



# Johnny Ipil-Seed News

The quarterly newsletter of *Trees for the Future*

Fall 2005 Vol. XIII, No. 3

## Reporting from Cameroon: **Walking with Farmers**

Like many of the staff members who have worked at TREES throughout the years, I was a Peace Corps Volunteer. My husband Brian and I spent more than two years living in Touroua, a village in the north of Cameroon nestled up to the Nigerian border, teaching people how to grow and plant trees.

I remember one day we spent walking with Alphonse Wanga, who we were helping to develop a tree nursery business, through the farms and wooded areas around his neighborhood. We were trying to identify all the types of trees in Touroua, take photos of them, and put them into an album linked with their French, English, and Fulfuldé names.

We pointed out the trees we didn't know and jotted down all the names and information Alphonse provided. We stopped in front of one tree about 10 meters (33 feet) high with thick scaly yellow brown branches, and he stood for awhile staring up at it. Alphonse's eyebrows were drawn close together, and his lips were pursed as he searched his memory for its name.

While Alphonse was staring at the tree, Brian and I squatted by the sandy path and watched two Mbororo herders and their cattle moving towards the Faro River. The dust was rising up in a cloud around and above them as they, the cattle, walked five abreast towards us. The herders wore loose short-sleeved dark blue robes and pillbox hats. Each carried a long smooth wooden



*Bayangbe Kassa Vincent, seen kneeling on the left, arrived at Karin's house at sunrise one morning asking what he could do to fight desertification. Here, Vincent and a friend attract a crowd as they plant neem and acacia trees outside the Lutheran church*

staff and used it to direct the cattle.

The Mbororo are nomadic herders who guide their cattle from place to place as the seasons change. They know the plants and trees that grow throughout the region. They know Gabdi (*Acacia nilotica*) leaves are nourishing for their cattle and that the seeds of Dalehi (*Khaya senegalensis*) can be used to bring down a fever. This knowledge is passed on in this pastoral existence from the father to the sons as the boys become old enough to go with the herds during the long migrations.

"A *andi doe na?*" (Do you know it?) Alphonse called to the Mbororo when they were close to us.

"*Oho, me andi, hedi doe,*" one of the herders replied.

Johnny Ipil-Seed News is a quarterly newsletter of TREES FOR THE FUTURE, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people of the world's poorest communities to begin environmentally beneficial, self-help projects.

This newsletter is printed by wind energy on recycled paper with soy-based ink and is sent to all supporting members to inform them of recent events, plans, financial matters and how their support is helping people.

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## Future In Our Hands (FIOH) Network - Liberia

Pockets remain of the rainforest that once covered most of Liberia. Due to shifting cultivation and logging, the country's landscape is now covered with farms and dotted primarily with oil palms. In the Grand Cape Mount Country of the southwest - where communities struggle with low rainfall and

deforestation, **TREES** is working with **Future In Our Hands (FIOH-Liberia)** to help ten local communities plant 20,000 trees.

**Mr. Senesi Fawundu**, the project coordinator, is training communities to utilize multipurpose trees, namely Acacia, Calliandra, and Glyricidia



**FIOH-Liberia's** newly established nursery in Grand Cape Mount County. The project coordinator, **Senesi Fawundu**, is seen kneeling on the left of the seedlings with nursery attendants.

species, to avert further soil erosion, provide firewood, recharge groundwater supplies, and fight global climate change. Tree planting is the first step in **FIOH-Liberia's** development plan; they plan to train community members in beekeeping over the coming year.

## Salvation Army - Congo

In Bas Congo, Katanga, and Bandundu, **TREES** is supporting the work of the **Salvation Army Agroforestry Programme**. **Gracia Matondo** reports that the project is going extremely well with more than 3500 people planting fast-growing trees such as Leucaena, Acacia, and Calliandra species for fodder, fruit, medicine and shelter.



**Gracia Matondo** teaches Congolese youth how to graft fruit trees

of fruit produced on each tree and improves the yield of the honey. **Gracia** also notices that reforesting degraded areas is bringing back edible mushrooms which disappeared with the loss of trees.

## New Training Materials and a Global Cooling™ Answer Book

One of the greatest contributions *your* program gives the world is a legacy of hundreds of thousands of trained individuals capable of spreading the campaign to reforest the world's degraded lands.

