anywhere special?



■ Out on the street, and in the seminar room, and in *Spore*, the talk is of risk. How do you calculate risk, how can you minimise it, or protect yourself? See, for example, the article about the risks of commodity prices in *Spore* 98. The talk is also of impact assessment,

about how to measure the change which your actions may bring about.

Put risk assessment and impact assessment together, and you have a fairly powerful tool for working out the probable course and outcome of your actions. It is a complex science, and one that needs to be simplified before a non-specialist can apply it to managing agricultural activities. A superb start has been made in opening up this science in *Outcome mapping*, which claims to have an original approach in shifting away from assessing the products of a programme to focusing on changes in behaviour, relationships, actions and activities of the people, groups and

organisations involved in a development process. It helps in the design of a project, in monitoring its performance and planning its evaluation.

There is a new skill emerging in management and in networking, and it is called mapping. Like the cartographers of old, you can sketch where you have been, be attentive about your journey, and know with some certainty where you are going. Just for your projects – where you are going in your life is something else.

Outcome mapping. Building learning and reflection into development programs
By S Earl, F Carden and T Smutylo. IDRC, 2001. 152 pp. ISBN 0 88936 959 3
CAD 25 • € 16.25
For IDRC's address see below right

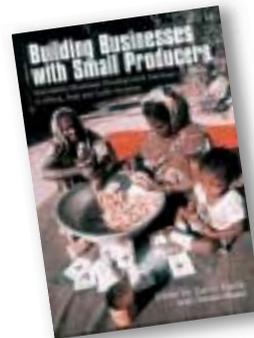
Strengthen the weakest link

■ With more and more producers and processors wanting to set up their own small business, here is a good book about one of the most important steps on the way. Commercial business development services (BDS) have emerged in the past decade as the best strategy to support individual entrepreneurs, especially in rural areas where market structures tend to be poor. A BDS provides a range of advisory services, in a one-stop shop style, in such areas as marketing, access to technology, and business management skills.

This book is based on comparative analyses of seven small agricultural producers all over the world, including in Ghana

and Zimbabwe, of their needs in setting up businesses to sell their produce and of the potential support which a BDS should give in each case. It gives a fascinating introduction into the methodology used by a BDS and, whilst being of most value in assessing the establishment of one, it can also give a small entrepreneur an insight into the development of her or his enterprise.

Unfortunately, all the cases concern projects with a history of NGO support, whereas an analysis of the needs of independently started businesses might have been closer to reality and made even more interesting reading.



Building businesses with small producers
By S Kapila & D Mead, IT Publications, 2002. 137 pp.
ISBN 1853394947
GBP 14.95 • € 23.45
IT Publications
103-105 Southampton Row
London WC1B 4HL
UK
Fax: + 44 20 7436 2013
Email: itpubs@itpubs.org.uk
Website:
www.developmentbookshop.com

Something in the air

■ This very technical booklet gives models for estimating quantities of gaseous emissions from crop and grassland systems in relation to fertiliser use. Important to know, in the light of current debates on atmospheric pollution and greenhouse gasses.

Global estimates of gaseous emissions of NH₃, NO and N₂O from agricultural land
International Fertilizer Industry Association & FAO, 2001.
116 pp. ISBN 9251046891
US\$12 • € 12.15
For FAO's address, see elsewhere in this section.

Take the bull by the horns

■ An inspiring compilation of experiences of urban livestock rearing from different parts of the world, categorised by production systems, identifying constraints and suggesting improvements.

Livestock keeping in urban areas. A review of traditional technologies based on literature and field experiences
FAO Animal and Health Papers, No 151, 2001. 72 pp.
ISBN 9251045755
US\$14 • € 14.20
For FAO's address, see elsewhere in this section.

Too good to be true

■ Years of research have produced advances in water hyacinth eradication, but not much has happened in affected areas. These workshop papers address the dilemma; of interest to policy makers, development experts and researchers.

