



Chairman's Message

I am often asked to explain how BOAT's activities benefit our friends in the developing world, particularly in East Africa which is our main target area. After all, we do not send emergency food aid, medical supplies, nor do we drill boreholes.

BOAT concentrates on helping to improve the management and business skills of those key personnel tasked with running agricultural and rural development organisations and training colleges in our target region. Lack of management capacity, business acumen and reliance on external funding when implementing development programmes are major weaknesses in many developing countries. Our Trust's 27-year association with Bicton College, East Devon, has allowed us to deliver our residential, Plymouth University accredited, training course in Institutional Management & Business Planning to a substantial number of senior staff from many of these organisations over the years, helping them to become more effective managers and trainers.

Our comprehensive evaluation of the outcomes of our training, including detailed feedback from employers, has shown the clearly positive impact of our delegates' improved personal effectiveness with the results cascading down throughout their organisations to benefit the target farmers and communities which their organisations serve. The multiplier effect is enormous. BOAT's in-country training programme is now being taken forward by our Kenya and Uganda alumni, particularly through the emergence of BOAT Kenya comprising ten Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and one Government agency and covering a large part of rural Kenya.

Our thanks to all our supporters who make this programme possible.

David Wendover (Chairman)



David Wendover (Chairman)

Thank you to Kelsey Media...

Thank you to everyone who entered the Kelsey Media competition to win a 'little red tractor' and raise funds for BOAT. You may have seen it at one of the shows we have attended in the West Country or at the many shows attended by Kelsey from Scotland to Wales, and Kent. There has also been great support through their magazines and also the websites. The winner will be the first randomly selected correct entry drawn on 11 November at the Newark Vintage Tractor Show. Grateful thanks go to Steve Wright CEO of Kelsey Media for their sponsorship of BOAT with this competition and also to the Kelsey team for their fantastic support.

And for 2019

Should it be that you were perhaps unlucky this year I can let you know that Steve has told me that Peter Love, classic and vintage tractor Guru and roving reporter, Kelsey publications has purchased a superbly restored Fordson Super Dexta. This will be the prize for the 2019 tractor competition sponsoring BOAT.



Peter Love on the 2019 Tractor

We get by with a little help from our "Friends"

The Trustees of BOAT are looking for help. Do you have experience of fundraising and grant applications, or know of anyone who has?

If so please email the secretary: secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk

The Trustees would like to thank Vapormatic for producing this newsletter and to thank all its sponsors for their generous help.



Contact
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Magdalene Ogwang

In recent years the BOAT course held at Bicton College has concentrated on Institutional Management and Business Planning, focused on providing appropriate training for key personnel in Government organisations, NGOs and charities concerned with sustainable methods of food production and wider aspects of rural development. It is expected that BOAT alumni will return to their organisations, both to put what they have learned into practice and to pass on their skills to colleagues. One of the organisations with which BOAT has worked is Kulika Uganda who, since 2008, have sent eight of their staff to Bicton.

Kulika is an NGO engaged in community development through the implementation of projects in the areas of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA), Climate Change Mitigation, Youth Empowerment and Livelihood Development, and in broader areas such as the formation of co-operatives, encouragement of Village Savings and Loan Associations and support for women-headed households and orphans. Important "cross-cutting" themes include Creative Capacity Building and Gender Equality. Kulika head office is in Kampala, and it has its own training centre at Lutisi, 30 km NW of the capital. Additionally, it operates out of 19 regional sites, effectively covering the whole country.

