



CHRISTIAN RURAL AID NETWORK
FREUNDESKREIS e.V.

CRAN Freundeskreis, H. Wallhäuser, Roermonder Str. 110, 52072 Aachen

CRAN newsletter Nr. 31 / March 2002

Dear CRAN friends,

at the same time like the annual report 2001 this newsletter (shorter than usual) is published with some current information. This includes especially:

1. the hint on confirmation of tax deductible donations
(relevant only for Germany, thus no translation)

2. Euro change with CRAN

Our Child Education Sponsorship Programme until 2001 was run at an amount of 20 DM per child and month (value of 10.23 Euro). As that amount anyway does not meet the exact need, we have simply changed that to 10 Euro from 2002 on. Donations thus can refer to the newly fixed amount. What is beyond the 10 Euro and meant for CESS, will be transferred into the programme like the other donations.

Similarly, regular donations can be changed into rounded Euro amounts, but that is definitely not necessary for financial technical reasons.

CRAN- Ghana had already opened a foreign currency Euro account at the end of last year, into which we now transfer your donations. This also does not request any further changes.

3. invitation to our spring meeting / members meeting

Saturday, April 13, in St. Augustin close to Bonn (details see below)

Not members or active friends of any kind are invited to that but everybody who is interested in CRAN work is welcome!

4. a more detailed report about Volta Region Programme:

see below

We hope to personally meet many of you at our spring meeting. With slides, reports, and discussions the world of CRAN may become more transparent to you then. Until then, hearty greetings,

Hans Wallhäuser



Activities in Liati- Wote / Volta Region: Project co-ordinator Cosmos Abiwu reports

Mushroom cultivation is an ambitious complex which has already started with the production of both fresh and dried oyster mushrooms. A 5000 compost bag capacity cropping house is already in place and produces an average of 20 kg of fresh mushrooms per day, for sale, first to the rural dwellers. Such a mushroom growing is the most economical way to make use of agricultural land, as they grow well on most agricultural by-products which otherwise would have been burned or left to rot in the field. Furthermore, mushrooms are valuable additions to the usual food staples, containing a high quality protein part (20 - 40%) and a low fat content (1 - 8% unsaturated fatty acids), carbohydrates, mineral salts and several vitamins. For further upgrading a 40 kg capacity solar drier has been installed at CRAN's agricultural station.

At the same time like mushroom cultivation, snail rearing - which had already been presented some years ago at the place - started at a higher level- The Liati Wote snail project operates on a paddock system with two trenches and two breeding boxes. We have in stock over 1000 snails, which are being fattened for market. Also snail meat is nutritious and known in the area as a fine addition to the usual staples.

Women's Mill and Oil Processing Company: This concept aims at assisting women in the village and nearby rural communities to process some of their agricultural produce and thereby add value for higher incomes. It also aims at enabling the womenfolk who previously employed simple and rudimentary methods in processing some of their produce such as palm kernel, cassava, maize, cowpea grains and copra, to have access to appropriate technology for increased production, higher income and less drudgery. For that, two mills with Diesel engines had already been installed at an earlier stage. Now the first Women's Company has been founded. This pilot project refers to ten women. This company has all the trappings of any formal business enterprise, with clear division of labour, good business ethics, coupled with the determination to make profit and success.. A very crucial component hinges on how much training and management skills can be made available, so that the way of shared and its ethics will be understood and implemented. This includes:

- an awareness seminar, which involves business purpose and operations, entrepreneurship and motivation for business success, and company structure and organisation
- leadership and group management
- business management for sustainability

The first of these training workshops has already been organised last year. This was - in the first phase - added by the functional workshops in mushroom cultivation, snail farming and bee keeping.

For the year 2002, among others the following plans have been made:

- family Abiwu moving to Hohoe, so that Cosmos can have a focused attention for the job
- expanding the mushroom cultivation to a second species
- completion of the ongoing oil processing shed
- forming Good News Bible Groups for the CESS sponsored children and others that are interested
- expanding loan chances for the farming groups
- emphasis on sustainability, cost reducing and cost recovery of the running programmes
- training of all groups in business management skills



The ideas are far wider than that. What is needed are time and people to implement that, and finance as it is necessary at the specific time. Motivation, business and pedagogic knowledge to realise all that is there. So we can hope that some aspects will come into practice, offering general help to the village people of that area.



Invitation to CRAN Spring Meeting and Memebers Meeting

Saturday, April 13, 2002

Freie evangelische Gemeinde Rhein - Sieg, St. Augustin - Buisdorf (close to Bonn)

Programme:

10:00 informal start with coffee and talks
10:30 gold production in Ghana: economical and social implications
Patrick Agbesinyale, Director of CRAN- Ghana,
reports about his studies concerning Tarkwa Region
12:00 lunch break
13:30 report about current state of projects in Ghana
15:00 coffee break
15:30 members meeting
end: about 17:00

Even to our members meeting, all CRAN- friends are explicitly welcome

Notification helps our planning. Please call me.

Cakes are welcome - please just bring along..

How to reach the place: Please call me for description.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION.

on behalf of the Board:

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