Water hyacinth in Africa and the Middle East
A survey of problems and solutions
Edited by L A Navarro & G Phiri,
IDRC, 2001. 140 pp.
ISBN 0 88936 933 x
CAD 25 • € 16.60
IDRC
PO Box 8500
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1G 3H9
Email: pubs@idrc.ca

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Publications on CTA's list are available free-of-charge to PDS

subscribers. Subscribers can order publications on CTA's list up to the value of the credit points available to them. Subscribers can only request publications on the order forms provided.

Non-subscribers who wish to join the scheme should write to CTA for an application form. Applications will be considered from agricultural and rural development organisations in the ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States; individ-

uals resident in ACP countries may also apply.

If you are not eligible for a free subscription to the PDS, or if you need publications beyond your free credit allocation, you may buy publications on CTA's list from our commercial distributor: *Triops, Hinderburgstrasse 33, D-64295 Darmstadt, Germany, Fax: +49 6151 314 048, Email: triops@net-library.de; Website: www.net-library.de/triops.html*

Wanted: Change

■ A theoretical discourse on how to develop monitoring and evaluation beyond the paper exercise that it often is for donors.

Moving targets: towards monitoring rural decentralisation
By F van Oosterhout, *Bulletin 349, KIT Press, 2002. 50 pp.*
ISBN 90 6832 838 7
€ 11.50
KIT Press
PO Box 95001
1090 HA Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Fax: +31 20 568 8286
Email: kitpress@kit.nl

Advisory Committee The Spice Trade

Now here's a new management theory. Ever tried running an organisation by proverb? It could work. The Yoruba proverb "Opo Iru ko ba obbe je" literally translated means that "Plenty of Iru seasoning (from the seed of the locust-fruit) does not spoil the stew". Its broader meaning is that "Good advice never harms, however much be offered".

The annual meeting of the CTA Advisory Committee, held at CTA headquarters in Wageningen, from 4 to 7 June 2002, was particularly rich in seasoning in its role as a guiding sage. This was its first

Après Sam: shaken or stirred?



Samuel Matsangaise was seeking international experience when he joined CTA as Publications Officer in 1997, after 5 years as scientific editor and then as Director at the University of Zimbabwe Press. It heightened his input to CTA, at a time when changes in publishing were bringing new opportunities, many of them electronic. These he seized with gusto, helping to expand *Spore* and CTA's own line of publications into digital versions.

His departure in June 2002 sees him much wiser about diversity in the ACP group, and about different perceptions of "being African" and African realities. For CTA to cater for them all is, he feels, highly ambitious, and requires crucial choices. A shaker by nature ("tradition belongs to the dead" is a favourite of his), he is a relentless pursuer of the best possible output in all endeavours.

Now Sam has chosen "to be my own master" and to head the new Development Knowledge Trust in Zimbabwe. There he can practise his considerable (and passionate) powers of debating and networking on human rights, transparency, development information – and agriculture. After 5 years with your hands on the wheels of *Spore*, Annual Reports and some remarkably edited books, plus your BSc in agriculture, we know you'll do it well, Sam!

meeting since the launch of the new Strategic Plan (see *Spore* 98) and it took the opportunity to express appreciation of the changes in the Centre's orientations.

The learning organisation

The Committee brimmed with a number of 'fine-tuning' suggestions. The challenge of becoming more of a networking organisation seemed to fascinate it, as it continually urged the Centre to work long and hard on developing genuine relationships (linkages, synergies, partnerships are the terms used) with other fora, organisations, networks and – here's the spicy bit – "non-institutionalised initiatives". A constant thrust of this advice, somewhat less focused on the stand-alone structured regional approach and more on bodies with evident working links, was to better understand the nature and needs of potential partners. In other words, to invest in ties with formal bodies not "because they are there" but "because they will work". The recommended use of information about *Spore* readers (now emerging in some detail through the *Spore* User Survey) and of the CTA Website to help target activities, and the judicious development of links with farmers' organisations, underline that focus.

We need more young people

There are few better signs of a networking mind than one which can properly deal with 'cross-cutting issues', 'sector-wide approaches' and 'the wider environmental and social context', and these abounded in the Committee's advice. Thus the planned CTA seminar in 2003, which incidentally becomes a flagship event now that CTA only conducts one major seminar annually, should handle its topic of fertiliser use within broader parameters.