Trees for the Future's technicians are among the best in extending appropriate, sustainable solutions for problems of the developing world, and we are constantly working to equip local leaders world-wide with the knowledge and skills they need from an ever-growing pool of experience.



*Masad Issa, a field technician in Nigeria for the Ministry of Human Resources, is distributing training materials throughout Kano State.*

TREES' Global Classroom reaches into homes, communities, schools, organizations and churches in 57 countries, and much of this is made possible by the use of **effective and appropriate training materials** - and we have a new line of training materials to tell you about.

Responding to requests from our members in North America, your staff has written a second edition of the **Global Cooling™ Answer Book** - an

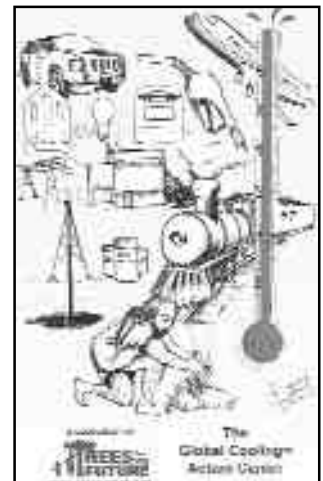
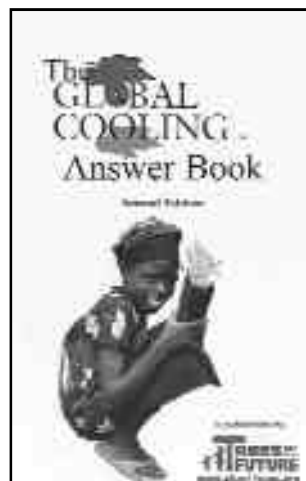
easy-to-read booklet that explains how international tree-planting addresses global climate change, the global energy crisis, world food security, and ultimately peace and development, and how families, students, and businesses can get involved. The **Global Cooling™ Answer Book** is available to TREES' members for \$6 including shipping.

We have also responded to over one hundred requests by international project leaders for new training materials by creating new **flipcharts, posters, videos, and PowerPoint presentations in English, Spanish, French, Wolof, Amharic, and Creole**. As always has been our policy, training materials are available free of charge to international project leaders, made possible thanks to supporting members like you.

Many new training materials and tech sheets are available at: <http://www.plant-trees.org/resources.htm>.



*Top: Making an agroforestry training video with pilot farmers in Senegal, Above: Two project leaders in Santa Barbara, Honduras, show their posters in front of their seedling nursery, Below: The front and back covers of the new edition of **The Global Cooling™ Answer Book**.*



I skimmed the glossary of the book I carried for the name. Hedi, the book explained, is *Sclerocarya birrea*, and its bark can be used to sooth toothaches. People can become intoxicated by eating too many of the



*TREES' new technician Karin Vermilye with farmer Alphonse Wanga in Touroua, Cameroon, behind a F. albida seedling protected with millet*

a c i d i c fruits.

We asked the Mbororo to name a few more of the trees that we didn't know and after they did, they walked quickly back towards their herd and moved away from the village.

We walked to Alphonse's field where he showed us his peanuts, corn, sorghum, and millet. We all looked out onto his field and the ones bordering his. The dust was like a blanket in the air, and the peanut leaves were beginning to dry up. Their green color was pale, not deep, and dust coated their surface. He asked us what he should do. Alphonse had no money, no capital to buy extra fertilizer or pesticides for his food crops.

Most of the houses in the area we lived are surrounded with woven grass or mud walls. The walls

give some privacy to those within and function to keep the goats and sheep out. When we went to visit Alphonse we noticed that his walls had disappeared.

"Alphonse," we had asked him "Where are your walls?"

"Ah oui, the walls," he answered with a shrug. "I had to sell them. I needed to go to the hospital and to buy medicine and the trip, it is expensive and so..." He had gestured to those missing walls. Yet the trees in his nursery were protect-



*A class protects its seedlings from goats*

ed. They were all pushed together to one side of the sandy yard with a small thatched wall protecting them. There was a home for trees within a home for a man with no walls because he sold them for his health.

"But when these trees grow I will sell them," Alphonse had added, "and I will buy walls again, and maybe even build a well."

Alphonse Wanga was one of the incredible people I was able to work and walk with in Cameroon.

