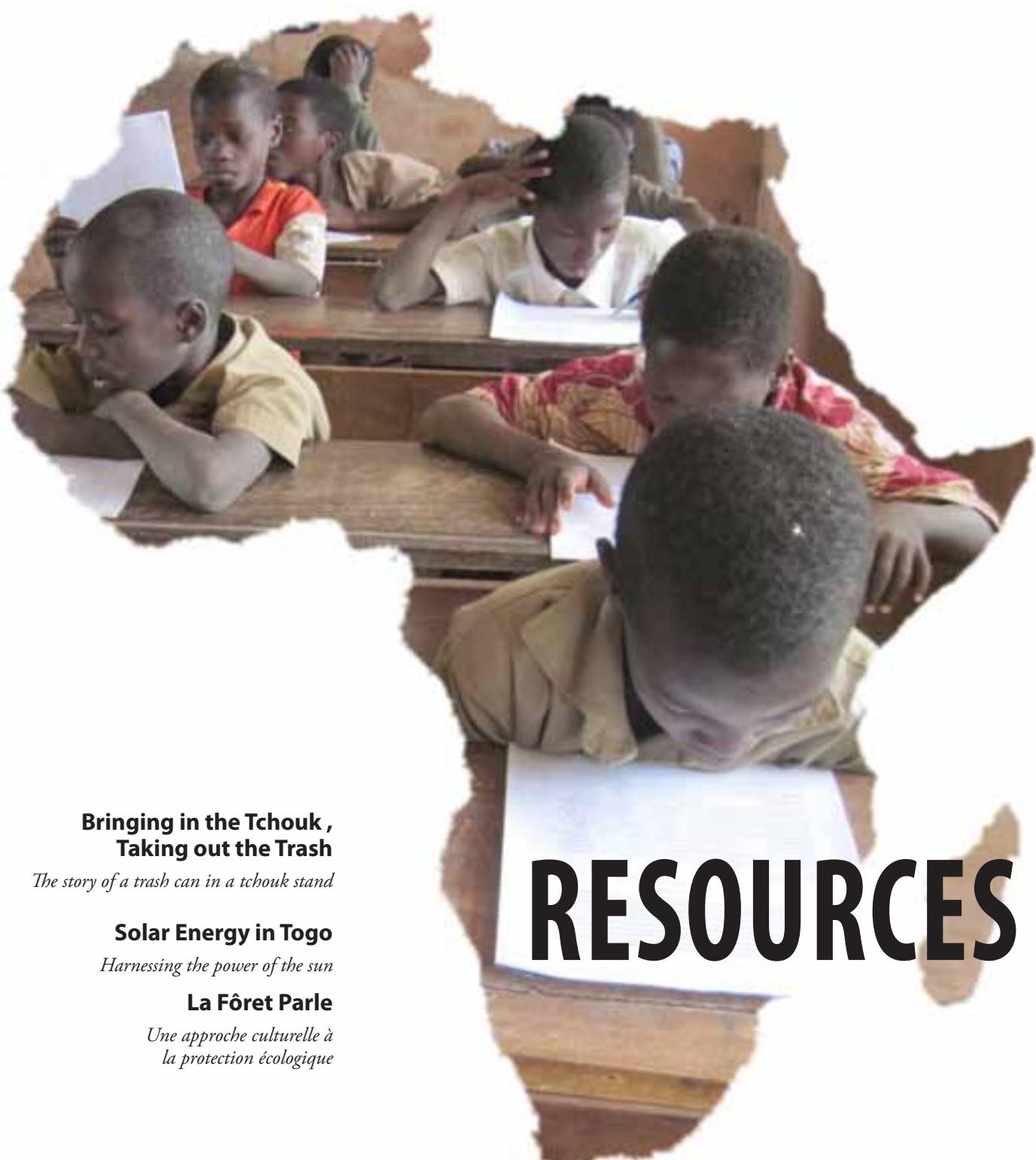


# FARM TO MARKET

VOL. 06 ISSUE 04 APRIL 2011



## **Bringing in the Tchouk , Taking out the Trash**

*The story of a trash can in a tchouk stand*

## **Solar Energy in Togo**

*Harnessing the power of the sun*

## **La Fôret Parle**

*Une approche culturelle à  
la protection écologique*

# **RESOURCES**



**PEACE CORPS TOGO, WEST AFRICA**

## **Editor's Note:**

Its been fun! Its been great! But after four issues of Farm to Market, its time for some new editors to take over. We hope that you enjoy our last publication. Byebye-lo!

## **A Big Thank You!**

The editors for Farm to Market want to thank Rachel Lihoussou and Chiquita Kmedehou-to for their excellent French editing skills, Alex Anani and Paul Sinandja for their guidance and delicious pâte lunches, and to all of the contributors who sent in interesting articles to our publications.

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## **Mission Statement:**

Farm to Market is a quarterly newsletter for Togo's Peace Corps community: Volunteers, trainees, counterparts, and staff. It disseminates information on NRM and SED technical resources, best practices, and field experiences. Farm to Market seeks to integrate the NRM and SED program goals into the rest of the Peace Corps community.

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# 50th Anniversary Trash Pick-Up Day Report

Rose Lindgren, PCVL, Plateau Region

The woman scowled at me, the multitude of wrinkles furrowing into deep ridges on her forehead as she queried, "What are you going to do with those? Are you going to sell those?"

I choked back a laugh as I glanced down into the bag full of smelly muck I held in my hand and answered her solemnly, "No madame, I'm going to bring this to the trash heap." I paused, then continued thoughtfully, "If you would like to take it to sell, you can do that."

She squinted at me, peered into the bag, and then looked at the woman on my right, a young woman volunteer from the local clean-up association. Luckily, the volunteer got the hint and started explaining what we were doing in Ife, the local language.

Trying to explain why we were out in the middle of the city picking up garbage (and worse) was an unexpectedly amusing challenge. It was a perfect way to spread the word about the work of the Peace Corps-- the unique way that American volunteers interact with their local communities to do the 'mud-between-the-toes' development work that requires more shared dinners than donations, more conversation than construction.

About 60 Peace Corps volunteers and 15 Peace Corps staff



## How to keep the momentum going:

- The Ministry for the Environment and its regional directors were particularly enthusiastic about promoting this type of work and would love to collaborate with volunteers hoping to pursue waste management projects. Speak to APCD Paul or PCVL Rose to get the names and phone numbers of the prefectural directors.
- Associations like Jeunes Volontaire pour l'Environnement (JVE), Young Volunteers for the Environment and/or small non-profits who work for the environment exist in most cities, although they may need some new energy.
- Speak to your village chief about organizing a Journée de Village Propre/Village Clean-up Day. You may be surprised to find out that they already have regular clean-up days.
- Get involved with the local group of women who clean the market; it can be a great way to intervene and encourage them not to dump waste into local streams.

participated in regional urban clean-up days between March 19th and April 4th. But even more importantly, about 150 Togolese volunteers led the way: identifying key urban areas that would most benefit from the clean-up, accompanying PCVs to approach local authorities and mobilizing friends, relatives, and associations to wake up early and pick up trash.

The regional clean-up days, of course, had their own frustrations as well as joys as PCVs navigated the personalities of local authorities or ran out of plastic gloves and found that some host country 'volunteers' drifted away when they realized they weren't going to receive a gift for their service. But this single day of trash pick-up connected volunteers with

resources in their regional capitals as PCVs encountered city authorities, developed radio station contacts, met regional representatives of the ministry for the protection of the environment, and found local associations already doing clean-up work.

Great job to all volunteers and partner organizations that participated and don't forget to wash your hands after picking up all that muck!

Rose Lindgren



## Teach A Man to Fish

### An Online Resource Hub for Everyone

Kristine Dalton, PCV SED, Kara Region



In an effort to continue sharing useful resources, I wanted to inform my fellow Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV's) of an extensive online library of resources I came across while in my search for information on how to make a school profitable and self sufficient. 'Teach a Man to Fish' ([www.teachamantofish.org.uk](http://www.teachamantofish.org.uk)) is a United Kingdom based group dedicated to bringing sustainable approaches to rural poverty through schools and education programs. On the site you can find many useful documents free to download on how to setup a profit making school. There are documents on how to set up a profit generating activity for your school, how to write the busi-

ness plan, and how to go about finding funds for launching your activity. There are also Income Generating Activity (IGA) suggestions and case studies on current schools all over the world (even next door in Ghana and Benin) that are thriving from these activities. They have documents that expand upon the possibility of having the activity/enterprise run separately from the school with the sole intention of making a

**Teach a Man to Fish' is a United Kingdom based group dedicated to bringing sustainable approaches to rural poverty through schools and education programs.**

profit for the school, to using the activity as a means to educate the students in business skills while still generating revenue for the school. There are excellent ways of explaining how to incorporate this activity into lesson plans in order to teach students about finances and how to run a business. Even if you don't want to work with a school, it



is still an excellent source of information for creating business plans, market studies, and even financing/budgeting.

Aside from documents on how to set up a self sufficient school and on business skills, there are many links to educational and agricultural materials, entrepreneurship, fund raising, NGO Management and capacity

building, as well as international development building sites. Their list of resources and links is a little overwhelming at first, but if you spend some time to go through it you will see that there are many resources to be found that we can all use in some capacity. Searching the site, I've found English language training videos (which might be useful to those who have computers in their schools, libraries, or internet cafes) video documentaries from teen-

agers all over the world (which would be fun for students to watch if you're fortunate enough to have computers anywhere in village), English grammar flash cards and tools for teaching English, guides for bee farming

and fish raising, and even links to potential donors. There truly seems to be something for all of us on their site so I encourage everyone to check it out. If you find anything particularly interesting, please share it with us all as well since there is a lot to filter

through on the site.

Kristine Dalton

## Tech Tips: Offline News Articles

A great resource for English teachers and keeping up-to-date on the latest news!

Justin Hugelen-Padin, PCV SED, Central Region

Keeping up to date on what is happening in the world is difficult for Peace Corps volunteers. While it might primarily be for our own edification and enjoyment, news articles also make good teaching materials. Kids can read them out loud in class or summarize them or even translate them into French. But while the options are endless, getting a hold of up-to-date news is difficult with our limited access to internet and the elusive magazines/newspapers in this country. It is frustrating. However, all is not lost. I have found the answer. There are programs that one can download called "desktop news aggregators" or more commonly known as RSS Readers. These programs take RSS feeds and display them in an easily readable format.

### RSS Feed Icon (it's orange by the way)



So what are RSS feeds? RSS, commonly known as "Really Simple Syndication," created in 1999, is a standard format of published web content. An RSS document or "feed" is comprised of the full text or summarization of a blog entry, news article, etc with a little extra data attached to it such as the publishing date, author, etc. There are other formats like RSS, of published web content, such as Atom which was created after RSS and addresses some of the issues of RSS, but as of now RSS 2.0 is still more widely used than Atom. During 2005 RSS Feeds really became popular and this was due in large part to the RSS Readers that were developed. With RSS Readers one can download news articles and headlines when you connect to the internet to



be read when you are offline. There are many different RSS Readers, but I have found a few RSS Readers that are free and easy to use. Here is a list of the top ones.

### To download the software

For Windows:

- GreatNews RSS Reader  
<http://www.curiosstudio.com/download.html>
- RssReader  
<http://www.rssreader.com/download.htm>

For Mac

- NetNewsWire  
<http://netnewswireapp.com/mac/>

### Adding News Feeds

Now that you have your reader you need some feeds. With some of the programs like, GreatNews, it comes with a collection of pre-loaded feeds from Wired, BBC News, etc, but most likely this isn't enough. You might want to add a friend's blog or top Google headlines. In order to do that, you need to "add a news feed."

