

Friends of BOAT Autumn'19



Honey being harvested from hives built by the students of Kulika Training Centre, Lutisi.

Chairman's Message

BOAT is busy planning its next six week residential training to be delivered at Bicton College in April and May 2020, our 24th in the UK. The Institutional Management and Business Planning (International) course is designed to enhance the management, planning, training and business skills of those key personnel tasked with running agricultural and rural development organisations and natural resources training colleges in our target region of East and Central Africa.

Lack of management capacity, business acumen and reliance on external funding when implementing development programmes are major weaknesses in the developing world. The course is intense and fully timetabled. 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 their target farmers, the communities which their organisations serve and the quality of college training delivery.

BOAT continues to support our alumni and their organisations in-country, particularly in Uganda where nine senior staff from the Kulika Trust have attended BOAT's UK training since 2008 including their CEO. This cooperation is further described overleaf.

All this is made possible through your support.

Thank you,

David Wendover (Chairman)

Winner of the 2018 "Tractor & Machinery" Magazine competition

When Leslie McNutt from Coleraine, in Northern Ireland received an email telling him he had won a tractor he was actually on honeymoon in the Dominican Republic. Never having won anything before, he at first thought this was some kind of joke being played on him and it was probably a toy tractor! It took a while before it became a reality. He intends to use it for tractor rallies or road runs and raise more money for charity.

Leslie grew up with tractors on the family farm which is now run by his mother and brother and had a passion for them resulting in a collection now totalling seven.

This is the second BOAT tractor to go to the Emerald Isle and we say a big thank you to Leslie and all of our supporters there for their continued support. The tractor helped to raise £8.5K helping to support the charity's work providing sustainable agricultural training to lead trainers in the developing world.

A big thank you also to Kelsey Media (Tractor & Machinery) for running this competition in aid of BOAT and their tremendous support over the last 19 years.



Leslie with the Massey Ferguson 35

News from BOAT Alumni

Dr.Christopher Kapembwa reports from the Zambian Institute of Agriculture on how the BOAT course has "left a great mark in my life" and is a regular contributor to Facebook.

From Kenya, Patricia Wangui Muiko has left the Zeitz Foundation for the civil service and now oversees 2,300 staff in Laikipia. "... the BOAT training on HR contributed a lot to my getting this".

Gordon Owino Kenya (2017) is doing community training, including financial literacy, following his own training at Bicton, and Theresa Teti Tanzania (2005) is doing well with training and milk processing, as is Edith Gervace Kilawe Tanzania (2005)

We have also heard from Blessings Kamboko Malawi (2013), who promises an update for the next newsletter.

At the Livestock Training Agency in Dar es Salaam, Dr.Kejeri Gillah is very active and has increased student enrolment from 700 to 2,700 per year!

It is always interesting to hear how the BOAT alumni are progressing, and we look forward to reports from others for further newsletters.

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



Contact
BOAT

Chairman: david_wendover@hotmail.com
Deputy Chairman: bv@woodbeer.eclipse.co.uk
Website: www.boatagtrust.co.uk



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Bicton College students working on the tractor rebuild.

Tractor Rebuild by Bicton College Students

Led by lecturer Chris Mitchell a group of students have been working on the restoration of an early 1950 MF 35 tractor outside of normal teaching hours for a few hours each week. There has also been a lot of additional work put in by Chris and his workshop team. Once again this has only been possible because of our sponsors; Vapormatic by supplying the parts required for the rebuild and a complete new set of tyres by Firestone and North Devon Tyres with further parts from Ron Greet Tractors.

The tractor was donated for this project by BOAT Trustee John Harris a retired dairy farmer and agricultural consultant. John said, "This MF 35 was a faithful workhorse on Mendip View Farm in North Somerset for over 50 years. It arrived on the farm in the early 1950s without a cab. Rarely, if ever, did it let us down, even in the coldest winters. Much corroded by years of abuse and a thick layer of cow manure, it was retired in 2006, along with the dairy herd and spent the next twelve years with a brand new box and lots of Easy Start, hauling the occasional logs, garden manure and grandchildren".

When completed the tractor will be marketed to raise funds for BOAT training. Our thanks to all involved.