And talking of cross-cutting issues, 'youth' has been added to the list alongside, amongst others, 'gender' with both being better included in the physical composition of the Committee.

The Committee has 30 members, equally divided between representatives of the ACP Group and of the Member States of the European Union. There are three observers, from the Development directorate of the EC, the Secretariat of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers and the ACP General Secretariat; Mr S N Naidu of Mauritius was elected as Chairperson and Mrs H Boulkou of Greece as Vice-Chairperson. They will be joined in the Restricted Group which prepares, monitors and follows up the Committee's work, by Dr D Sène of Senegal and Professor E Tollens of Belgium.

Spore by satellite

Spore is now broadcast daily on satellite, as part of a strategy to make it more widely and more quickly available, especially where the mails are slow, and normal Internet connections are poor. The magazine has been available on the Internet since 1998, but this is not yet an appropriate technology for most readers, even if our Internet readership is booming.

With effect from *Spore* 100, electronic versions of *Spore* will be transmitted regularly on the WorldSpace radio network. WorldSpace is a commercial broadcaster which transmits digital radio programmes, including many from other international broadcasters, to special digital receivers in Africa, Asia/Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. (See *Spore* 78).

The public access broadcasts of WorldSpace are provided by the Multimedia Service of the WorldSpace Foundation (WSF), a separate not-for-profit organisation. It is through this service that *Spore* is broadcast via the AfriStar satellite to receivers in Africa, which are registered and known to WSF, or its agents. Other continents will follow! The broadcasts are intended to be received via WorldSpace digital receivers and adaptors purchased from WSF, or its agents, and are specifically for the use by educators and policy makers in Africa. (Prices start at about US\$ 120).

These receivers are widely spread throughout Africa; the adaptors make it possible to receive digital files of texts and images for transfer to any computer.

Initially, the *Spore* broadcasts will comprise the latest and recent back issues of *Spore* and *Espero* in three languages, with lists of contents and covering notes. During the trial period of 1 year, extra issues of *Spore*, and other CTA publications and media products, including rural radio programmes, may be added to the service as demand grows.

Will you "hear" *Spore* on the broadcasts? No, not yet – this is not exactly the *Radio Spore* idea that so many readers keep asking us to run! What is actually broadcast is a digital file of images of *Spore*, the same as on the CTA Website. So, even before the paper *Spore* is being printed at our printers in France, anyone, anywhere, in Africa, can be receiving the latest edition on their WorldSpace receiver and printing it for local use. We thank our enterprising colleagues in the Arid Lands Information Network in Nairobi for giving us the idea – their *Baobab* magazine is similarly broadcast to reader groups throughout Africa.

Who knows, if you look up to the stars tonight, you might see a little *Spore* twinkle in the sky. But have no doubt, this is more than a twinkle in our eyes, this one is for real!

Spore for the media

With effect from *Spore* 100, printed issues of the magazine, and electronic summaries, will be sent on a complimentary basis to selected leading media outlets, editors and writers throughout the world. The objective is to widen and deepen the reach of news and views from *Spore* through reproduction in other media such as national and international radio, television, newspapers, magazines, Internet publications and news agencies.

The *Spore* User Survey has confirmed that *Spore* articles are reproduced on countless community, rural and national radio stations; in national newspapers, magazines and local newsletters; in college lecture notes and international examinations. One reader answered the question "how many people use your copy?" with "I wish I could say that one million people read my *Spore*, because I translate some articles in Amharic for the newspaper *Zemr* in Addis Adaba (capital of Ethiopia)."

Sometimes an entire article is stolen from *Spore* and reprinted as someone else's work. Shame, for example, on the worthless scoundrels at Newlink Africa, a so-called 'news agency' in London, who reprinted a *Spore* viewpoint on rural radio in January 2000, topping and tailing it of any reference to the source. "Their" article was later selected for the March 2000 issue of the World Press Review. We invite readers to report any similar sighting to the address mentioned in the next paragraph.

If you are a media representative, and wish to receive *Spore*, and/or the Email Announcement of each issue, please request this in writing from the Media Affairs unit at Médiateurs (address given in the colophon below), or by email to mediaaffairs@spore-magazine.org. Please be sure to explain the media outlets you work for, and your role in them. Reproduction in non-commercial media is permitted, on condition of quoting the source; reproduction in commercial media is subject to restriction – please ask for details.

