



ECHO NEWS

Honoring God Through Sustainable Hunger Solutions Volume 33 Issue 2

BUILDING NETWORKS IN WEST AFRICA



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YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

She was a refugee from Mozambique, no status, no home...no worth in many people's eyes. Yet she had been selected to attend an agriculture training course in Malawi taught by a young woman who had helped her believe in herself. When the question came up in the garden, "What are we going to do about these pests?" she felt confident enough to point to a small bush on the edge of the garden. "We used that bush back in Mozambique!" was her quiet response to the general question. "Can you show me", the young trainer asked.

The plant was Tephrosia, the trainer was an ECHO intern. The simple pesticide surpassed everyone's expectations!

The intern wrote back to ECHO telling the story and how well the plant worked as a pesticide, later sending some carefully cleaned seeds back as well. ECHO described the process in its technical documents and sent it around the world. Development workers from the Philippines read about it and asked for some seeds from ECHO. Today, over a thousand farmers in the Philippines are using Tephrosia to help them produce **more food for less money. This is the ECHO Effect!** A small voice from a Mozambican refugee is amplified through ECHO and her traditional knowledge literally echoes around the world to the benefit of small scale farmers in the Philippines.



Stan Doerr
President, CEO

This ECHO Effect is being repeated almost every day through the ECHO Network and website. It is your support that amplifies that small voice! Whether a Rope and Washer pump, the System of Rice Intensification, or Conservation Farming techniques, amazing results are being experienced globally as people access seeds, technologies, and innovative ideas. **Every dollar that you send to ECHO raises the volume another notch, which in turn increases the ECHO Effect.**

Through your support we can multiply the ECHO Effect in Asia through our Regional Office. With your continued support, we will be able to amplify the ECHO Effect in Africa through offices in West Africa and East Africa. **Thank you for being the one who allows the ECHO Effect to reach around the world.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FARM?



ECHO's Farm Day a Success

Visitors drove from as far as Jacksonville to attend ECHO's 19th Annual Farm Day. Held on March 13th, Farm Day started with a few challenges caused by rainfall in the days prior to the event but the 250 volunteers in attendance helped make the day run smoothly. Over 2000 people came out to enjoy the afternoon of fun and excitement, educational tours, workshops, and activities. If you didn't get to hug a chicken, you should start planning now to attend Farm Day 2011 on March 19th!



FLAG in the Classroom!

ECHO is proud to host Florida Agriculture in the Classroom (FLAG) Training in June. This event is part of ECHO's ongoing community garden initiatives around the local area. The sessions' objectives are to provide teachers with useful strategies that can be used in the classroom and resources for the application of these lessons. The sessions will be held 8:30am -3:30pm on June 21st and June 29th. Come and take advantage of this free and educational opportunity! Call for details!

First West Africa Networking Forum!

"Salaam alekum!" is what you hear everywhere while walking down the street in West Africa. This tradition of greeting even the stranger is integral to the culture and makes it easy to quickly make friends. Still, the landscape of West Africa is rugged, and often development workers are hundreds of miles from the next town, not to mention other agriculturalists to network with and share ideas. This is where ECHO comes in. ECHO networking opportunities are famous worldwide for the quality of agricultural information and the variety of people who attend.

This September ECHO will be hosting our first West Africa Networking Forum in Ouagadougou (wah-guh-DOO-goo) Burkina Faso (burr-KEE-nuh FAH-So.) Burkina (as it is called for short) is highly accessible from neighboring countries by road and air. It's climate is similar to most other West African nations, arid in the North, and more tropical in the South. Our goal is to bring the "ECHO Effect" to our 392 active network members and others who are spreading throughout West Africa from this central location.

In a few short months, Ouagadougou will be the focus of much of ECHO's attention, and we hope yours too! Please pray that those who could benefit from this networking forum would have the resources to attend! Please join us as we pray for the presenters, attendees and ECHO staff as they prepare for this event. Also, please consider partnering with ECHO financially and becoming a vital part in making opportunities like these possible.

SPEAKER PROFILE

Ayuba Sabo is the farm manager at Maza Tsaye – a Resource Centre for experiments, demonstrations and training for the "Sowing seeds of Change in the Sahel" (SSCS) project at Maradi, Niger.

He will speak on research and field results of an integrated farming system- The Farmer Managed Agro forestry Farming System (FMAFS)



Ayuba Sabo
Farm Manager, FMAFS

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Join us for ECHO's NEW
Appropriate Technology TOUR
Every Friday at 10 am!

I studied engineering in college because I love conjuring up and building machines to make life easier. But I was not optimistic about working as an engineer; I foresaw a life spent on unnecessary disposable gadgets. Happily I soon fell in with students who were designing a water pump for handicapped people in Burkina Faso, a project that excited me immensely. It eventually led me to come to ECHO as the Appropriate Technology intern.