### **A Summer with Karin Vermilye**

After having served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon and graduating from the University of Montana with a Master's degree in International Resource Conservation, Karin worked for Trees for the Future this summer providing her experience in community based conservation, dryland agroforestry, and sustainable forestry.



## 360,000 More Trees in Honduras



*Dona Maria Paz in the community of Tierra Blanca, holds one of 8,200 seedlings TREES helped plant in Namasigüe, Choluteca, this year through a partnership with Peace Corps Honduras.*

Honduras' watersheds are in trouble. Thousands of mountainside springs, which once poured a constant stream of water, are now drying and frightening communities into action. Years ago, trees channeled rainwater back into the mountains, replenishing natural springs. Now that the mountain tops have been stripped of their trees, the water is lost as runoff, eroding the hillsides and washing precious topsoil into the ocean.

As part of a larger Honduras program that planted over 360,000 trees this year, Trees for the Future, through a partnership with Peace Corps Honduras, helped over 30 communities throughout the regions and municipalities of Choluteca, Francisco Morazan, El Paraiso, Lempira, Intibuca, Santa Barbara, Olancho, Comayagua, La Ceiba, and Tegucigalpa, to reforest degraded areas around precious water sources.

One of these municipalities is Namasigüe, in the southern region of Choluteca, where we helped plant about 8,200 trees in eight communities.

Similar to many other municipalities, the people of Namasigüe are protecting their natural spring by refor-

esting the surrounding areas with deep-rooted leguminous trees that will capture rainwater and safeguard Namasigüe's primary water supply.

Communities throughout Honduras well-understand that planting trees around and above their water sources is a vital investment in their future, and we will continue to provide all the help we can. Through an extension program with TREES field reps and Peace Corps Volunteers, women's groups and water boards are receiving the training they need to produce seedlings of trees that have proven effective in restoring watersheds.



*A mountainside water catchment near Siguatepeque*



*Mountains like this are unable to catch water. Trees are necessary to channel water back into underground aquifers.*

## TREES and DISASTERS

**"There are also social and cultural reasons for disasters...In order to speak with political leaders, it may be best to begin by talking directly to God and working backwards from there."**

-Dr. Juan Murria, Director Risk Research Center,  
Punto Fijo, Venezuela. INCEED Conference,  
Charlotte, NC July 2005

The natural disasters occurring around the world include fires, storms, floods, droughts, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanos and landslides. The incidence of these disasters reported worldwide has been growing at an amazing rate, since shortly after the end of World War II.

These reports do not include "creeping" disasters such as air pollution, global warming, crop failures, insect swarms, forced mass migration, and the increased incidence of disease.

A week before we wrote this, for example, a "brown cloud" crossed the Atlantic from West Africa carrying the dust of the Sahara Desert, which is now falling on Antigua and other islands of the Caribbean. Warnings have been sent out for people with asthma and other respiratory problems to stay indoors.

A large part of this rapid increase in the number of disasters can be attributed, in one way or another, to the continuing destruction of the world's forests and other natural resources. Some examples:

> In 1988, international loggers denuded a large forested area in the uplands of Leyte, an island in the central Philippines. Some months later the area was visited by a strong typhoon with heavy rains over several days. The resulting landslide killed 6,600 people in the town of Ormoc and left 55,000 families homeless.

> In July, 2004, a series of hurricanes passed by Haiti. Although they did not come ashore, they brought on very heavy rains. For lack of tree cover, an entire sec-

tion of mountainside above the city of Gonaïves collapsed on the town. Our technician there sent photos of the mothers walking past piles of dead bodies looking for their babies; he also sent this photo seen below.

> This spring, sudden storms hit an extremely arid part of Ethiopia, along the Omo River. More than 300 people died as the river overflowed its banks. Many were killed by crocodiles that suddenly found themselves on the streets of nearby towns.



*Carrying a coffin from the mudslide: Deforestation in Haiti has allowed mudslides to kill thousands of people in recent years.*

> As an international conference on disasters neared conclusion in Charlotte, North Carolina on July 28, the monsoon rains arrived in northern India, in one day dropping 37" of rain on Bombay, half the usual rainfall of an entire year. Most of the 900+ people who died in the ensuing floods and landslides were building a road to improve traffic flow in this city of 15 million.

Economics determines that the great majority of victims of these disasters

are the very poor (who can't afford to live in safer places). The experience of TREES shows that these are the people who quickly see many of the benefits that can result from planting trees. That's why our program is especially useful for avoiding, or at least mitigating, many kinds of disasters.