If you wish to suggest the names of media outlets to whom we should provide this new service, please contact the Media Affairs unit. Thank you.

Mailbox

Many of you told us in the User Survey how much you appreciate the exchange of experiences in *Spore* and how it should be expanded. Well, Mailbox is the perfect place. The floor is yours!



he coordinates. It reaches communities by running workshops, supplying gardening equipment and organic vegetable garden projects. "It makes farmers stronger partners in making research and extension system responsive to local needs and priorities. The NQH initiative is being supported by Seeds for Africa (see *Links in Spore* 94) and has started in five basic schools/communities. It is scheduled to reach over 50 locations by the end of 2003." With plans to establish a resource centre for organic gardening for their stakeholders – especially women and youths – NQH welcomes ideas, support and collaboration, especially in the production of training materials.

Edging towards hedging

■ This time we're not talking about hedging risks, as we have of late, but of real, live, green hedges. They help to make a brown environment greener, and more pleasant for their shade, view, flowers and fruits, and they contribute to a healthy environment, stable soil and a rich variety in plants, insects and birds. **Dr Mesmin Tchindjang** says that reading *Spore* often makes him think of hedges as a way to green the environment, especially in densely populated, urbanised areas such as in Bamiléké in the north-western Cameroon. There, he says, only one in eight households still has a hedge.

"These days villages are turning into endless lines of houses built of breeze-blocks, which have pushed out the old earth bricks we used to have. Now the separating hedges have made way for enclosing walls of reinforced concrete and blocks. If we are going to keep some sort of pleasant environment, we really should push to bring back the green hedges, otherwise we'll have lost a lot for good." And here's his photo.



A *Spore* massage?

■ Writing from Abomey in Benin, **Romuald Atrey** tells us of some side effects of reading *Spore*.

You can take *Spore* anywhere : it's light and easy to carry. It has helped us to persuade people unaware of the ill-effects of *Aspergillus flavus* on humans and animals not to use it, thanks to the article in *Spore* 94 in August 2001. We passed the good news about the benefits of ylang-ylang essence (in issue 86, in April 2000) to a fair number of people. It had quite an effect when we used it in a massage. We are always learning something new from *Spore*.

Women and children first

■ **Prince Agyirey-Kwakye** of the Youth Club for Nature Conservation (YCNC, PO Box AD 130, Cape Coast, C/R, Ghana; Email: yenc@hotvoice.com) writes in about the Nutrition for Quality Health initiative which



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CTA: Postbus 380, 6700 AJ Wageningen, The Netherlands

Tel: +31 317 467100

Fax: +31 317 460067

Email: cta@cta.nl

Website: www.cta.nl

Email for readers' letters: spore@cta.nl

Compiler: *Spore* is compiled by a consortium formed by Louma productions and Médiateurs

Louma productions, 3 rue Neuve, 34150 Aniane, France

Fax: +33 467 570 180

Email: louma@louma.fr

Médiateurs, W-Alexanderpoort 46,

1421 CH Uithoorn, The Netherlands

Fax: +31 297 540 514

Email: info@spore-magazine.org

This issue was compiled by

Marcel Chimwala, O'Neil Cuffe, Bernard Favre, Singy Hanyona, Erik Heijmans, Catherine Marzin, Paul Osborn, Jacques Sultan.

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Cyprien Essong Zé is a Cameroonian farmer, 34 years old, with a training in finance, and skills as a trainer. In July 2000 he became the pan-African coordinator of the International Movement of Catholic Agricultural Rural Youth (MIJARC), and sits on its board.

Youth and agriculture

Making a statement

It's thanks to his travels that he finally meets up with *Spore*, which he uses a lot on his farm. We first met on a Roman hillside in Italy, where he was organising farmers' encounters during the World Food Summit. A month later, on another hill, in Brussels, Belgium, we caught up with him again. He took time out from his course on globalisation to wrap up our interview.