Water pumps continue to fascinate me. Moving water is a lot of work, and humans should be able to do it as efficiently and ergonomically as possible. I've learned many creative ways to build pumps from cheap plastic pipe, but at the same time, I'm learning its limits. I've also gained greater appreciation for the limits of human strength, after spending two hours on a treadle pump watering a garden. A man working all day on a treadle pump can average one tenth of a horsepower; a five-horse engine pump can therefore do the work of 50 men. Seen this way, the engine and its fuel are cheap, but they are still beyond the resources of many people. Treadle pumps can bridge the gap by enabling a farmer to earn enough to afford a pump, allowing him to better farm and steward his land.

In all my work, I continue to be in awe of God's provision. We are physically weak creatures, but God has given us minds and manual dexterity and amazing raw materials to compensate for it, by which we can devise tools and engines to lighten the burden of survival brought by the curse of sin. It is a great satisfaction to work for an organization dedicated to sharing such knowledge as a testimony to God's transforming power.



Joseph Longenecker
From: Montfort, Wisconsin
Responsibilities:
Appropriate Technology

Haiti Project

We want to sincerely thank those who have contributed towards ECHO's Haiti Recovery Initiative. With the funding received to date, we have assembled 100 Haiti Resource Packets, 80 of which are now in the hands of various ECHO network contacts in Haiti! Each of these packets includes a Sawyer Products water filter kit, a sample seed packet of each of nine crops, crop information sheets, technical documents, and one or two chaya cuttings. We have been able to use these kits in conjunction with a consulting effort funded by Relief International (RI). In late February, ECHO staff traveled to Haiti to connect ECHO network contacts with RI personnel. This undertaking has incredible, far-reaching potential considering the broad scope of agricultural interventions/projects that RI

plans to pursue in Haiti. A highlight of ECHO's interaction with RI was a visit with Mike Carlin who directs a successful agroforestry project not far from Port Au Prince. The Carlin family is expanding their outreach into the community by working through a local church to establish small vegetable gardens. During their visit, the ECHO team supplied the Carlins with about 20 Haiti Resource Kits. Other than the kits and consulting efforts, we are also moving forward

with translation of key technical documents into Kreyol. This will make ECHO's information much more accessible to Haitian church/project leaders. Your gifts to the Haiti Recovery Initiative are making a difference. Again, we say thank you.

ECHO's Haiti Earthquake Resource Packets



A stand of 2,500 Moringa trees are rooted in the soil of northern Thailand. Their protein-rich leaves could stave off hunger for thousands of Burmese taking refuge along the Thai border.

The seeds for those trees came from ECHO's Fort Myers farm. For Rick Burnette, the director of the Asia Regional Office, they offer hope in a region fraught with starvation.

"Despite decades of impressive economic growth, the majority of the world's chronically hungry are still found in the Asia/Pacific region," Burnette said. "In order to keep pace with increased food demands, more agricultural innovation will be required."

Staff at ECHO's regional office are driving that innovation by building on centuries of local agricultural knowledge. Small farms, Burnette says, are critical to the region's food supply. With that in mind, ECHO is helping develop techniques that make local farms both more productive and efficient. The past several months have seen key breakthroughs:

- ECHO's staff are working with Dr. Arnat Tancho from Mae Jo University to translate natural farming manuals from Thai to English. This will make future translations into other regional languages possible.
- ECHO is helping develop techniques to ferment local plant materials such as banana stalk and water hyacinth to produce adequate animal feed.
- The staff has tried using plant material, such as dry leaves or rice husks, for animal bedding. It offers a comfortable space for the livestock and can later be used as fertilizer.
- ECHO Asia Seed Bank sent a large order of green manure cover crop seeds to the Christian Reformed Church in Laos.
- Taking inspiration from local fisheries, the staff has developed a prototype for a PVC fish cage, making possible small-scale fish farming operations.

A changing region

Rick Burnette and his wife, Ellen, have dedicated 25 years of their lives to development work in Southeast Asia. The region has changed rapidly since they began.

Asian countries have seen growth in the past decade dwarfing anything in the developed world. Modernization has touched countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, bringing roads, cell phones and the internet.

But growth has not affected everyone equally. In China and India, hundreds of millions have moved to the cities and some toward middle class comforts. Yet hundreds of millions more are still chronically hungry – especially those left in rural villages. Many of Asia's countries remain the world's poorest, including Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, Nepal and Afghanistan.

"Despite urbanization and industrialization, agriculture remains important in Asia," Burnette said. "For instance 60 percent of Thais are rural."

For those farmers, modernization has brought its own challenges. Land grabs from large agricultural interests are pushing away marginalized tenants. And an increase in rural consumerism alongside the increased cost of farm equipment, agricultural chemicals and seeds are driving some farmers into debt. The debt is fueling social problems: foreclosures, suicides and involvement in the illegal economy.

"These issues are probably the main force behind a growing interest in alternative natural farming methods," Burnett said. "Especially among small farmers in the region."

