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**Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,**

herewith we gladly send you our first JPG newsletter, which will keep you informed about the projects and developments in Ghana and will appear quarterly from now on.



The year 2008 has been another great challenge for us, since still no external funding has been available. Nevertheless, with the help of your donations and activities, such as face painting for children during the Africa Days in Emmendingen, we could secure a basic funding including the salaries for YHFG's permanent staff John Krugu (head of project), David Ayine (finances) and Agnes Anafo (secretary). Besides this core team, many friends and supporters of YHFG in Ghana as well as numerous dedicated young people from the Harvest School Clubs and volunteers from Holland and Germany were engaged in the project activities.

**Youth Project**

Health Education and HIV/AIDS Awareness programs as well as the close collaboration with the Harvest School Clubs were continued and improved with the help of the volunteers. Thus, we will be able to extend the project in the oncoming year. Experiences in two pilot Harvest Clubs in Junior High Schools in Bolga have strongly encouraged us to begin with our youth work already in this age group.



For the integration of apprentices in the youth project and towards an improvement of life skills related aspects of their training, YHFG has started to explore strategies together with various craftsmen associations. In September 2008, the first Harvest Newsletter was printed, a student magazine of the Harvest School Clubs for the youth of Bolgatanga. It will provide a new platform for adolescents to exchange ideas and make their views and thoughts public. The launch of the first issue found great interest and enthusiasm in Bolga, but also in the regional and national Youth Council.

## Sunuga Peanut Project

As a result of the massive flood and therefore poor harvest in 2007, this year only these farmers could receive a peanut seed loan, who were able to pay back their loan in the previous year. Altogether about 100 farmers planted peanuts. Profiting from good weather conditions, the harvest is now finished and all peanuts have been dried. A first sample has been tested at the Food Research Institute in Accra and good test results have been obtained.



Negotiations to sell the peanuts for a fair price in Germany to produce peanut oil are ongoing. We also have initiated a micro credit fund, which will enable the farmers to earn some income through other activities than peanut farming. The micro credit fund is still in the pilot phase.



## Outlook

This November, finally the good news came. Both our project proposals for the Sunuga project (through the Italian foundation Il Fuoco del Futuro) and for the Youth project (at the state foundation of Baden-Württemberg, Germany) have been approved.

With the support of the cosmetics producer Weleda the agronomist Hakeem Mohammed joined us in September as Sunuga project coordinator. He is working closely together with the farmers and gives them professional support. In the year to come, we will therefore initiate the organic certification and extend the farmers' training in order to make further steps towards the independence of EPEFA. We also aim to extend the micro credit fund as an additional support for the farmers.



In the youth project with the two year funding obtained, we will launch a youth center in Bolgatanga. Facilitated by a social worker, the center will be managed by the Harvest Clubs themselves. Besides health education also independent youth projects will be supported, which aim to promote self confidence, self reliance and exchange among young people. The social worker will also be available for counsel of girls and young women in difficult situations.

Apart from external funding, JPG has the responsibility to cover some of the project's expenses from it's own funds. We therefore need to continue our fundraising activities.

We would like to thank all friends and partners of JPG and YHFG for their support and highly appreciate your interest and commitment.

With best wishes for 2009,  
Julia Leimkugel, Gero Frisch and Denis Petri; Board of JPG