He's visibly taken aback at the question: Do you still regard yourself as a young person? "Sorry to say so, but no. When I look at all the problems affecting youth today, especially in rural areas, I can't call myself young anymore. I am bound to look at myself as an adult, who can do something for young people. I'm an adult because I feel I have to help them. If I thought I was still young myself, then I would have to wait to be an adult, and I don't want to wait."

Has he always been so impatient? He looks back, with a room-size laugh, at "when it all started. It was on 28th November 1990 that I came back home to my village, Torba1, 138 kilometres east of the capital Yaoundé. I had qualifications under the belt, and I was a parish adviser and leader of small group of just six young people."

So where does youth stop, or is it eternal? "As far as MIJARC is concerned, at both national and international levels, it is between the ages of 15 and 35. Of course, it varies from culture to culture. Some of our members may even be in their fifties, but we insist that office-holders are between 15 and 35."

How about being a farmer, how do you see yourself there? He pounces back, as if being a farmer is eternal. "Oh yes, not a shadow of doubt. I am a farmer, I shall forever be a farmer, even if I end up doing something else. Right now on my farm, we are harvesting our field of groundnuts. My wife and I have five hectares." He looks a tad forlorn about being away from home. "I'm not so sure she copes on her own like that. When I'm in the country, I go home every weekend to work with her. And when I'm away, I pay for someone to help her, to stand in for me."

"I have always been focused on farming. My life-long project is centred on agriculture. Nothing will please me more than if things work out well with my farm; I shall stop all the other things that I do. It's where I can do the most for my family and for others, where I can be sure to raise my

family well. And it can serve as a statement for people who follow me. I shall be able to say 'Listen here, you'd be better off trying this seed or that one.' The thing is that young people don't know how to choose seeds; they're full of goodwill but a bit short on experience. When I started I didn't have any experience either. That's what I would like to put right. I want to make a practical statement."

Statements are important to you, right? "Very. They're what attracts people's attention, especially young kids. We should not be sitting around, not when they are wanting to get on with their lives. They can do a lot, they're full of potential, they need the chance, to build up their confidence. I also want to make a statement to those adults who could be doing something, but aren't, for young people; I want to get them to work too."

"you have to be proud of being a farmer"

All well and good, but isn't it the case that young people in the village have absolutely no choice but to stay? "Absolutely, none at all. It's impossible to get a job in town; there's next to no recruitment going on, and, you know, even when a young man has got qualifications, he'll most likely have a wife and children too, so how can you expect him to live in the city? They'll stay at home, in the village. But to survive there, they'll be needing some knowledge."

So being a farmer is just something you have to do? His eyes flash, we've touched a raw nerve here. "Listen, listen good. Being a farmer is a matter of pride, you have to be proud of being a farmer. Some of the kids in the village say that they ended up there by accident. They really wanted a good job in town, or in Europe or America. That's not the attitude to take. The education system has taught them to think like that. We'll only get our pride if we change the content of education."

"But there are other barriers too. Top of the list is the traditional one about having access to land. You may have the skills you need but you won't get very far if you haven't got the land ... The second issue is about being able to invest. As well as skills, you need to have real money to start off with. And then young people don't have any collateral, can't get a guarantee, and so they won't get any loans from the banks. That's really disappointing for them."

He's gone almost sullen. Let's talk about change, what should be changed? "We need to have a thorough review of our rural advisory services, and liberalise their management. Then we need to appoint advisors and workers with a specific focus on youth. If we stick to a service full of generalists, we're going to make all sorts of compromises to try to keep everyone happy. At the end of the day, it's the young person who's going to be left to fend for himself. If, on the other hand, we have a focused set-up, we can devote the proper attention to young people, with lots of energy and commitment, and then things will move."

It sounds rather similar to the positive discrimination towards women that got some things rolling, gender-wise, 20 years ago. "That's right. We should be talking of women-focused strategies in the same breath as youth-focused ones. We should even bring in child-focused issues. That should be the priority today because it helps to define the world of tomorrow."

How about CTA, do you see it as a partner for young people? "Easy. CTA has an important role to play in shaping attitudes, through training, as well as an information task. So it should be joining in those efforts which aim to help young people to better understand agriculture, to love it, and to get into it."

The opinions expressed in Viewpoint are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of CTA.