Civil unrest

The last several weeks, Thailand's political turmoil has filled newspapers around the globe. Years of tension boiled over in Bangkok in April as bloody clashes between protestors and police shook the capital. The violence, however, has been isolated. ECHO's regional office, 500 miles away from Bangkok, remains safe. Because the staff communicates with regional partners primarily through email and the Internet, Burnette said, the work has gone on unabated. "We love the Thai people and pray with them for peace and harmony. The same goes for other nations in the region, each facing their own particular challenges."

THE NURSERY IS MOVING!

Changes are underway! Prepare to be pleasantly surprised the next time you visit ECHO's Tropical Fruit Nursery and/or Global Bookstore!

Starting in the middle of March, ECHO commenced its plan to relocate the nursery directly in front of the main entry to the Visitor's Center and Bookstore. While beautifying ECHO's campus, this relocation will also make it easier for visitors to purchase plants, soil amendments, books, seeds and our famous jams and jellies all from one retail center. By combining

both retail sections, this move will also save ECHO hundreds of dollars per week by decreasing the amount of staff time needed to supervise each area.

Another great benefit will be that it will allow those attending the tour of the ECHO Global Farm to start and finish their tour by going through the nursery. We hope this will emphasize the agricultural side of what ECHO does, and make readily available some of the unique plants seen on the farm tour.

The move includes a complete redesign of the front parking lot, including a new fire lane. A gazebo has been built, thanks to a grant from Moorings

Presbyterian Church, as well as a wooden boardwalk in memory of Keith Hess, an ECHO volunteer who passed away suddenly last year while on mission in Liberia. The boardwalk will cross the space between the parking area and the new nursery sale floor.

The nursery move was completed April 30.

ECHO wishes to thank all the donors who contributed toward this effort, especially the Moorings Presbyterian Church and the family of Keith Hess. Without their support, yours and that of all ECHO's generous donors and volunteers, this would not have been possible!

ECHO's Tropical Fruit Nursery provides visitors to ECHO the opportunity to purchase dozens of varieties of tropical fruit trees. Proceeds from nursery sales directly support ECHO's mission to reduce worldwide hunger.



Top to Bottom: ECHO Tropical Fruit Nursery Sign; Interns Kimberly Duncan, Laura Catherine Conville, Brandon Lingbeek and Asst. Farm Manager Joel Wildasin harvest bamboo for railings for the boardwalk; Boardwalk, shade cloth supports and gazebo in progress.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

URGENT SUPPORT NEEDS!

ECHO is constantly growing and changing. Our needs change too! Please take a moment to read over this list of needs and consider partnering with us by funding part of or a whole project! Thanks again for your support!

1. Remote weather station to quickly and remotely contact the farm manager about damaging weather coming in, e.g. freeze protection: \$ 5,500
2. Remodeling of office spaces to allow for increased office capacity: \$ 3,000
3. Translation of the high-demand 250-page Thai language Natural Farming reference book (based upon the research of Dr. Arnat Tancho at Mae Jo University) into English for increased availability for ECHO's audience (and to facilitate translation into other regional languages): \$ 3,000
4. PTO (Power Takeoff Pump) driven water pump to provide back up for current water pump for farm irrigation: \$ 5,750
5. Sponsorship of delegates to receive critical agricultural training at the Ouagadougou Forum in September: \$ 200 per person
6. GPS marker for the exact mapping of the ECHO campus including numbers/species of plants, location of water and irrigation lines, location of fiber optic lines, location of electrical lines, etc. \$ 2,000
7. Upgrading guest house facilities by adding a bathroom in the India House - \$ 1,500
8. Large wall-mounted flat screen TV and DVD player for workshops/courses in the class room - \$ 1,750



Ellen Burnette, ECHO's Asia Regional Office Assistant displays the Thai Language Natural Farming Reference Book that is in desperate need of translation.



The Future is What You Make of it.

While it is impossible to know or control what happens in the future, you can have security about achieving your ultimate goals through your will or a trust. You can rest easy knowing that your family will be well cared for and your property will pass to your intended beneficiaries. In considering your plans for the future, you may want to benefit your favorite charities. A bequest to ECHO allows you to leave a lasting legacy by providing sustainable hunger solutions to those who need help.

You can create a bequest of any dollar amount or designate a percentage of your estate in your will or trust. You can make a gift of your IRA or 401(k) plan by simply filling out a beneficiary form provided by your administrator.

For more information I invite you to visit our website at www.echonet.org and click "give" on the menu line, then click "Planned Giving" to learn creative ways to give.

**Placement Size for
FSC Horizontal Logo**

*Did You Know
that ECHO has over
1200 fans on Facebook?*

Not one of them?

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EXTRAORDINARY IDEA:

Briquette Press

The briquette press is the perfect fusion of waste management and renewable energy production. Plant waste, cornstalks, paper, leaves, and other plant wastes can be used to create fuel.

The material to be used is first shredded and soaked in water. The mixture is then placed in the hand-made press form. The perforated PVC strains out the excess water, and the briquette is set out to air dry.

Once dry, the briquette can be used to heat homes, fuel cook stoves, or provide artificial light. The briquette press provides a means for families in developing countries to produce renewable fuels for little cost.