1. You can find the button to add a new feed at the top of the program, probably an icon with a plus-sign on it. When you click on this button it'll come up with a window that prompts you for a URL of the feed.
2. Next, you need to go online to find the RSS feed of your desired source of news. Most likely, the URL have

“feed” or “rss” in it. For example, news.google.com/news?ned=us&topic=w&output=rss but this is not always the case.

3. Now you should have your feeds saved so every time you go online the program will automatically download your desired articles.

Of course, nothing is perfect, and RSS Feeds come with their own set of limitations. The majority of news sources like BBC and CNN only give you a summary or first few sentences of each story to force the user to go to their site and view their ad filled news articles. This is pretty irritating, especially for us who lack a decent internet connection. However, there are some news sites that do give you the full text.

### **Adding Blog Feeds**

If you want to follow your friends’ blogs you can do this quite easily. Most blogs have an RSS Feed link on the website.

Blogspot:

1. At the bottom of the blog you will see a link that says, “Subscribe (Atom).
2. Right click and copy link address.
3. You can also just add “/feeds/posts/default” to the end the blog address.
4. For example my blog is pcjhp.blogspot.com. My RSS Feed is <http://pcjhp.blogspot.com/feeds/posts/default>.

Tumblr:

1. Bottom right you will see the RSS feed symbol
2. Right click and copy link address

Wordpress:

1. If you can’t find the RSS feed symbol on the website just add “/feed/” after the blog’s link.
2. For example if my blog is “justiniscool.wordpress.com”, the rss feed would be “justiniscool.wordpress.com/feed/”

This list is broken up into condensed articles (RSS Feeds and their news sources that only output a summarized version of their articles) and full articles (which gives you the full, unadulterated news article). Simply type in the links below into your RSS Reader and you will get news articles on your computers.

#### ***For Condensed Articles***

List of popular news websites with more news feeds and more information about their respective RSS feeds

- BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10628494#userss>
- CNN.com: <http://edition.cnn.com/services/rss/>
- FoxNews.com: <http://www.foxnews.com/rss/>
- Google News: [www.google.com/support/news/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=59255](http://www.google.com/support/news/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=59255)
- New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/index.html>

Most popular RSS feed links

#### ***BBC News***

- Top stories: <http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/rss.xml>
- World news: <http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/world/rss.xml>
- US & Canada: [http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/world/us\\_and\\_canada/rss.xml](http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/world/us_and_canada/rss.xml)

#### ***CNN.com***

- Top stories: <http://rss.cnn.com/rss/edition.rss>
- World news: [http://rss.cnn.com/rss/edition\\_world.rss](http://rss.cnn.com/rss/edition_world.rss)
- US news: [http://rss.cnn.com/rss/edition\\_us.rss](http://rss.cnn.com/rss/edition_us.rss)

*FoxNews.com*

- Latest headlines: <http://feeds.foxnews.com/foxnews/latest>
- National: <http://feeds.foxnews.com/foxnews/national>
- Politics : <http://feeds.foxnews.com/foxnews/politics>

*GoogleNews*

- Top News: [news.google.com/news?ned=us&topic=h&output=rss](http://news.google.com/news?ned=us&topic=h&output=rss)
- World: [news.google.com/news?ned=us&topic=w&output=rss](http://news.google.com/news?ned=us&topic=w&output=rss)
- US: [news.google.com/news?ned=us&topic=n&output=rss](http://news.google.com/news?ned=us&topic=n&output=rss)

*LifeHacker.com*

- <http://lifehacker.com/index.xml>

*New York Times*

- World: <http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/nyt/World.xml>
- US: <http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/nyt/US.xml>

*The Onion*

- <http://feeds.theonion.com/theonion/daily>

**Full Articles**

List of popular news websites with more news feeds and more information about their respective RSS feeds

- The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/help/feeds>
- The Atlantic: <http://www.theatlantic.com/follow-the-atlantic/>
- The Huffington Post: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/syndication/>

**Most popular RSS feed links***The Guardian*

- World News: [www.guardian.co.uk/world/rss](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/rss)
- US News: [www.guardian.co.uk/world/usa/rss](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/usa/rss)

*The Atlantic*

- The Current: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/theatlantic/TZRn>
- Politics: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/AtlanticPoliticsChannel>
- International: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/AtlanticInternational>
- National: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/AtlanticNational>

*The Huffington Post*

- Latest News: <http://feeds.huffingtonpost.com/huffingtonpost/LatestNews>
- Politics: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/feeds/verticals/politics/index.xml>
- World: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/feeds/verticals/world/index.xml>

# Tech Tips: Computer Virus Help

## Ridding a computer of viruses



Justin Hugelen-Padin, PCV SED, Central Region

If your computer is acting strange or even running slowly it could very well be because it is riddled with viruses. Computer viruses do a lot of bizarre things to computers and here in Togo we are faced with if it there are a few options to eliminate them:

1. Update your antivirus and scan your computer.
2. Run software like ComboFix and AVG Rescue CD that does more thorough cleaning than the standard antivirus software.
3. Reinstall Windows

### Option 1 – Updating your AntiVirus

Most likely you can do this automatically by right clicking on the on your antivirus icon in the bottom right of the screen and selecting 'Update' or in French 'misé à jour', but there are some viruses that actually prevent you from updating your antivirus. Also volunteers and homologues who don't have access to a regular internet connection will find it difficult to update the antivirus software on their computer. Therefore, downloading updates that you can apply to your antivirus software offline, is quite beneficial. I suggest downloading it in Lome, as the computers in the PCV Office have a faster, consistent internet connection. Below is a list of the places where one can find and download the antivirus updates. They are organized first by

the name of the antivirus software and the language you can download the updates in.

#### AVG:

- *English*: [free.avg.com/us-en/download-update](http://free.avg.com/us-en/download-update)
- *French*: [free.avg.com/fr-fr/telecharger-la-mise-a-jour](http://free.avg.com/fr-fr/telecharger-la-mise-a-jour)

#### Avast:

- *English*: [www.avast.com/download-update](http://www.avast.com/download-update)
- *French*: [www.avast.com/fr-fr/download-update](http://www.avast.com/fr-fr/download-update)

#### McAfee:

- *English*: [www.mcafee.com/apps/downloads/security-updates/security-updates.aspx](http://www.mcafee.com/apps/downloads/security-updates/security-updates.aspx)
- *French*: (same website because there is an option to change language on it)

These updates will install automatically when you click on them once they are downloaded and on your computer.

### Option 2 – Better cleaning



It is a good idea every once and while to run the AVG Rescue Disc and another

program called ComboFix. The AVG Rescue Disc (which can be burned to a CD or put onto an USB drive and booted from it) runs when the computer boots up and scans the computer before the viruses can be loaded into memory. The reason is that some viruses hide themselves from you when you scan for viruses so even if you have updated antivirus software there can still be viruses on your computer. ComboFix is another program that is really good for cleaning out your computer. It runs in Windows, not like AVG Rescue Disc,

**Note:** If you have documents and folders that you know are on a USB drive, but can't actually see them this means that you have been attacked by an incredibly common virus which runs rampant throughout CIBs. The problem with this virus is that even if your USB drive is cleaned, well, and the virus is totally gone all the files the virus has hidden will still not have been revealed. The easiest way I have found to unhide the hidden files is using a program called, *Usb Show*. It is a very small program and can be found here:

[usb-show.en.malavida.com](http://usb-show.en.malavida.com)

Once you tell the program to search for hidden files on your USB drive it will automatically unhide all hidden files letting you access them at your leisure.

but it still finds and eliminates spyware, malware, etc.

#### AVG Rescue Disc or USB:

- *English*: [www.avg.com/us-en/avg-rescue-cd-download](http://www.avg.com/us-en/avg-rescue-cd-download)
- *French*: [www.avg.com/fr-fr/avg-rescue-cd-download](http://www.avg.com/fr-fr/avg-rescue-cd-download)

#### ComboFix:

- *English*: <http://combofix.org/> download.

### Option 3 – Reinstalling Windows

Reinstalling Windows is a bit of pain, not to mention that you will lose all your installed programs. However choosing this option will obviously eliminate all viruses. When reinstalling Windows, if you have a choice,

it's better to install Vista or Windows 7 because the viruses found in Togo aren't very sophisticated and are better suited to the Windows XP environment. If you don't have a CD drive you can still reinstall Windows. You would have to make a bootable USB drive. The instructions to reinstalling Windows without a CD drive or without a DVD/CD can be found online, but there are also volunteers in country that can help with this, such as myself, who will do these service nearly free of charge...

Apart from going through and copying all of your most important documents to some type of external hard drive, a big irritation with this option is installing the drivers again. These are the programs that, well, *drive* your machine. The computer needs drivers to make your webcam,

speakers, monitor, etc, work. They are important programs and are not difficult to find online and download, but in Togo this is somewhat time intensive. So, there are now free programs that back the drivers up and will automatically install them on your newly installed Windows. You just have to back up your drivers before you reinstall Windows with a program like DriverMax, found here: <http://www.innovative-sol.com/drivermax/>

Well, that's about it. Let me know if you have any questions or would like additional help on the subject.

Justin Hugelen-Padin

## Tips on Funded Projects

Annie Chen, PCV SED, Maritime Region

**W**ith head bowed and a bashful smile on his face, the contractor pulled out his 4th and final budget proposal, without including the amount for transport, labor, and extra cadeau in each line item. Through much trial and error, I was in the beginning process of reconstructing a brand new microfinance building in Badou through Peace Corps Partnership Project (PCPP). From the year long experience of working with MUREC, a microfinance in Badou, to the inception of this PCPP, I ran into many practical questions and challenges along the way. Though I am currently in the process of construction, I'd like to share some things I've learned, in hope that my experience can help other volunteers who are interested in funding a project through a PCPP.

While Peace Corps is an organization that prides itself in community development through capacity building, presentations, and education, during the course of our services, volunteers find themselves deciding whether or not they want

to do projects that involve funding. While volunteers want to avoid the mindset of "it's necessary to give me," funded projects, big or small, can be a rewarding experience for both the community and volunteer.

The most critical stage in doing a funded project is deciding first whether or not to do a funded project at all. To develop project ideas, an effective needs assessment activity can be discussed and developed with the Village Development Committee (CVD) in your village, or you can look in the Participatory Analysis for Community Action (PACA) handbook. Over time, I have also found that volunteers tend to be able to identify projects as they get to know the needs and development potential for their perspective villages. In Badou, I had been working with MUREC for 13 months. During this time we made organizational changes, improved their basic accounting methods, and reviewed their credit systems. We also conducted an institutional partnership between MUREC



Funding Source	Types of Projects	Application	Approx Application Timeline	Maximum Amount
Peace Corps Partnership	All	PCPP Application	Depends on how fast you raise funds	\$10,000
SPA Fund	Health related: Water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, and family planning	SPA Application	1 month	\$2500
GAD	Gender and Development	GAD Application	3-6 months	\$200
Friends of Togo	Usually a smaller project and uses in country funds	PCPP Application	1 month	\$500
Ambassador's Self-Help	All	Ask APCD for application or email sshlomé@state.gov	Applications are accepted through June 30 and the process takes about 1 year	\$5,000

and Microfund, a growing microfinance based in Lomé that was dedicated to preparing MUREC to become a Kiva Fellow. I worked collaboratively with Microfund to train MUREC in modernized accounting, bookkeeping, and together we re-wrote MUREC's Articles of Incorporation, Laws for Credit, and reformed the cooperative team of directors which made all the major decisions for the microfinance. After a year of training and preparation, MUREC was ready to modernize their microfinance through a new computerized accounting system and an actual bank like structure.

I decided to raise money through PCPP because it was the only funding source available to me in a relatively short amount of time for the amount that I needed. The time period for raising money through PCPP can vary and depends on the amount you request. For \$10,000, it took me about three months to raise the funds. Remember to be vigilant about checking the status of your funding online. Below are some tips for the PCPP Application:

#### Tips for the PCPP APPLICATION

##### A. PROPOSAL APPLICATION COVER SHEET:

Print this page out. Sign it. Have your counterpart sign it.

