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FOODS RESOURCE BANK...



PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Overseas Travel Opportunities

May 9 - 17
Haiti and the Dominican Republic

September 2009
Balkans

November 2009
Asia

Contact
bev@foodsresourcebank.org for more information.

Pictured above on left is a farmer from the Nicaragua Farmer BOACO program (photo courtesy of Marv Baldwin); pictured above on right is Magdalena from the Guatemala Totonicapan program (photo courtesy of Beth Mooy).

FRB featured in new Roger Thurow/Scott Kilman book

ENOUGH
Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty

Enough is “a powerful indictment of the economic, political, and social dynamics that perpetuate famine – and a passionate call for change. Thurow and Kilman show how, in the past few decades, American, British, and European policies conspired to keep Africa hungry and unable to feed itself. As a new generation of activists work to keep famine from spreading, *Enough* is essential reading on a humanitarian issue of utmost urgency.”

Enough, co-authored by **Wall Street Journal** correspondents **Scott Kilman** and long-time FRB friend **Roger Thurow**, features solutions to the global food crisis, including a section on **Foods Resource Bank**. Thurow will be the featured speaker at FRB’s annual meeting in August in Rock Island, Illinois. For more information about *Enough*, see <http://www.publicaffairs.com>. Coming soon... June 2009.

Program to Program opportunities sow seeds of learning

In January, representatives from FRB and its in-country partners, who administer FRB’s overseas agricultural programs, met at a program-to-program Stakeholders’ Meeting in Malawi to share ideas and practices, to visit programs in Malawi and Zambia, and to hear what’s worked and what hasn’t worked in each others’ programs. According to FRB Executive Director Bev Abma, “*We never know how one idea could spark another and in these meetings we see seeds of learning emerge in new ways in new places.*”

One of the participants, Badarra Jobe, Director of the Njawara Agricultural Training Center in Gambia, advised that sometimes wrong decisions can be made if we don’t take into account what might actually work in a given location. He shared the story that 100 tractors are sitting idle in his area because no one knows how to drive them. “Skill is the number one capacity and resources should come later,” he said.

As another example, foot-operated water pumps in Gambia had to be replaced with hand-operated rope pumps because the women found them impossible to use. Saul Kanzane of the Reformed Church of Mozambique shared a similar story. The new pumps supplied to his program by the government required two people to operate. “*You need to eat twice before using them,*” he joked.

Bev Abma, FRB Executive Director of Overseas Programming, advised, “*It is always best to test things out in one’s own context. A great idea in one place may not work in another.*”

Making new friends and sharing new ideas at The FRB Stakeholders’ Meeting in Malawi: Badarra Jobe, Director of the Niawara Agricultural Training Center in Gambia, and Gilbert Bakasa of the Zambia Zambegi Program.



Giving Opportunities

FRB is now listed with the **Combined Federal Campaign**, a vehicle for federal employees to give to the charity of their choice. If you know of any federal employees, refer them to www.opm.gov/cfc to learn how they can make a donation to FRB.

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Lots of great stores, including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's, and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and, everytime you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Foods Research Bank. Spread the word!

Foundation News

Many thanks to the **John Deere Foundation**, whose Board of Directors recently approved a 2009 grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Foods Resource Bank.

Save the Date!

July 16 – 18, 2009
FRB Regional Meeting
Byron Center, Michigan
Contact
laurie@foodsresource.org
for more information or
800-276-4372.

August 4 – 6, 2009
FRB Annual Meeting
Augustana College
Rock Island, Illinois
Contact
sharon@foodsresourcebank.org
for more information or
800-276-4372.

Project to Project Regional Meetings

Food is Everyone's Mission: We Are All in this Together



New relationships, new ideas, and new energy were to be found in abundance on a wintry day in Des Moines, Iowa at the FRB regional gathering, *Food is Everyone's Mission: We Are All in this Together!* Presenters mirrored the growing diversity of farmers involved in FRB growing projects, noted trends that reflect a desire of consumers to be more connected

to their food and its production, focused on the future of agriculture in the Midwest and of local food systems here and, as exemplified by FRB success stories, around the world.

Such gatherings are a chance for growing project participants to reconnect, develop new friendships, share best practices, hear more about FRB overseas programs from those who have seen them first hand, and learn about the voice we are raising in Washington DC on behalf of smallholder farmers around the world. Many of those present were new to FRB; the gathering provided an opportunity to learn about our work and explore ways to become part of it.

Another regional meeting was held this winter in Columbia, Missouri, where participants shared stories of their growing projects and of their experiences in Washington with FRB's Heart of the Hill Project. For information about the 10-Year Anniversary Regional Meeting in Byron Center, MI, July 16-18, please contact laurie@foodsresourcebank.org.

If you'd like to initiate a regional meeting in your area, please let us know how we can support you.

Who were those farmers?

FRB volunteers sow seeds of good will

The following e-mail was received by FRB Development Director Ron DeWeerd from **Partnership to Cut Hunger & Poverty in Africa Executive Director Dr. Julie Howard** following a recent Heart of the Hill trip to Washington, in which FRB volunteers Autumn Hofer (Bridgewater, SD), David & Becky Grimes & sons Nathan & Matthew (Raymond, NE), Orville Steward (Redfield, SD), and Suzie Tschetter (Bridgewater, SD) participated in a Partnership conference:

Ron, I wanted to let you know how deeply your and your FRB colleagues' participation in the conference and other events this week affected our African partners. Richard Mkandawire, NEPAD's (New Partnership for Africa's Development) agricultural leader, quizzed me on our way over to our afternoon briefing yesterday. "Who were those farmers? Why would they care about small farmers in Africa?" He mentioned the presence of Iowa farmers at our discussion today at the Wilson Center. "Unbelievable," he said. "We have partners in the American farm community!" He told me that the support he felt this week gave him a lot of courage... Just in case you thought you weren't having an impact.... Thanks, Julie

Growing Project volunteer Autumn Hofer of Bridgewater, South Dakota, with Gideon Gapare, Department Chief of Mission, Zimbabwe.

"How amazing to think that I was able to have conversations with and share ideas with delegates from so many African nations," said Autumn.