Kulika Training Centre, Lutisi

Some 37km along the road from Kampala to Hoima lies the small "agricultural oasis" that is the Kulika training centre (Lutisi) which is run on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) principles. On its 20ha (44ac) are grown commercial areas of maize, bananas and cassava. There is also an 8-plot vegetable garden (with two plots equipped for drip irrigation), and a 300-tree fruit orchard with tree nursery. On the livestock side, a small pig unit and a herd of goats are used to provide weaner pigs and meat for sale, and to clear paddocks following periods of fallow. A 2000-bird laying unit provides yellow-yolk eggs for sale, and for use in the Lutisi kitchens. Manure from all these enterprises is collected and used on the farm. KATU honey is a delicious and commercially successful enterprise from the honey-processing unit at the centre. Organic honey is bought on the open market and in addition, numerous beehives provide the facilities for a popular course on bee-keeping. Students start this course by building their own hive and, on completion of the course, are encouraged to join the co-operative that processes and markets the honey in supermarkets. It is also sold, together with other produce, from a "farmers market" that Lutisi is establishing on the roadside at the approach to the centre.

Lutisi's campus facilities include hospitable and airy accommodation capable of housing 80 students (in 40 double rooms), together with lecture rooms, a function suite and library and computer facilities. Water is provided through a combination of rainwater harvesting and a borehole. Some time ago, BOAT provided an ultra-violet treatment plant that facilitates the production of potable water of saleable quality. This has done away with the need to purchase bottled water for use throughout the centre.

Lutisi's relatively rural position is not without its problems. It has no mains electricity, relying on solar panels and batteries, with a generator back up which is expensive to run. Then, too, bandwidth is limited although has recently been increased, but access to the internet is still less reliable than it might be. It is hoped that improvements in both these areas will continue to be made as negotiations with the electricity company bear fruit.

As has been mentioned, the ethos of Lutisi is EOA, and this philosophy is applied across the range of courses offered. Course lengths vary from 11 months with periods at the centre interspersed with trainer supervised on-farm experience, to short courses of a few days duration. On completion of their course, students return to their own farms, where they might act as "key farmer trainers", or enter the extension service, passing on their knowledge to others in their areas. All aspects of agriculture are offered from food production, farm record-keeping, value addition (such as baking and fruit drying) and marketing, with arable and vegetable growing and pig and poultry husbandry popular topics. All training is locally contextualised and responds to local demand. In the case of the shorter courses in particular, topics covered are often as a result of discussions with farmer groups, in response to local concerns. Cross-cutting themes of climate change mitigation and gender equality are emphasised throughout all activities.

Lutisi also works in co-operation with other organisations locally, nationally and internationally. For example, several neighbouring schools now have thriving gardens and orchards supplied by Lutisi, increasing food security and embedding EOA practices in the region. Open Days consolidate and extend



Part of a school food garden created with support from Kulika. The school head teacher explaining the wormery that provides fertiliser for the garden.

this influence. Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations, the centre now regularly welcomes students from Bukalasa Agricultural College, who complete a 2-month practical internship as part of their training. In addition, the centre is popular with interns from overseas seeking to broaden their experience and share their skills. In the recent past a Mexican intern constructed a large greenhouse that now serves as a nursery for the vegetable gardens, whilst a Ghanaian intern created and planted the permaculture-focused fruit tree orchard. Lutisi has recently signed a contract with the American charity Heifer Project International (HPI), to train youths through local HPI initiatives. It is expected that all the initial 175 students will have been trained by November 2019. More recently, too, Lutisi have just finished hosting a two-week workshop, under the auspices of the International Development Innovation Network, which attracted 28 participants, from 11 countries, and involved staff and refugees from the Rhino Camp Refugee Resettlement Centre in Uganda's West Nile province. During the workshop, ideas from Rhino Camp participants, plus some contributed by workshop members, were developed into workable solutions to some of the practical problems faced by camp residents.

Lutisi has always been an important part of Kulika's national programme. In the last couple of years, with a new manager (BOAT trained), and a new emphasis, its contribution has grown, so that it now features as a major strength in an increasingly impressive Kulika contribution to Uganda's rural development.

Social Event

Friends of BOAT evening an Illustrated Talk 'Travels in Africa and Canada' by David Wendover and Peter Reed, on Friday 21st February 2020 at Amory Building, Cheriton Bishop. More details available on the BOAT website in the New Year.

Donations

It is always good to receive donations, but with the automated banking system we can no longer accept cheques made payable to 'BOAT' this has to be spelt out in full 'Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust' thank you.

Thank you to everyone who has given donations via the website.

Going forward donations can also be made via VirginMoneyGiving, please visit their website to make a donation, regular or one off at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/boatagtrust> this is secure and gift aid will be collected by them on our behalf or donations can be made via the BOAT website.



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