Bring it or send it to Lomé and put it in the Country Director Secretary's box.

##### B. VOLUNTEER REFERRALS PAGE:

This page is good estimate for you to be able to start contacting friends and colleagues who can help you spread the word about your project. While this information is not required, it is recommended for you to be able to have some contacts in America who can share news of your project to other people.

##### C. VOLUNTEER AND PROGRAM PROPOSAL INFORMATION:

This is pretty self-explanatory, but if you have questions you can ask your APCD or a PCVL.

##### D. MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

This section addresses how you will know your project is successful. Most of the information from this section are observations and recommendations that you gathered through PACA and or over time.

##### E. TIMELINE:

Include the time required for planning, implementation, and evaluation. While this is hard to estimate because you are not sure how long it will take you to raise the money, it is good to

have a set timeline once you do receive the money.

#### F. BUDGET:

This is the tricky part, and the part the can save you a lot of trouble if you do it correctly. Sometimes in construction projects, the contractor raises the prices of each item in order to make himself a profit through materials, on top of the agreed payment for labor. What I recommend for volunteers to do is to have the contractor write a budget and list all the materials they need. Make sure that your budget includes everything such as nails, sand, cement, water, labor, travel etc. Make it clear to the contractor that anything not on the list will not be purchased. Go with the contractor to his preferred store and get a final quote from the store for each line item material. Then, go to at least one other store to get a different quote. While prices do occasionally change, make sure that the vendor signs a copy of the price quote so that when you come back after you have raised the money for the PCPP, you get approximately the same price. These steps will prevent the contractor from making an excessive amount of money off of materials. Next, fill out the budget form. Attach a budget summary as a separate page (same info). To obtain the current and approved CFA to USD exchange rate YOU MUST call your APCD.

#### G. PROPOSAL NARRATIVES:

Describe your project! No need to be super lengthy—feel free to be as concise as possible, as long as you still adequately describe your project. Remember, this is what people see when they are checking out your project online.

The thing I am most excited about this project is that my counterpart and partner organization are both as involved in this process as I am. After a year and a half of training and planning, MUREC is finally going to be able to integrate the new training they received with a new computerized system and microfinance that can better serve the financial needs of Badou villagers. At some point they might even be able to qualify as a Kiva Field Partner. I just can't wait until the day that we will get to kill a goat or a chicken and celebrate the hard work and partnership that this PCPP represents.

Annie Chen

## Check it Out! Accueil Paysan

The Welcome Farmers Association

Skyler Dobert, PCV NRM, Kara Region



**The countryman welcomes you into his home, at his table, at the inn or a gîte in a rural setting... He welcomes you amongst the animals and the countryside where he makes his living.**

#### He will share:

- His knowledge of gardening, animal husbandry, wood cutting, country living
- His knowledge of rural life, its history, geography, economy
- His skill with the earth, plants and animals

**The countryman invites you to enjoy the rhythm of the seasons, of being 'at one with nature'.**



The Welcome Farmers association is an international collection of hostels and hotels in rural farming communities. It is a completely different way of visiting a foreign country. All the sites are run by farmers and local people who get support for their environment and welcome tourists to share their way of life and get involved in local development.

Founded in 1987, ACCUEIL PAYSAN/Welcome Farmer was developed to suggest an alternative to intensive farming and reflect on the depopulation of the countryside and the problems connected with the environment. It has grown beyond just a resource for farmers and into an amazing way for people to experience first hand a different way of life that goes beyond just staying in a hotel on your vacation.

For PCV's, this creates two possibilities. The first is a great resource for us and for our friends wishing to travel in the method we all love best, the integrated way. This is also a great idea for a development project in your village. Working with Accueil Paysan is a great way to increase tourism, generate extra income, and attract development workers to your village.

Accueil Paysan has guide books and website information used by thousands of people, so by working with organization most of the advertising is done for you. It would also be a great way to attract visitors to sites trying to start eco-tourism projects.

**...ACCUEIL PAYSAN/Welcome Farmer was developed to suggest an alternative to intensive farming and reflect on the depopulation of the countryside and the problems connected with the environment.**

Right now there are two sites in Togo, Agbeko Tonato and my site, Pouda. Pouda is located in a mountainous and simply beautiful part of Kara near Niamtougou. Over the four months I've been living in Pouda, two groups from France and one group from Spain have used the facilities.

The facilities available in Pouda consist of three traditional style round houses with thatched roofing (drop down ceiling) and locking doors. Each contains two single beds with mosquito nets. There is a bucket flush latrine and enclosed shower stalls using water from the nearby well that's provided by

the hosts.

The price per day is 3500F for one person, and 6000F for two people in one building. This price includes three meals a day made from local foods (all water for drinking and cooking is boiled and vegetarian options are available by request) and there is a guide in village. Visitors are welcome to set up volunteer or development projects, take cooking

lessons on food or local drink, and to join in on any celebrations that may be happening.

For more information, visit:

- [www.accueil-paysan.com](http://www.accueil-paysan.com)
- E-mail: [info@accueil-paysan.com](mailto:info@accueil-paysan.com)
- Pouda site, Jeremie Massoka

Skyler Dober



# Ray of Hope

## Bringing renewable energy sources to Togo



Ashley Lewis, PCV SED, Plateau Region

**B**efore stepping foot into Togo, my work as a Peace Corps Volunteer had already started. I knew I wanted to utilize my finance and banking experience to work with microfinance institutions in Togo. After the “locate Togo on a map exercise” I quickly started researching the microfinance industry in Togo and the organizations that are working on the ground. While still living in Chicago I met with Kira Costanza, founder and director of SunPower Afrique, a US based NGO bridging the worlds of microfinance and renewable energy in Kpalimé, Togo. Not only was I shocked to find someone else who had lived in Togo but also someone dedicated to the improvement of the microfinance industry. 10 months later, I am working with Kira as an official “Field Partner” to expand the scope of SunPower Afrique’s work.

### Background:

SunPower Afrique’s mission is to connect microfinance institutions (MFIs) and their clients to solar electricity. To facilitate its programs, SunPower Afrique also connects these institutions and individuals to training and financing options, creating jobs and opportunities for economic development throughout a new supply chain, workforce and “green economy.”

### Goals of SunPower Afrique:

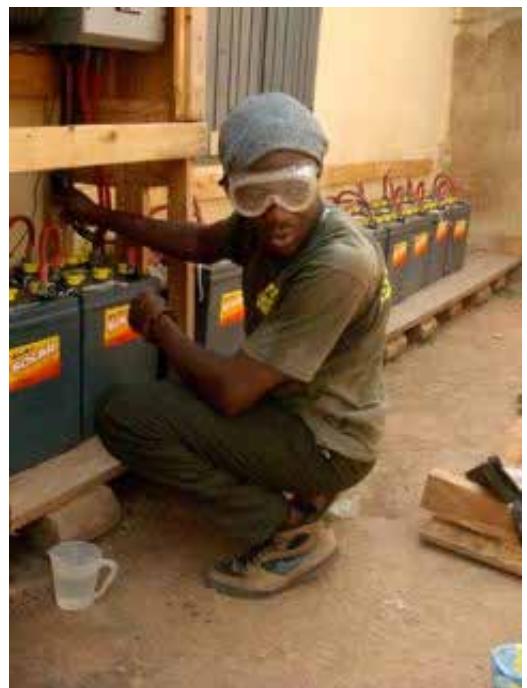
- Provide reliable and renewable solar power to microfinance institutions MFIs, allowing them to fight poverty more efficiently by enhancing services and achieving development goals.
- Initiate a ‘Solar Loan Program’ that allows MFI clients access to loans and trained local workers to install small-scale solar energy systems to increase the capacity of small businesses.

- Educate local populations about the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy through MFIs’ existing outreach networks.
- Train local workers to install and maintain solar energy systems; Support workforce development, create jobs and boost local economies.

### The Project:

In June 2010 SunPower Afrique launched their first pilot project with FECECAV, an MFI with branches throughout the Plateau and Maritime regions. For one month, trained solar technicians came to Togo to train Togolese electricians how to install solar panels, educate the population about solar, and provide technical training for the MFI employees. By the end of the visit, 27 solar panels

and two days of battery reserves were installed at the headquarters of FECECAV in Kpalimé. The panels provide enough energy to power the entire Headquarters and the adjacent MFI office. To put that in perspective, there are approximately 3 air condition-



**The panels provide enough energy to power the entire Headquarters and the adjacent MFI office. To put that in perspective, there are approximately 3 air conditioners, 10 computers, 8 fans, 30 light fixtures, etc that all run simultaneously throughout the day.**

ers, 10 computers, 8 fans, 30 light fixtures, etc that all run simultaneously throughout the day. The first pilot project was such a huge success and in July 2011, phase two of the pilot project will start with 3 more FECECAV branches moving to Solar.

#### What I Do:

My work with SunPower Afrique is multifaceted. Not only do I work as a liaison for our NGO in the states, but I work alongside the CEO of FECECAV, our trained technicians, and our French partner SIDI.



Later this year we will be launching the second part of our project; bringing solar to individuals (possibly in your village!) who do not have access to a reliable energy source. Individuals will be able to apply for a loan through FECECAV to purchase a minimum 50kwatt system and pay

the loan back overtime. The system would then be installed by trained SunPower Afrique technicians and educational seminars would be conducted to ensure the individual understands how to maintain the system. More to come on the implementation of the Solar Loan Program! I'll leave you with a few words from the CEO of FECECAV on how moving to solar energy has impacted the MFI and the community:

"The entire team at FECECAV thanks you. Throughout the fall and winter there have been too many blackouts in the city of Kpalimé, even worse than in 2009. There are entire days without power in the entire city, but at FECECAV we work tranquilly under the lights. At night almost the entire neighborhood is dark except for FECECAV's lights. Bravo to the entire SunPower Afrique team. Bravo to all of SunPower Afrique's donors and supporters. Long live SunPower Afrique so that solar energy can be brought to the entire Plateau Region and then to the entire country of Togo."

- Daniel BARONDIBOU, CEO, FECECAV

If you have any questions or would like more information about SunPower Afrique, please email me or visit our website: <http://www.sunpowerafrique.org>

Ashley Lewis  
EM

## The Sheabutter Conference

Penny Zukerman, PCV NRM, Central Region  
Heidi TenPas, PCV NRM, Savannah Region  
Whitney Shields, PCV NRM, Central Region

**D**id you know that karite is more than an awesome martial art?

#### What is Karite?

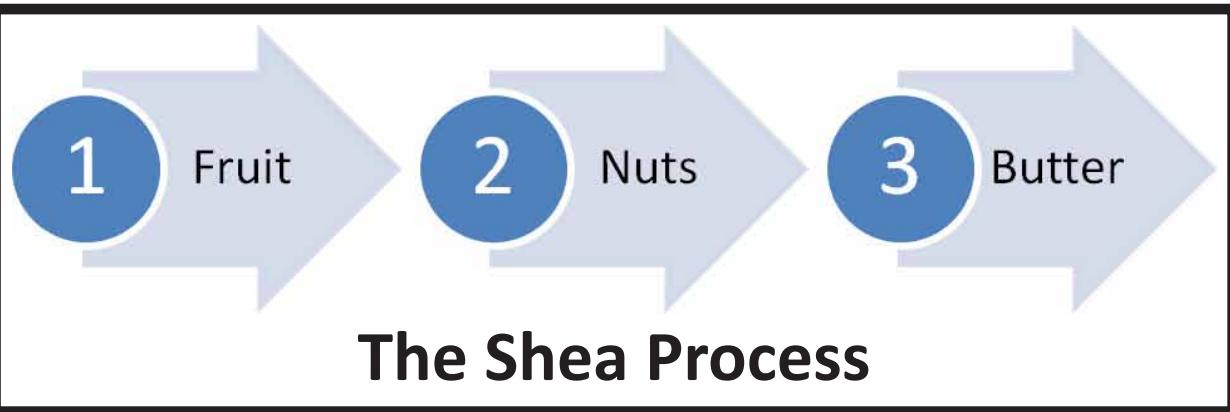
Karite is the French word for shea, a tree that may be a close second to moringa in the Most Amazing Tree of

Togo contest. The shea tree grows wild in the northern half of Togo, which is part of the "Shea Belt" region of Sub-Saharan Africa. This native tree produces a fruit containing a nut, from which a butter is extracted. The final product, shea butter, is most valued for its cosmetic and alimentary uses. As a cosmetic, shea butter is anti-aging, anti-



inflammatory, moisturizing, and feels really good on your skin. As a cooking oil or food additive, it is low-cost, low-cholesterol, and often used as a cocoa butter substitute in commercially-produced chocolate.