Saving the forests, or planting new trees where the forests once stood, can greatly reduce the number of disasters that are happening. As the program of TREES is proving in southern India right now, they perform other important services for victims of tsunamis by reducing the damage and loss of life, while sustainably producing important products and vital income for the survivors.

We wish it were otherwise, but an increasingly important reason we need your help to bring trees back to these threatened lands is to prevent, if possible, further disasters and, when that is not possible, to reduce the devastation while bringing help to the people there.



## ***Opinion: IT'S STILL GETTING HOTTER***

How could Global Warming possibly affect a polar bear? Like this: as the water warms, the distance between ice blocks keeps widening so it's harder for them to catch and land seals and other food. Now polar bears, along with smaller mammals that feed with them, are becoming further

endangered. Ninety-five percent of all glaciers have lost over half their size.

We bring up global climate change once again, even as we point out that almost none of the people planting trees in our projects does so to combat this threat. They have other, more pressing needs. Still, **the total number of trees your program has planted so far annually removes a million tons of carbon dioxide from the global atmosphere.** That means you, our members, are doing far more than most of the world.

This last dry season has been especially brutal throughout the tropics. And here as well. Along the East Coast, temperature records were broken--and broken again. An international conference on climate and energy held in Charlotte North Carolina in July saw delegates sweltering against daytime temperatures reaching 105 degrees F.

It has been a summer of remarkably high temperatures, fires, and violent weather including a record number of hurricanes, typhoons and other storms. Research shows that the strength, and duration, of these storms has increased by more than 30% since 1970.

It's also been a summer of heated, often misleading, even more often self-serving, rhetoric. One thing, however, can't be ignored: there will have been a 40% increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 1990 to 2020. Global Warming has become a true environmental crisis and an economic deterrent in which almost any activity can be called counter-productive and any investment in energy can be considered at risk.

The US finds itself at a crossroads and can no longer continue to be inactive. Seven states have already passed legislation concerning carbon dioxide emissions from cars, trucks and power stations. One energy corporation (Duke) recommends a carbon tax (on the

consumers of course) across a broad spectrum of the economy as making "solid business sense".

Still, our energy corporations continue to be hung up on fossil fuels and nuclear energy even though the Price-Anderson Law, which subsidizes insurance for nuclear energy plants, has been extended again: after more than 50 years, nuclear energy technology is still not safe enough to pay its own insurance bill. There is now talk about shooting nuclear waste into space. That gets scary.

At the same time, there have been some exciting developments: energy from waves could some day light nearly every home in the USA. New ideas for cutting costs for heat pumps could put them in every home. This one advance would reduce our total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by as much as 24%.

To all this, we repeat what we consider to be common sense. Any workable idea to address this threat should be developed as an investment rather than a cost. And, as any polar bear could tell you, cutting emissions (as the Kyoto plan suggests) is not going to answer the problem: it's time to take carbon out of the atmosphere. **Doing less that's bad is still bad.** It's time to start doing something good. Trees take carbon out of the atmosphere and turn it into things people can use. That's good.

Considering all the above, we have recently produced a second edition of our **Global Cooling™ Answer Book**. Thanks to the kindness of several concerned businesses, several thousand copies are now being printed. Writing it has been quite a challenge and we thank so many people who provided facts and ideas. If you would like a copy, we will mail it to you for \$6.00. If you want a lot of copies (100 or more) we will provide them at a price of \$2.00 each plus postage.

Although we own the copyright, any or all of the book may be reprinted. We ask only that our name be credited. Our idea is not to make a lot of money, but at this time of growing recognition of a true global crisis, we want to get as many people as possible involved in finding real and workable answers. That includes you:

Many people are already hard at work doing this. We hope that this will inspire a 3rd edition in the near future and that it will include your ideas and experience as well.

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## New Bumpersticker

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Copies of the NEW Global Cooling™  
Answer Book - second edition  
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See stories on pages 3 and 7.

## Fall Activities

See us at the . . .



Washington, DC - September 24th & 25th  
San Francisco - November 5th & 6th

Trees for the Future is part of the  
**Aid to Africa Federation**  
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## E-Newsletter

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Check out our recent articles: ***The Truth About Madagascar*** and ***Invasive Species to Know and Loathe***.

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