



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

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### Dear members and friends of JPG and YHFG,

after five months of silence, you receive herewith latest news from our projects in Ghana. This winter was long and busy for all of us. It brought lots of new developments but also new challenges.

### Sunuga Peanut Project – Dry Season Farming

As planned at the end of 2009, YHFG and the EPEFA cooperative have initiated a pilot project for dry season farming of peanuts. Here, the peanuts are not planted as usual in June, at the beginning of the rainy season, but during the dry season in January/February. During this period farming is very labour intensive, since the plants need to be irrigated twice a week. Nevertheless, our hope is to improve the safety of our harvest with this strategy. During the late rainy season of 2007 and 2009 intensive flooding of the peanut fields had dramatic consequences for the EPEFA farmers and the Sunuga project.



*pumping water, irrigation and cultivation of young peanut plants (from left to right).*

Thanks to a generous donation from the *Sustainable Cosmetic Summit* in November 2009 (<http://www.sustainablecosmeticssummit.com/>), we could purchase a water pump. During the preparations for this pilot project new challenges came up, *e.g.* the long distance of the fields from the river and the need to build fences to protect the plants from being eaten by livestock. Finally, at the end of February, 100 kg of organic seeds have been sowed onto 1.2 ha of land. So far, the plants are developing well and we are confident to achieve a good harvest.

### News from the Youth Centre

**Copy machines for a copy shop:** In January 2010, we received as donation 5 second hand copy machines from the German food manufacturer Hengstenberg. They will be utilised to open a copy shop in our youth centre. The income generated will help to cover the running costs after the end of the current project funding next year.

The machines are arriving at the port of Tema (close to Accra) in one of these days.

**Training for youth centre staff:** The social worker Abigail Adumolga has taken part in an exchange program between Bolgatanga and Plymouth, England. Albert Atiah, who is currently coordinating the football activities at the youth centre, will attend a computer course in Tamale. He will take over the basic computer training for young people in the centre.

**New Harvest Newsletter:** In March a new issue of the harvest newsletter, a newspaper created by students, was released. All issues published so far are available at the YHFG website (<http://yhfg.org/gallery.html>).



### **A car for YHFG!**

Thanks to two very generous donations, YHFG can finally purchase its own vehicle. We are currently looking for an adequate second-hand Pick-up, which is capable of operating under the rough conditions in Northern Ghana on- and off-road.

With this step a lot of smaller and bigger problems are solved. The very old and run-down car of John Krugu has recently generated high costs for maintenance. The new vehicle will serve not only to transport people in Bolga but also to travel 50 km to EPEFA, partly on dirt roads and often carrying material or equipment.

### **Benches for Apotdabogo Primary School**

At Christmas 2008 and 2009, the students of Tiefburg primary school in Heidelberg have organised a charity bazaar where they sold small handicrafts and self-made Christmas cookies. The generated income of altogether 800 € was used to buy school benches made by local carpenters.

Since the number of students has increased from *ca.* 50 to 450 through the Sunuga project, the school still lacks a lot of equipment, in particular desks and chairs. With the support from Heidelberg we could furnish one more class room with 40 double benches.



*Unloading of the benches; Handover to Jams Apipi, the head teacher of the Apotdabogo school; Naaba Atigid, the Chief of Zongoiri, is testing the benches together with students (from left to right).*

### **Current Challenges**

In spite of all good news and generous donations, it is still very difficult to finance the core activities of YHFG. We require continuous support to secure the basic work in the YHFG office, in particular salaries and office rent. Furthermore, we need to find funding for this year's visit of the organic certification agency Ecocert at the EPEFA fields.

Our greatest challenge is currently the planned construction of a Junior High School for the Apotdabogo children. Despite the grant of the Italian organisation Il fuoco del Futuro and a major donation from the Netherlands we are about 30,000 € short of the total budget of 75,000 € for the realisation of this project.

To make all this come true, we will try even harder in the coming months to promote the projects of YHFG and attract support and donations.

We would like to thank you for your interest and support of our work.  
We will keep you informed about new developments.

Julia Leimkugel, Gero Frisch and Veronika Schlicker; Board of JPG