**Wait, there was a conference on**



### **Shea Butter?**

This past April, three lucky ladies from the most recent NRM stage had the opportunity to attend the Global Shea Conference in West Africa's very own Paris-circa-1920, Accra. The West Africa Trade Hub, a USAID initiative that provides business resources and support, organized the conference. This truly international gathering hosted participants from as far away as Brazil, India, and even our globe's newest nation-state, South Sudan. On hand to help with conference proceedings and network with regional shea industry stakeholders were PCVs from Ghana, Benin, Mali, Guinea, and Togo. Aside from presenting lectures and demonstrations on such topics as natural cosmetic formulation and export processes,

the conference brought together small enterprises and NGOs with potential funders and international business partners including L'Oréal and The Body Shop. It also introduced the newly-formed Global Shea Alliance, a multinational body that unites producers and exporters in the shea industry's quest for high-quality production, sustainable growth, and socially-conscious business practices.

### **What's the importance of Shea?**

#### **People**

Karite is a particularly important natural resource for rural women. Women collect the fruits from shea trees and process their nuts into butter. Just ask around your village; odds are that if there is karite present, there will be women who know all about the tree and its benefits. When they tap into these benefits by processing shea

nuts and transforming them into butter, women have more disposal income and economic freedom. Enhancing shea production therefore means expanding rural livelihood options and empowering women.

#### **Planet**

Karite also plays a role in

environmental preservation. As a native tree with unique products valued worldwide, shea is a natural resource worth saving. Unfortunately, shea forests are often threatened by clearing and bush

fires. Bush fires are particularly destructive to long-term shea sustainability as they kill young trees before they have a chance to grow strong and replace the old trees, which

## **The Shea Belt**



eventually stop giving fruit – meaning no more nuts and butter production!

#### **Profit**

Shea producers can sell butter in local village markets or, with a little creative marketing and value-adding, tailor their products to big city supermarkets. There is also fast-growing demand for shea on the global





market, so communities with well-established shea groupements have the potential to scale up and tap into export opportunities. Where such activity is appropriate and desired, shea exporting can provide great benefits to the local economy.

#### **What can YOU do at post?**

If you like the sound of all this shea talk, you're in luck. Togo is ripe with potential to reap the benefits of sustainable shea. First, ask around to see if there is karite present in or near your community. If so, inquire about the current status of shea production: Do women collect shea fruit? Do they process them into nuts or butter? Do they sell these products in the local market or export them through a middle man? Are there any shea groupements active in the area?

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, there are limitless ways to enhance shea production in your area. Here are only a few:

#### **Quality Control**

- Improving nut processing and storage to prevent losses
- Introducing measures to improve butter quality

#### **Agroforestry**

- Working with community members to protect existing shea forests from clearing and bush fires – old shea forests are dying!
- Engaging community members in shea cultivation via nurseries
- Training community members on grafting – grafted shea trees take 6 years to start giving fruit, while wild/ungrafted trees can take 15-20 years or more!

#### **Food Security**

- Advocating for local consumption

### **Enhancing shea production . . . means expanding rural livelihood options and empowering women.**

of shea butter and shea fruit

- Supporting women's shea enterprises, which generate disposal income for rural women

#### **Entrepreneurship**

- Working with shea groupements to draft or improve their business plans
- Helping groupements add value to their shea butter products and develop, package, and market these products for local, national, and in-

ternational markets

- Researching export opportunities and assisting interested groupements with export-readiness

Togo doesn't yet have a very well-developed shea sector in comparison to our neighbors in Benin, Burkina, and Ghana, so there is lots of room to grow. For example, PCVs in Benin have worked to take shea-oriented groupements to the next level, established a national association of shea producers, and are organizing a national conference for shea stakeholders. If we reach out to our counterparts and get active in shea, we can help Togolese producers realize their potential too. One excellent resource is Alaffia, a Fair Trade-certified shea cooperative based out of Sokodé. Beyond shea, this social business is also active in solar energy and maternal health. If you are posted near Sokodé or are passing through, swing by to check them out! If you want to talk more about shea or have any questions on the recent conference in Accra, contact Whitney, Penny, or Heidi.

Heidi TenPas

Penny Zuckerman

Whitney Shields

# What the heck is that?

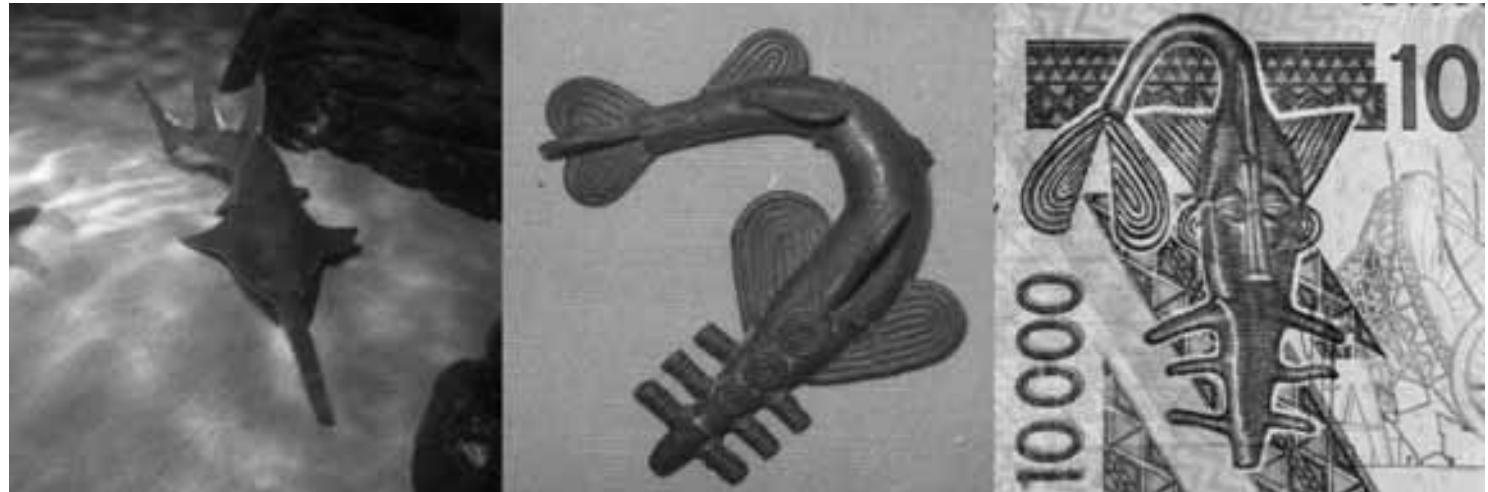


Damian Lauria, PCV SED, Savannah Region

**N**ot long after I came here I began to wonder about the symbol that appears on all of the local currency. What could it be? To me it looked like a yam with a face and a tail coming out of its head but surely that couldn't be right. I asked around and nobody seemed to know for sure. I got answers like "it's a mask" and "it's a fish" but no one was able to answer my questions with the air of truthfulness that my

ing parceled out. One popular form that these bronze gold weights often took was that of the sawfish. So a fish became a weight and a drawing of a fish-weight became what we now know as the CFA symbol.

Coincidence? I think not.



generation craves. So, it was that I began a long and bitter research campaign. For you, dear readers, I braved one internet correspondence with a bitter old coin collector and though it cost me my pride, I was able to pry from him the secrets of the cfa.

The origins of the CFA symbol can be traced back to the Akan people who controlled much of West Africa between the 15th and 19th centuries. The Akan people were renowned for their skill at metal working and bronze casting. They also controlled most of the gold mining operations in the region. When trading gold, the Akan would use special bronze weights to precisely measure the amount of gold be-

As it turns out, the Akan people's influence lives on all over the West Africa region today. They created Adinkra symbols that comprise a sort of alphabet of metaphors. Although not formalized enough to be considered pictograms or hi-

eroglyphics, these symbols are used to add rich metaphors to everyday items. Often Adinkra symbols can be found carved into the chairs and walking

sticks of important individuals. Once you know what to look for, you will find that Adinkra symbols show up all over West Africa in pottery, architecture, sculpture, cloth etc. Even cinderblocks and window guards are often made to incorporate some of the simpler symbols.

**If you want to look at more symbols and some of the stories behind them you can start with these two links:**

**[http://www.adinkra.org/htmls/adinkra\\_index.htm](http://www.adinkra.org/htmls/adinkra_index.htm)**

**<http://www.cfiks.org/akanart/akanart/akanartintro.htm>**

The following is a short list of a few common Adinkra symbols and their meanings:

Symbol	Depiction	Metaphor
	"War Horn"	Vigilance, wariness.
	"Fern"	Endurance, resourcefulness.
	"Except for God"	Supremacy of god. No one was there when the universe began and no one will be there when it ends except for God.
	"Conjoined crocodiles"	Democracy, unity in diversity, oneness of humanity. They share the same stomach but they fight for each other for the food in their mouths.
	"Wind resistant house"	Fortitude, forethought, good planning.
	"The leg of a hen"	Mercy, nurturing. The hen treads upon its chicks but it does not intend to kill them.
	"Teeth and tongue"	Friendship, Interdependence. We must learn to work together without getting in each other's way.
	"Return and get it"	There are several symbols for this metaphor. Often depicted as a swan biting its own tail. It's ok to learn from past mistakes.

The more you recognize the more you will see how deeply Akan symbology has fused itself with West African culture.

Damian Lauria

# Opening Your Front Porch for Art Lessons

Chelsie Miller, PCV GEE, Central Region

As Peace Corps volunteers, we are always looking for new ways to get to know our communities. Opening your front porch for art lessons is a great and easy way to reach out to young people in your community. After school and especially during vacation, kids are often left with little entertainment. This rings true especially for primary school students who might be too young to have definitive chores around the house or in the fields.

Beginning art lessons requires little supplies and little structure. For supplies, I happened to have brought boxes of colored pencils, markers, crayons and coloring books from America, which has made it easy, but is certainly not a necessity. Most art supplies can be bought at a paper supply store. A box of 12 colored pencils runs 150 CFA. To make my coloring pages last, I've made copies, and also use computer paper.



Whenever a child comes to my house, I'll give them some paper and coloring supplies. Usually, if a large group of kids comes

achieve some of their program goals and objectives.

**To further the idea of art classes as a tool for volunteers, Christy Villalobos, PCV GEE, Savannah Region, has begun a coloring book project...**

to my house I'll instruct the kids to "draw their favorite animal" or "draw what they want to be when they grow up". This not only encourages introspection, but gives me a chance to get to know the kids better. Other projects have included making paper airplanes and playing with play dough.