The first Kulika candidate, Magdalene Ogwang, came to Bicton in 2008. Their then CEO, Elijah Kyamuwendo, subsequently noted that "following their BOAT training, the planning, organisational and programme management skills of staff are greatly enhanced". At that time Magdalene was Community Development Coordinator and Secretary of that department. Following the course, she said "the BOAT course developed my confidence, giving me the skills to do my job better and to take the lead in making things happen. I have encouraged the use of Tracer Studies across all the beneficiaries of Kulika programmes and shown how useful they are. I continually refer to my BOAT course material, as my starting

point for Training needs assessment, Decision Making, Staff Appraisal and Quality Assurance". Magdalene talks enthusiastically about BOAT and it is clear that she both puts what she has learned into practice and communicates her skills and knowledge to others. That she has been successful is witnessed by her promotion, first to Head of Programme Development and, more recently, following the untimely death of Christina Sempebwa, to the post of Chief Executive officer.

In recognition of their mutual interests in improving the livelihoods of small-scale farmers, in 2015 BOAT and Kulika signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) designed to allow BOAT to assist Kulika in the development of their training and extension activities, and in the operation of their Training Centre and farm. Other than through the continued presence of Kulika staff on the Bicton course, the MoU envisages the possibility of in-house courses, to be presented by BOAT staff at the Kulika Training Centre (Lutisi) and, longer term, the evolution of Lutisi into a Regional Hub, offering courses to clients from across the region. Under the MoU, BOAT Trustees at their own expense have visited Uganda on a number of occasions, giving assistance with, amongst other things, grant applications and the production of a new Strategic Plan for the years 2017-22. A further visit is scheduled for November this year.

The MoU is, following negotiation, renewed every three years. The next review is scheduled for later this year (2018). Given the enthusiasm with which BOAT Alumni talk about the link, it is expected that a new MoU will soon be in place.

The Benefits of BOAT Training in Kenya

Observations by Kenya, NGO Operations Manager

"Upon his return, he put a business plan together for the organisation's tree nursery programme. He created a very simple format for the business plan so that it would be user-friendly for junior staff and those working in the tree nursery and agriculture activities. Investment in the tree nursery will help our organisation to become a tree seedling supplier for the community outreach program, as well as other NGOs who purchase tree seedlings for their beneficiaries."

"The BOAT training course is great, and all of our team highly recommends it. The staff have come back with a changed mindset. The training has increased their expectations of the organisation, their peers and themselves. He came back sharing that he had learned a great deal in HR, Governance and Agriculture, explaining he felt it was an incredibly comprehensive and well-rounded program."

Leaving a Legacy

Legacies can come in all shapes and sizes and we are grateful for every single one received. Leaving a legacy starts with a Will and if you already have one then it can easily be updated to include BOAT, after of course your loved ones are cared for, by contacting your solicitor or Will writer.



Legacies can also help with relieving IHT costs, should this be applicable, so please give this some thought and discuss it with your family. Gifts can also be left via Stewardship <https://www.stewardship.org.uk> a Christian organisation to which BOAT is registered and someone recently left a legacy and will always be remembered for their generosity. <https://www.give.net/20246726> follow this link to make a donation or start fundraising.

Improving Agriculture Through Training

BOAT is a charity that aims to improve smallholder agriculture and rural life to reduce poverty in developing countries.

How?

By providing high quality training to people who are in a position to influence aspects of rural development such as changing methods of food production, managing livestock and land development.

Where?

Short residential management courses for senior personnel from African countries held at Bicton College East Devon and accredited by Plymouth University. Participants return home better equipped to fulfil their roles as trainers and managers. Also some workshops are held on the campuses of agricultural colleges or institutes abroad.

How can I help?

BOAT is a charity and relies on donations to fund these courses. Please help the Trust to continue to provide quality training in the UK and abroad.

Thank you to all those who have supported these events to raise funds for BOAT. If you would like to help by holding an event such as a coffee morning, cream tea or any other event either in your home or Village Hall please contact our secretary at the address in the newsletter and we can provide information and a speaker if required.

Become a
Friend of **BOAT**

For an annual donation of £25 per household, payable via <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/boat>. Apply to secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk for further details, or donate via the website www.boatagtrust.co.uk to continue to support the work of BOAT and receive the BOAT newsletters.