Opening your front porch to neighborhood kids creates many opportunities for work. Not only are you encouraging kids to exercise their brains creatively by providing access to a discipline not offered in primary school, but you are also building a strong rapport that will leave kids perceptive to future discussions. As a GEE volunteer, I have used art lessons to discuss the importance of education and going to school. If female artists are working, I use the time to talk to them about studying hard and continuing school. For male artists, I ask them how they help their mothers and sisters around the house. Any volunteer in any sector can easily use this opportunity to



To further the idea of art classes as a tool for volunteers, Christy Villalobos, PCV GEE, Savannah Region, has begun a coloring book project which encompasses all aspects of Peace Corps Togo. Christy is currently using phrases that encompass all four sectors of Peace Corps and drawing a

corresponding picture for kids to color. For example the phrases, "I help my sister with her homework" and "I wash my hands before eating," will feature drawings of children doing these activities. These coloring pages will not only have messages from each sector, but will also include messages about the importance of diversity. Please send any phrases that teach a message about your sector or





drawings to Christy Villalobos EMS:  
Dapaong.

**Good luck and HAVE FUN!**

Chelsie Miller

## Reforestation in Collaboration with Schools

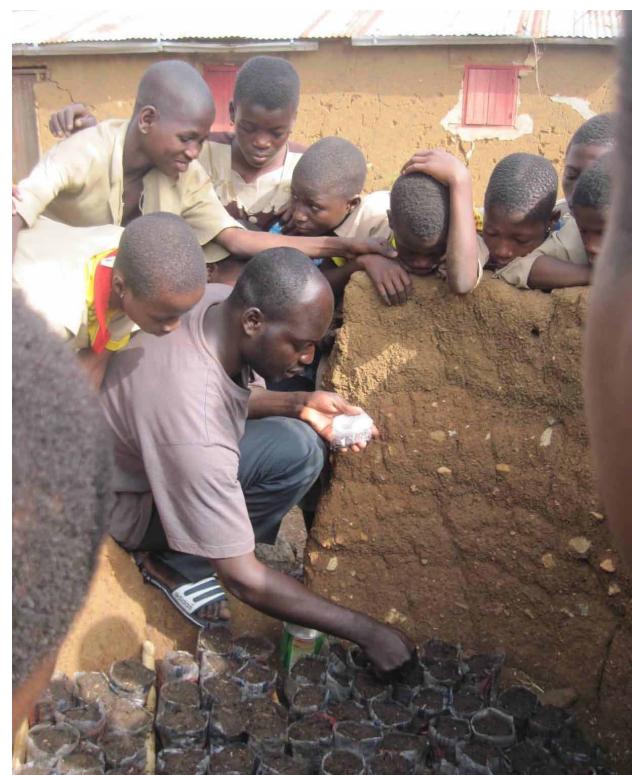
Katie Koralesky, PCV NRM, Kara Region



**P**lant trees today, have shade tomorrow' is the title of a reforestation project a counterpart and I have been working on in village. Collaborating with elementary schools in and around our village, our goal is to plant 100 trees at each school.

My counterpart and I made a simple action plan, asking ourselves the who, what, when, where and how questions for the project. We established that collaborating with elementary school directors and teachers, our goal was to plant 100 trees at each school in our village, and start the project by making tree nurseries with students this past February. The four stages of the project:

1. Planning and Seed Collection (December and January)
2. Establishing the tree nursery (February)
3. Planting the trees (June/July)
4. Follow up, making sure that the trees we plant are still alive and being cared for by students (November and on).





After the schools agreed to participate and the project was approved by the regional school inspector, we were ready to begin making tree nurseries. I brought each director a list of all the materials needed to create the nursery. It included 'Pure Water' bags for planting seeds, water for watering the nursery, good soil, a partly shaded and partly sunny place selected with a fence completed, and 25 students chosen to help us establish the nursery on the day.

My counterpart and I were responsible for collecting four varieties of seeds from trees located in our village. We chose Cassia, Flamboyant, Acacia and Albizia Lebbeck as they were readily available in our village. Acacia and Cassia are seen a lot at schools, as they provide good shade year round. Flamboyant gives pretty red flowers April through June, and Cassia, Albizia and Flamboyant are nitrogen fixing trees, which means they take nitrogen from the atmosphere and fix it in the ground, increasing soil fertility. Additionally, some schools border farmland, so to work in collaboration with farmers, we chose Albizia as it can be used as fodder to feed animals, fixes nitrogen, and drops its nitrogen rich leaves during dry season, and can be cut back to allow more sunlight to reach crops during rainy season without cutting

**[We devised] a simple action plan, asking ourselves the who, what, when, where and how questions for the project.**

down the entire tree.

The day of establishing the nurseries went well, and though some schools were better prepared than others, we were able to introduce the project to the entire school and successfully establish the nursery. We said and did the same thing at each school, which made planning simple. The 25 students chosen to help make the nursery were taught not only how to make a tree nursery but also how to care for it, and were divided into teams for watering and nursery care. At the end, we asked the students to recite all the steps of making a tree nursery, and told them they were responsible for teaching the other students what they had done, how, and what needed to be done to take care of the trees. Several schools made some really magnificent fences, and one school made a large enough enclosure to create several garden beds, and so have created a small school garden filled with sauces leaves and okra.

Two weeks after establishing the nurseries, I called the directors and visited the schools to see how the nurseries were doing. Some were doing great, and if we needed to reseed some seeds, we did. One school was having problems with crickets cutting off germinated seedlings, and so we brewed up some Neem leaf natural pesticide and had good results.

Working with students, no matter what grade level, can be frustrating at times and require a lot of patience, but if teachers are willing to help and everyone is well organized, you can really get a lot done using the power of the student work force. As one teacher told me, 'This is our strength, our students.'

The next step of this project will take place in June and July, when we plant the trees. Each school will be asked to make a plan of where they want to plant their trees, and gather all required materials to plant trees and construct a

small guard fence for the trees. We will emphasize this point, as young trees are so vulnerable to bush fires and animals. We told students that the trees they plant today will provide shade to their children when *they* are at school. If students and schools continue to take care of the trees as well as they've taken care of the nurseries, hopefully, the trees they plant will have a chance to grow up with them.

Katie Koralesky



## Bringing in the Tchouk, Taking out the Trash

Kristine Dalton, PCV SED, Kara Region

For all you Tchouk (locally brewed millet beer) lovers out there, what's the best way to have fun, integrate with your community, learn

something new, as well as teach your community something new? By making and selling Tchouk of course!

After hearing on pretty much a daily basis that I should learn how to make Tchouk, and considering that my counterpart is a Tchouk vendor, I finally decided to commit to making and selling Tchouk in village. We set the date for when I

would, with the assistance of my counterpart of course, prepare and sell my own brew from her Tchouk stand. She let me prepare it at her house and use all of her materials

(I gave her all profits from my sales as compensation). Everyday for a week I dropped by her house and did what was needed to prepare the drink. I was scheduled to sell on Friday morning and had informed many people in my village during the week that

it would in fact be me selling on Friday and provided

**... throughout the day as each new person came and inquired about the trashcan I saw the others telling them what to do and why I placed it there.**



photo evidence of me in the kitchen with the fire stirring my Tchouk. By Friday morning, everyone was excited to taste my brew and I was excited



for my big debut.

While preparing the night before I had an idea to bring a trash can with me to put in the Tchouk stand while selling. Being hot season, more and more people have been buying water to dilute the Tchouk or just to drink alongside it. After finishing, people toss them on the ground. Well, not in my Tchouk stand, I decided. I brought my plastic bucket I use in my kitchen, labelled it "la poubelle", and placed it in front of my large bucket of Tchouk. Friday morning the first few people to arrive all immediately asked me, "what is that?" I responded, "it's a trash can." "Well, what's it for?" I informed them that while sitting in my Tchouk stand there will be no throwing of trash on the ground and that if you get water or buy any nuts or anything in a plastic bag that it has to be thrown away in the trashcan. At first they all laughed at me, as always, but throughout the day as each new person came and inquired about the trashcan I saw the others telling them what to do and why I placed it there. If someone came and threw something on the ground

ing Tchouk, I attracted a fairly large crowd in village, which helped extend my message even further.

A few days later while sitting in the same Tchouk stand, a man tossed some candy wrappers on the ground. My friend who was selling that day, yelled at him to pick it up and not throw it on the ground. In response, he demanded where her trash can was so he could throw the wrappers away. They continued to argue, finally looking at me to resolve the issue. I settled the argument by telling her she should in fact keep

I saw others at the stand correct them and tell them to pick it up and put it in the trashcan which they immediately did. My happiest moment was when I saw a three year old girl walk over to the trashcan and throw away her water bag. Considering what a spectacle it was to see a foreigner sell-

a trashcan, in her stand and by telling him that even if there is no trashcan you should hang on to your trash until you find one, or bring it to a place where you can burn it. He picked the wrappers off the ground, and she promised to get a basket to put in her stand as a trashcan. Since then I have spoken with several friends who sell Tchouk encouraging them to put trashcans in their stands. They tell me they will but I have yet to see it. It may be small, but I figure it's a good way to start and it only requires a small bit of money from a Tchouk vendor to place a basket in her stand to collect trash.

I may not have changed their behaviors, but I had a lot of fun preparing Tchouk, earned a lot of respect from my community, tried to teach them the importance of keeping a clean community, and according to my village, officially became Kabiye!

Kristine Dalton



# Entering the Market and Expanding

A quick review of issues and PCV intervention



Alex Anani, APCD SED

**M**arket access" seems to be the phrase of the day for Togolese Small Enterprise Development partners. Several local counterparts have expressed the need to expand their market penetration inside and outside of country borders. They want volunteers to assist them with sales through new, local and international opportunities. For example, CODHANI, the batik based clothing and post card makers; CENATIS, the weavers' trade association of the Central region; the ginger growers' self-help association of the Plateau region; and Creation Arts, the calabash painter are all adamant that if they could find local buyers or enter new markets, business would prosper. The issue is not the ability to produce but rather the ability to find new markets to service. As one entrepreneur boasted, "production is not a problem."

Arguably, market penetration and increased sales are natural objectives for any commercial business. The question, however, is which obstacles lie in the way, especially for unsophisticated income generating people and small business entrepreneurs who make up the majority of the working class in Togo. As business advisers for these entrepreneurs, our main focus is to identify how we can best help.

There are many challenges to overcome in order to penetrate the market with new goods and services. Market consolidation and expansion also comes with specific challenges. In both cases, the entrepreneur's primary focus is to address the consumers' tastes and wants. There are operational, legal, environmental, and even cultural and political challenges to tackle as well. Frequently encountered issues include quality control, packaging, consistency, payment methods and transportation of goods and services. On the other hand, when one partner boasts that production is not a problem, it seems hard to imagine that he could keep up with a consis-

tent increase in demand. After all, market penetration and expansion requires a thorough internal organization of operations and management.

Unfortunately, many local entrepreneurs still deal with elementary production problems that should be improved before taking on new business. In many instances, at this stage of entering the market, small business owners who practice income generating activities are still in the process of discovering the crucial importance of cost and profit margin calculation. For some individual entrepreneurs, working

**... aklala batik travels to Accra, Ghana, to buy calico and paint; Sokodé weavers travel all the way to Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina; and Café Kuma imports its main packaging item from Seattle, USA.**

capital is the problem. In order to address the latter problem, people resort to financial services through microfinances which offer savings or loans. Entrepreneurs simply lack a readily available supply of raw materials. For

example, packaging is an important resource which they lack. They face logistical obstacles and lack an adequate ability to purchase in bulk. For example, aklala batik travels to Accra, Ghana, to buy calico and paint; Sokodé weavers travel all the way to Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina; and Café Kuma imports its main packaging item from Seattle, USA. For these Peace Corps counterparts, once the product is ready, distribution offers another set of logistical puzzles to solve.

The few successful entrepreneurs or income generating activity groups Volunteers currently work with have come to realize they still have work to do organizing themselves and their businesses. Among other things, they now have discovered the necessity to establish and maintain daily routines including discipline and self commitment. Likewise, they have acknowledged the need for continuous effort, not only to work on innovation and product differentiation, but also the need to bring particular differentiations to draw the attention of the costumer. Some of these issues include the logistics and organization required for taxes, market access,

banking, and international business operations. The road ahead continues in some different directions. One important issue that should be addressed is the type of formal business structure that should be adopted. Individual entrepreneurs, artisans, and even farmers face this question as they breach the boundaries of small business.

The field is large. Fortunately enough, though, all farmers and artisans, and other small business owners do not face all business development issues at once. A needs assessment is one key tool that volunteers can utilize to selectively choose from a variety of intervention strategies. In one notable example, a Volunteer conducted a survey of all market women, and then developed a well tailored income generating activity workshop for the women followed by intensive one-on-one tutoring sessions. Exchange visits are also an effective strategy. Trade shows have proven to be an excellent marketing opportunity. These fairs also serve as a learning opportunity and a place for networking and exchange among business owners. We also encourage Peace Corps Volunteer's Counterparts to network and outsource with one another. Overall, Volunteers are encouraged to create synergy

by working with extension agents from other organizations. One suggestion from the field is that work partner selection demands careful scrutiny. In addition, some field agents may be less inclined to offer objective business advice.

It is common knowledge for Small Enterprise Development Volunteers that local entrepreneurs do not realize that they need a strategic plan to effectively sell their goods once they are ready to sell their product or service. How the Volunteer can communicate this mental leap to their counterparts is no small feat. Where PCVs and counterparts have succeeded, the results have been rewarding. Overall, the role for the Volunteer is to coach counterparts how to navigate through many trials and tribulations and assist them in seeing opportunities with their own eyes. When that happens, partners gain invaluable confidence and the ability to identify potential markets. They become more receptive to new ideas and Volunteers are happier than ever.

Alex Anani

## The Price is Right

### Price Fluctuations in Togo

Mike O'Donnell, PCV NRM, Maritime Region

We've once again compiled prices from several markets throughout Togo in order to better understand market demands here. Though we've added a new market, we are always looking to expand the scope of our study, and would like to include a market near you in our next issue. In order to help us and the newly formed Food Security Committee, who has decided to work to expand this project, and to better understand market forces in your area, please send the prices of common food staples at your local market to the Farm to Market Editors before the August 2011 issue.



<b>Region:</b>	<b>Maritime</b>		<b>Kara</b>
<b>Market:</b>	<b>Agbelouve</b>	<b>Tabligbo</b>	<b>Soumdina Bas</b>
<b>Crop</b>			
Corn	800	550-600	425
Soy	1200	N/A	N/A
Millet	1000	N/A	N/A
Beans	1500	900-1000	1200
Yams	1000 (4 Big)	1000 (3 Big)	1500 (3 Big)
Cassava	1000 (Cuvette)	500 (6 Medium)	100 (Small Pile)
Rice	1200-1700	1350-1400	1100
Palm	300	200	N/A

\*Remember that sizes of bowl may vary slightly market to market.

Mike O'Donnell

# DU CHAMP AU MARCHÉ

CORPS DE LA PAIX

TOGO, L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

VOLUME VI ISSUE IV

Chers collègues, nous sollicitons vos articles pour les éditions suivantes—court ou long, peu importe, c'est le contenu qui compte. Nous cherchons les expériences sur le terrain dans les domaines de la gestion des ressources naturelles et le développement de petites et moyennes entreprises. Donnez votre article à un/e Volontaire avant le 31 Mai, et avec votre aide nous allons encore améliorer la partie française de notre publication.



## Les Activités de PROTA au Togo

Par HOUNKPATI Brad K., Coordinateur Technique Adjoint GRN, Région Maritime

**P**ROTA est une fondation internationale sans but lucratif. Son objectif est de faire la synthèse de l'information dispersée sur environ 7 000 plantes utiles de l'Afrique tropicale et de fournir un large accès à cette information par le moyen de bases de données sur le web, de livres, de CD-Roms et de produits spéciaux.

La coordination de la section Afrique est composée de six Bureaux régionaux, installés dans des institutions dont le CNSF : Centre National des Semences Forestières basé au Burkina Faso servant de bureau régional pour l'Afrique occidentale francophone) avec une représentation au Togo basée à l'Ecole Supérieure d'Agronomie, Université de Lomé.

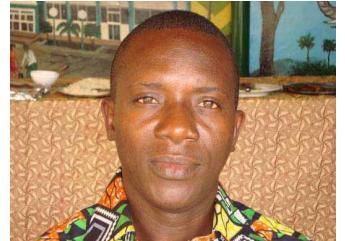
peuples d'Afrique faire les meilleurs choix possible d'utilisation et de conservation des plantes en vue de l'amélioration de leurs conditions de vie et d'une exploitation durable des ressources végétales. Pour cela, elle se charge de collecter des données pour ali-

**PROTA est une bonne ressource pour tous les africains y compris les togolais et en particulier tous les volontaires des programmes du Corps de la Paix, qui peuvent ainsi contribuer et bénéficier des activités de PROTA**

menter trois bases de données (littérature grise, experts et associations ONG/Institutions travaillant sur les plantes tropicales) et en particulier au Togo. Les données collectées devront être transmises au Bureau régional (basé à Ouagadougou) les mises à jour nécessaire.

### 1. Synthèse des connaissances

a) Synthèse de la littérature collectée au niveau régional et la publication



d'information facilement compréhensive couvrant tous les aspects de connaissance à partir de diverses sources sur chacune des plantes utiles.

b) Consultation de partenaires pour identifier les espèces prioritaires, les besoins de recherche et de développement, les actions en matière politique et de conservation et les technologies immédiatement disponibles pour être transférées aux paysans au niveau des communautés de base.

c) Mise à jour continue et le développement de produits en français et en anglais pour répondre au besoin des groupes cibles en Afrique.

## COMMENT TRAVAILLE PROTA

La vision de PROTA est de voir "les

### 2. Vulgarisation des connaissances

Vulgarisation continue des informations de PROTA à travers PROTA4U ([www.prota4u.org](http://www.prota4u.org)), la série des livres par groupe d'utilisation/CD-Roms, partenaires clés en Afrique, les systèmes de vulgarisation agricole, projets au niveau des communautés à la base, des séminaires et ateliers, presse écrite et électronique.

### 3. Utilisation des connaissances

Promouvoir une large et meilleure utilisation des informations de PROTA par les utilisateurs qui sont les décideurs politiques, chercheurs, organisations du monde rural, secteur privé, utilisateurs finaux en vue d'influencer le politique, la recherche, introduire des technologies disponibles, générer de la valeur ajoutée, pour le développement de module et l'enseignement et d'améliorer les conditions de vie. Cela peut être atteint à travers des actions stratégiques clés et le partenariat.

### PROTA AU TOGO/ ACTIVITÉS

Depuis avril 2010, nos activités au niveau local (TOGO) se résument à la collection d'informations sur les recherches (non publiées : littérature grise/grey literature) liées aux plantes, l'identification des professionnels et organisations associées. Nous faisons aussi connaître cette fondation aux populations, associations/ONG et chercheurs scientifiques du Togo avec partage des informations de synthèses de PROTA sur les plantes. Nous les aidons à mieux utiliser et valoriser les ressources végétales disponibles pour les rendre durables. Sur demande, nous faisons aussi des études d'impact pour apprécier le niveau d'information et de connaissance des populations sur les documents élaborés, publiés et distribués par PROTA par le canal de CTA (céréales et légumes, bois d'œuvre, plantes médicinales, colorants et tannins, oléagineux, les conclusions et recommandations de l'Afrique Tropicale, etc.). Tous les abonnés de CTA disposant de crédits peuvent faire la demande des documents de leur choix. Nous sommes là pour aider



**PROTA**  
Plant Resources of Tropical Africa  
Ressources végétales de l'Afrique tropicale

ceux qui ont des difficultés dans l'exploitation desdits documents (noms vulgaires et quelques fois locaux, etc.).

### LE PUBLIC CIBLE

Les bénéficiaires directs des informations de PROTA sont les décideurs politiques, le secteur privé, la recherche, l'éducation et le développement rural dont les décisions et leurs actions affectent des millions d'utilisateurs finaux qui dépendent directement des plantes pour leur existence. La gamme des produits comprend : des livres et CD-Rom à prix bas sur les 16 catégories d'utilisation des plantes et les séries des livres sur les « Conclusions et recommandations ».

### PARTICIPATION ET BENEFICES DES VOLONTAIRES DU CORPS DE LA PAIX

Les volontaires du Corps de la Paix et leurs partenaires peuvent contribuer à identifier les experts et/ou praticiens dans le domaine des plantes à travers le pays. Ils peuvent aussi envoyer des photos des plantes qu'ils jugent importantes pour le développement de leurs communautés et demander des informations complémentaires pour valoriser ces plantes.

Sur la base de ces informations, la représentation nationale pourra aider les volontaires en termes d'appui technique en leur indiquant / ou recommandant des experts ou organisation

dans leur zone respective. De plus, avec les photos qu'ils vont envoyer, ils pourront recevoir des informations utiles sur les plantes en question et ainsi les vulgariser et les protéger. Le représentant de PROTA peut également mettre ces genres d'informations à la disposition des volontaires et de leurs homologues en leur envoyant documents sur demande par la poste (EMS).

PROTA est une bonne ressource pour tous les africains y compris les togolais et en particulier tous les volontaires des programmes du Corps de la Paix qui peuvent ainsi contribuer

et bénéficier des activités de PROTA.

Pour GEE par exemple, les articles de PROTA (Anglais/Français) peuvent aider les élèves dans la maîtrise de l'Anglais (éducation) et aussi leurs groupes dans la promotion des AGR basées sur les plantes.

Pour CHAP et NRM, le livre Plantes médicinales de l'Afrique Tropicale et les articles publiés peuvent servir aux populations et les tradithérapeutes dans leur travail et aussi à préserver la qualité des ressources naturelles disponibles sur place ou installées. Ces documents donnent assez d'information sur les usages, la propagation des espèces de plantes,

etc. Spécifiquement pour NRM, ceci peut vraiment aider le volet reboisement mais surtout celui d'Education Environnementale car en partageant la valeur des plantes avec les élèves, ils en prendront bien soin en devenant grands.

Pour SED, les mêmes informations peuvent servir dans la création de petites et moyennes entreprises notamment à travers la valorisation des espèces de plantes prometteuses (gynandro, le bissap, le sorgho des teinturiers, l'iboga, le phytolaque, l'emien, le curcuma, etc.) développés dans PROTA 2010 : Plantes africaines prometteuses. 187 p/ Promising African plants. 169 pp.).

D'un autre côté, nous pouvons aider ceux qui veulent acheter ces livres à moitié

prix car PROTA est avant tout un guide pour l'utilisation des plantes d'Afrique.

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HOUNKPATI Brad K.



## **Notre Association a Fait des Pas de Géants Grace au Peace Corps**

Par ATCHAM N. Kossi Téléba « Aposto », Homologue SED, Région Centrale

**C**réer en 2005, l'Association Creuset des Jeunes pour le Développement et l'Epanouissement Integral des Populations (ACJDEIP) de Lama-Tessi a bouclé en 2011 six (6) années d'intenses activités au côté des populations rurales du canton de Lama-Tessi. Nous intervenons dans trois domaines spécifiques à savoir : Santé ; Promotion et protection des droits des enfants, des femmes et des jeunes puis l'appui et conseil au organisation de développement à la base .L'arrivée d'une volontaire du corps de la paix en 2009 dans la communauté va apporter un plus dans l'organisation de notre association.

A travers cet article, je relate les avancées significatives auxquelles nous sommes parvenues grâce à la volontaire Lorena DE LA PARA.

**C'est dire que nous avons appris beaucoup d'elle et sommes capables de continuer sur cette lancée**

Après l'établissement d'un calendrier de travail avec la volontaire, plusieurs séances instructives ont permis à l'association de réfléchir sur ses forces et ses faiblesses de même que ses ambitions à court et à long terme.

Un travail préalable de capitalisation des acquis de l'association a ouvert une brèche pour l'élaboration d'un plan stratégique de 2009 à 2011. Quoi que exhaustive l'activité a été très passionnante. Faire réfléchir tout le personnel sur la vision, la mission et les buts de l'association a permis de regarder dans la même direction, ce qui est très important pour un groupe de personne qui opte de travailler ensemble. Se projeter dans le futur n'a pas toujours été un exercice facile à faire. Mais nous sommes arrivé avec beaucoup d'effort et d'encouragement de la part de la volontaire.

La deuxième grande activité menée avec la volontaire a été l'élaboration du plan d'action 2010 de l'association. Pour la réussite de cet exercice chaque acteur à tous les niveaux a été impliqué. De ce fait, à l'exécution, on a senti une participation active de tout le personnel car chacun avait une responsabilité précise dans l'atteinte de nos objectifs.

Un des objectifs inscrit dans notre plan stratégique est de quitter le statut d'association pour celui d'ONG en 2011. Pour ce faire ensemble avec la volontaire nous avons procédé à la révision des statuts et règlements Intérieurs de l'association afin de se conformer aux normes et résoudre les imperfections.

Une autre très grande activité a consisté à réorganiser la comptabilité de l'association. D'abord par l'élaboration des outils de collecte d'informations financières et en suite à transcrire les différents cahiers dans le logiciels Excel afin de faciliter l'élaboration de nos rapports financiers périodiques. Un travail de fond a été fait pour capitaliser les données financières de l'association depuis 2006. C'était une véritable besogne de fourmis. Car l'organisation de la comptabilité de l'association avant l'arrivée de la volontaire était de l'amateurisme. En tant que petite structure, on ne disposait pas de moyens pour recruter un comptable, de même le manque de renforcement de capacité dans le domaine de la gestion.

Beaucoup d'autres appuis de la volontaire sur le plan organisationnel nous ont conduit actuellement à l'élaboration d'un manuel de procédure administrative et financière de l'association qui deviendra ONG « Creuset Togo ». Ce manuel va s'achever en Juin 2011. La qualité d'ONG ne s'octrois pas en terme de nombre d'années d'une structure mais en sa capacité structurelle et organisationnelle. Nous avons fait des pas de géants en si peu de temps.

En fin d'année 2010, l'association s'est auto évaluée sur plusieurs plans. Les résultats sont concluants. En terme de mobilisation des ressources, 7/9 activités planifiées ont été réalisées grâce aux ressources locales de la communauté.

Désormais nous sommes confiant en la capacité de notre structure à entreprendre des activités de grands impactes avec peu de moyens.

Grâce à la volontaire nous avons quitté l'étape de l'improvisation. Nous avons appris à anticiper sur certains événements, à gérer efficacement nos ressources matérielles, humaines et financières. Surtout à rester réaliste dans la planification de nos activités.

En décembre 2010, l'association a élaboré son plan d'action 2011 sans l'aide de la volontaire. C'est dire que nous avons appris beaucoup d'elle et sommes capable de continuer sur cette lancée.



Nous sommes vaincu du vaste terrain sur lequel nous allons en voulant devenir ONG. Nous avons acquis de l'expérience grâce à la volontaire pour affronter avec beaucoup d'abnégation et de sérénité toutes les difficultés qui se présenteront à nous. Nous avons aussi pris conscience de nos forces, de nos faiblesses, être toujours ouvert à toute initiative visant l'amélioration de nos prestations auprès de la laborieuse population de Lama-Tessi qui attend beaucoup de nous en tant que structure de développement.

Bravo ! Bravo ! PEACE CORPS

Lama-Tessi vous souhaite beaucoup de courage et longue vie

ATCHAM N. Kossi Téléba « Aposto »

# Une Organisation Payasanne

## au Service de l'Agriculture Familiale et Rurale

Par MISSAH A. Awossa, Région Centrale

**S**iège, situé dans la préfecture de Tchamba (Région Centrale du Togo), l'Association Paysanne pour la Communication des ruraux (APCR) est une Organisation Paysanne faitière regroupant plusieurs groupements agricoles paysans qui défendent les valeurs d'une agriculture familiale et la professionnalisation des paysans. Elle est une faitière, membre de la Coordination Togolaise des Organisations Paysannes et Producteurs Agricoles (CTOP).

### GENESE

Créer le 10 octobre 1997 par les leaders paysans de la préfecture de Tchamba dans le but de partager des informations d'ordre agricole, social, économique et des expériences paysannes ; elle a eu son récépissé en septembre 2000. Plusieurs activités ont été menées malgré certaines difficultés financières de 1997 à 2006 sur les actions de communication entre autre les bibliothèques villageoises, les enregistrements des expériences paysannes sur des cassettes sons, la création et l'installation d'une radio rurale et communautaire dans la préfecture de Tchamba à travers l'effort de cotisation des membres et l'appui de GRAD-France. A partir de 2007 l'association a connu une évolution exponentielle grâce à l'adoption de nouvelles stratégies de communica-

tion et de vision. Ceci a été possible grâce aux modifications des textes juridiques révisant le statut de membres et fixant les nouvelles assignations de l'organisation. Aujourd'hui, l'APCR couvre la région centrale du Togo et s'étant d'année en année sur les autres régions du Pays. Elle compte de nos jours plus de 550 groupements agricoles et plus de 10 720 membres dont 44% de femmes.



Assemblée Générale regroupant tous les délégués des groupements membres de l'APCR à Sotouboua en 2010.

### LES DOMAINES D'INTERVENTION DE L'APCR

APCR intervient dans les domaines suivants:

- Communication, Information et Formation (Radio, IEC, CCC)
- Création des bibliothèques villageoises (caisses de livres)
- Education, Alphabétisation en langue



et en français

- Transformation et commercialisation des produits agricoles (noix d'anacarde ; soja etc.)
- Santé, Lutte contre les IST/ VIH / SIDA, le Paludisme et la grippe aviaire ;
- Protection de l'environnement ;(formation sur des pratiques de culture durable, GIFS)
- Capitalisation des expériences paysannes (enregistrement sur des cassettes sons)
- Information sur le système du commerce agricole (PICA). (information par SMS et Internet)
- Construction des magasins de stockage pour le warrantage

### LES ACTIVITES DE L'APCR

#### LES ACHATS ET VENTES GROUPES

Il s'agit pour les intrants agricoles tels que l'engrais, les herbicides et les insecticides de faire des commandes et des achats groupés pour les membres. Pour se faire, les besoins par membres sont d'avance recensés et centralisés.

En ce qui concerne les ventes groupées, l'association collecte à travers ses responsables de zone sur demande d'un marché le nombre de tonne de produit agricole désiré (anacarde, soja, maïs etc.) de ses membres à la satisfaction du client.

## LA TRANSFORMATION DES PRODUITS AGRICOLES

La transformation des produits agricoles au sein de l'APCR est une recherche action visant à donner une valeur ajoutée aux produits agricoles des membres. Pour se faire l'APCR a formé une série de femmes dans la transformation du soja, un groupement dans la transformation de l'anacarde en amande de cajou de façon artisanale et un autre dans la transformation des pommes de cajou en jus clarifié par une méthode semi-industrielle.

## CONCLUSION

L'APCR est une ONG dans la région Centrale disposant d'information, pourront aider les volontaires du Corps de la Paix dans n'importe quel domaine. Dans ses activités, l'APCR-Togo considère le vécu quotidien, les attitudes et les comportements,

la formation humaine qui oriente vers l'autonomie. C'est dans ces conditions qu'on aidera le monde rural à grandir et à devenir un acteur responsable. Nous invitons ici les partenaires et acteurs du développement du monde rural et les volontaires du Corps de la Paix à mieux écouter les organisations paysannes tout en tenant compte de leurs idées de développement de l'agriculture, de l'environnement, de l'économie, de l'éducation et de la culture. Ce la pourrait aider à lutter contre la pauvreté en milieu rural. La terre nourrit les peuples. APCR-Togo dans toutes ses actions, met l'accent sur l'exploitation familiale et rurale.

A. Awossa MISSAH



Production du jus clarifié de pomme de cajou, dégustation et entreposage

## La Forêt Parle: Une approche culturelle à la protection écologique

Par Emily REISMAN, Fullbright Fellow, Région Plateaux

**L**a Forêt Classée d'Assimé risque de disparaître, de devenir rien qu'un autre espace abandonné sur la carte du Togo. Elle représente le vert passé marquant ou il y avait autrefois un trésor. Située au pied du plateau de Danyi, cette forêt était distinguée par les premiers colonisateurs pour sa riche biodiversité et classée officiellement en 1953. Malheureusement, jusqu'à présent la population locale n'était pas impliquée dans la protection de cette ressource naturelle et en plus n'ont pas



apprécié les restrictions sur l'usage de ce territoire imposé par l'état. Avant, la forêt fonctionnait comme un point de rencontre pour les villages sur le plateau avec ceux de la plaine, y inclut un marché vibrant une fois par semaine, ainsi né le nom « La Forêt d'Assimé » (La Forêt du Marché). Après que le marché est été abandonné, et avec une population grandissante, les villages riverains ont exploité de plus en plus la forêt. Ils faisaient les champs dans la forêt, ils ramassaient le

bois de feu et le bois de construction, et ils faisaient la chasse en mettant le feu. Aujourd’hui la forêt est dans un état tellement détérioré que la jeune génération ne la reconnaît même pas comme une forêt. Pendant les dernières années, les onze villages riverains ont remarqué que les sols s’dégradaient, le vent devenait plus fort contribuant à l’erosion, et les pluies diminuaient. Ces effets néfastes ont poussé quelques chefs à solliciter l’appui d’une ONG locale (Jeunes Volontaires pour l’Environnement) pour commencer le processus de réhabilitation qui a débuté en 2010.

On sait que pour bien gérer une forêt d’une façon participative, il faut que les populations locales soient motivées eux-mêmes pour sa protection. Si non le projet sera voué à l’échec. Alors comment les motiver ? Nous avons les raisons économiques (un meilleur sol, c’est une meilleure récolte !), les raisons écologiques (préserver la biodiversité, c’est préserver la vie !), mais peut-être il nous manque toujours quelque chose...

Il est remarqué dans plusieurs pays en Afrique que les forêts sacrées sont bien protégées par les populations, sans aucune intervention extérieure. Cela indique que la valeur culturelle d’un site n’est pas du tout négligeable dans sa gestion. Dans le travail de restauration d’une forêt, il faut aussi une restauration des mémoires et des histoires qu’elle évoque. Ces aspects culturels ont aussi une influence importante sur la

conscience et les actions de la population. C'est dans ce cadre que j'ai décidé de collecter des connaissances culturelles de cette forêt ; les fables des animaux forestiers, les traditions par rapport aux herbes et arbres sacrés, les cérémonies qui ont lieu dans la forêt, et autres. L'idée c'est d'élaborer un livre qui sera créé à travers les paroles de la communauté (les chefs, les vieux, les ar-



tisans, et les élèves) utilisé pour deux buts importants : donné aux élèves pour renforcer la valeur culturelle de la préservation forestière parmi la jeune génération, et vendre aux touristes pour mobiliser les fonds pour la restauration de cette ressource indis-

et ils ont facilement acceptés de faire un entretien ou de me diriger vers les personnes âgées qui servent comme les griots du village. Les fables et traditions que j'ai dévoilées pendant ces entretiens sont fascinantes, parfois étonnantes, et surtout très uniques (pas plus de détails, vous devez attendre le livre !). Plusieurs interlocuteurs ont remarqué que maintenant avec la vulgarisation de la radio et la télévision, les jeunes n'écoutent plus les histoires de leurs grands parents comme avant, et ces connaissances disparaissaient avec chaque vieux qui meurt.

Pour la plupart les entretiens étaient très ouverts, mais il y a habituellement quelques sujets sensibles dont il faut être conscient. Quand on parle des cérémonies et pratiques traditionnelles, il y a parfois une réserve chez les gens qui craignent qu'en posant ces questions, vous doutez de leur fidélité au christianisme ou autres religions modernes. De temps en temps les gens deviennent soucieux aussi quand on parle des herbes qu'on prend de la forêt pour préparer les médicaments traditionnels, comme si c'est une sorte de test de leur connaissance de la médecine occidentale. Mais quand on écoute avec patience et un intérêt sincère, les connaissances se révèlent petit à petit. Il y a certaines idées aussi que les vieux ne veulent pas partager avec n'importe qui (ex. une recette secrète pour se protéger contre un ennemi) et c'est possible qu'ils oublient parfois que cette discussion intime pourrait être publiée et distribuée publiquement (surtout

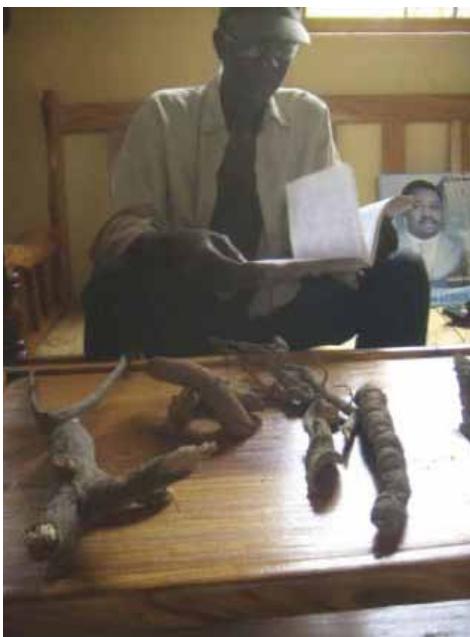
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pensable.

J'ai commencé par parler avec les chefs et les vieux respectés des 11 villages riverains. Toujours fiers de leur culture locale, ils s'intéressaient à documenter leur héritage,

s'ils ont pris un peu de la boisson locale). Il faut toujours demander permission de partager toutes les connaissances qui sont divulgués avant et après chaque entretien.

Pour la deuxième phase de ce projet, je souhaite organiser au lycée un concours pour les élèves à fin d'avoir leur histoire sur la forêt à publier dans le livre. Chacun sera prié d'aller chez ses grands parents ou ses arrières grands parents pour leur parler de la forêt et documenter leurs histoires. Finalement, je voudrais que les artisans locaux puissent contribuer aux illustrations. Pour réaliser ce livre physiquement j'ai quelques idées, mais je cherche toujours le moyen de le



Un herboriste à Goudévé décrit ses recettes traditionnelles

publier à moindre coût (si vous avez des idées n'hésitez pas à me contacter). Un jour quand tout sera réuni, un beau livre en sortira !

Un homme souriant m'a expliqué un jour « On dit ici que les herbes parlent. C'est-à-dire qu'ils ont une puissance, et qu'il faut seulement les écouter pour apprécier leurs pouvoirs. » C'est pour cela que j'ai intitulé ce projet « La Forêt Parle ». Ecoutez-la !

Emily REISMAN  
Fullbright Fellow

## L'Élevage des Agoutis

Par Patrice AGBESSI-Anake, Anfoir, Koutigbé

**J**e voudrais vous parler sur l'élevage des agoutis. En vue d'avoir une activité génératrice de revenu (AGR) en permanence, j'ai suivi une formation sur l'élevage des agoutis avec le Corps de la Paix de USA au Togo du 1er au 31 août 2000 à Kpalimé.

L'élevage des agoutis est un élevage très rentable, l'alimentation coûte peu. Les agoutis sont une espèce très résistante aux maladies, donc le risque d'une épidémie c'est moindre, d'ailleurs ce n'est pas nécessaire de dépenser beaucoup d'argent en les vaccinant. Suivez plutôt mon conseil. Pour faire cet élevage, il faut penser aux enclos ou aux clapiers. Pour les dimensions des enclos, il faut:

- 3m/2m/1m30 pour 25 à 30 petits
- 3m/1m50/1m30 pour 5 à 8 femelles

Si l'enclos n'atteint pas cette taille, les agoutis peuvent sauter au dessous de s'échapper. Couvrez aussi le fond d'enclos avec la paille enfin d'élever les agoutis de la terre.



Il sera ainsi moins sensible aux maladies. Pour le croisement, il faut 4 femelles pour un mâle. Laisser le mâle seul dans son enclos 1 mois avant de lui amener les 4 femelles. Amener toujours la femelle vers le mâle. Si le mâle reste toujours dans son enclos il sera plus commode et donc plus disposé à reproduire. La gestation dure 150 jours donc deux mises bas par an. La femelle donne en moyenne 5 petits.

Le sevrage : Il se faut un mois après la naissance des petits. Le sexage : Il se fait tout juste au moment du sevrage. A cinq mois, un agouti est capable de procréer.

Chaque matin, je lave l'abreuvoir et le mangeoire pour assurer que le manger est propre et sain. Il est important que l'abreuvoir et le mangeoire soient faits en ciment. S'ils sont en bois ou en plastique les agoutis peuvent les ronger. Alors, je leur donne un aliment complémentaire, la composition est la suivante :

- 40% de son cubé

- 25% de manioc
- 23% de maïs
- 08% de farine de maïs
- 02% de sel de cuisine
- 02% de calcaire

Puis, je donne suffisamment d'herbes de soir. Lorsque la femelle est en gestation, le mâle ne la gêne plus. Entretenez régulièrement l'enclos, l'abreuvoir et le mangeoire, feraient moins dépenser en santé des agoutis.

J'ai trouvé cet élevage très rentable. J'ai commencé ce travaille en 2000 et jusqu'ici j'ai souvent plus de soixante animaux dans mes enclos. Actuellement, les males se vendent à deux mille par kilo, lorsque les femelles peuvent atteindre dix mille unités.

Les agoutis procurent aussi d'autres bénéfices. Le déchet d'agouti est très riche en nutriments, et fait du bon engrais au jardin. L'élevage d'agouti aide aussi à diminuer les pratiques néfastes qui abîment la brousse.



Patrice AGBESSI-Anake

## Une Formation sur le Jardinage

Par Benjamin BOGARDUS, PCV GRN, Région Maritime

Le premier weekend d'avril, j'ai organisé une formation dans le jardin modèle du groupement Union Fait la Force (U2F) à Anfoin. Je n'ai pas voulu financer l'activité au début de mon service, donc j'ai fait l'événement à un prix très bas. J'ai écrit un beau programme pour la formation sur mon ordinateur, mais la réalité était très différente de mon plan. A la fin, j'ai appris beaucoup de leçons qui peuvent aider les autres volontaires avec les formations similaires.

Ce que j'ai planifié pour le projet et la réalité étaient différentes, mais à la fin j'ai appris beaucoup, et c'est ce que je veux partager avec vous.

J'ai commencé les préparations pour la formation en janvier. Les membres de l'U2F ont terminé la haie du jardin et nous avons fais as-

socier des cultures dans une planche avec les tomates et le basilic pour avoir un milieu écologique sain. En février, j'ai envoyé un appel aux formateurs des volontaires de NRM. Des volontaires dans les autres programmes ont voulu participer, donc au début de mars j'ai invité tous les volontaires de Maritime à venir faire la formation ensemble avec les groupements locaux, la communauté, et les élèves. La semaine avant la formation, j'ai fait un suivi pour confirmer que l'arrivée des participants.

Les difficultés rencontrées : Comme c'était la saison sèche, c'était difficile d'entretenir la planche exemplaire, à cause du manque de l'eau. Les tomates, et  $\frac{3}{4}$  des arbres dans la haie vive, sont morts. Mon poste, Anfoin, est loin de tous les autres volontaires NRM et c'était difficile pour eux de venir et de participer à la formation.

### 1ÈRE JOURNÉE : FORMATION DES FORMATEURS



Les volontaires sont arrivés le vendredi. Mon plan était de préparer le jardin et d'organiser des présentations pour la journée suivante. Dans le jardin, nous avons planifié deux planches et nous avons bien arrosé la terre en préparation de faire le double bêchage. J'ai programmé deux formations le samedi : pendant la matinée pour les membres des groupements de la communauté et pendant la soirée pour les élèves. Pendant les parties plus fraîches de la journée (très tôt dans la matinée, très tard dans la soirée) nous allions faire la pratique dans le jardin, et pendant la partie plus chaude, les volontaires vont donner des présentations aux participants sous l'apartam que les membres de l'U2F ont bâti.

### 2ÈME JOURNÉE : LE JARDINAGE

Le samedi, les premiers participants de la formation sont arrivés 2 heures en retard, et nous avons commencé la pratique dans le jardin à 9 :30h avec la chaleur. Les six participants qui sont venus ont souffert beaucoup en faisant le double bêchage pour une demi-planche. Nous avons bien arrosé la terre avant, mais après une profondeur de 20 centimètres la terre était encore dure comme une pierre.

Mike (NRM Maritime) a fait la partie centrale de la formation avec une discussion de la forme des planches et une démonstration de l'association des cultures. Avant la formation, un membre de l'U2F a dit qu'il va apporter les jeunes plants pour la démonstration, mais il n'est pas venu. Donc, nous avons mis les graines des haricots verts et des piments dans la demi-planche.

Après la pratique, nous sommes allés sous l'aparam pour les présentations. J'ai voulu gérer une discussion des jardins, mais j'étais fatigué et frustré et j'ai laissé mon homologue présenter sur son élevage des agoutis. Après le déjeuner, seulement un élève est venu pour la formation une heure en retard, et le groupe a décidé de terminer la formation et de visiter le projet d'un membre de l'U2F qui fait la pisciculture.

### **3ÈME JOURNÉE : L'AGROFORESTERIE**

La dernière journée, j'ai programmé une petite formation sur l'agroforesterie. Avant la formation j'ai commencé une pépinière des arbres qui consiste à fixer l'azote dans le sol : Albizia lebbeck, Flamboyant, et Leucaena. J'ai voulu transplanter les arbres dans le champ d'un membre de l'U2F pour planter entre les rayons de manioc. Mais ce n'était pas possible parce qu'il n'avait pas plu et j'étais content de montrer la planche avec les jeunes arbres aux autres.

### **LEÇONS ET COMMENT AMÉLIORER UN PROJET POUR LA FOIS PROCHAIN**

Je voudrais faire la prochaine formation pendant

la saison pluvieuse dans la région centrale pour faciliter la préparation du sol et la participation des volontaires. Je suis membre du Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire, et je voudrais faire le travail d'organisation avec un groupe de personnes pour améliorer le programme.

Développer la confiance avec les participants, il faut avoir les choses plus officielles pour les attirer à la formation. Pour cette formation, j'ai écrit les informations des participants (nom, village, organisation) dans mon cahier et j'ai demandé aux participants d'apporter un cahier, un stylo, et un outil pour utiliser dans le jardin. Mais, si j'avais eu des invitations officielles pour donner aux participants, des cahiers, des stylos, et les outils de jardin, des photocopies des fiches avec information sur le jardinage (voir ressource ci-dessous), et des graines pour donner aux participants, ils seraient plus motivés de participer. J'aime l'idée que tous les participants togolais sont venus à leur frais chez moi parce que nous n'avons pas payé pour le transport et je peux facilement aider les participants à commencer les jardins dans le futur. La prochaine fois, je voudrais collaborer plus avec le Conseil Agricole d'Anfoin pour inviter deux membres de chaque groupement agro-pastoral pour avoir une liste des participants plus spécifique et plus sûre.

Merci aux volontaires, participants et formateurs ! Au moment, je suis en train d'organiser une formation similaire avec Terri à Tchekpo, et j'espère que mon expérience peut améliorer cette formation.

#### Ressources

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