

Great advances have taken place in our projects in the past year, driven by the selfless energy of our Ugandan colleagues, with extraordinary commitment to the needs of their communities. In Ngora district Moses Ekoi and his FARLU team have reached a significant landmark in the development of the Vocational Training Institute, with the official government registration of students and several courses. In Kamuli district, Laurence Mutabuza and his team of teachers has established a dynamic Permaculture Schools Outreach Programme, in 10 schools, cultivating a real enthusiasm for sustainable farming in students and their families.

Uganda as a whole is suffering from the detrimental impact of climate change. Another blow is the reduction of international aid from UK, US and many other western countries, which particularly target Africa in education, sanitation, and women's health. In UK the aid level was enshrined in law to be 0.7% of GNI in 2015, now in 2025 it has been

reduced to 0.3%, which will seriously affect many humanitarian projects.

However, there is exceedingly good news in the first roll out in Uganda of malarial vaccine for children. Starting in northern Uganda's Apac region, credited with having the world's highest rate of mosquito bites in a year, children under 2 years can receive vaccine protection course of 4 doses. A vaccine for very young babies is only just entering the global market. Malaria prevention will make a huge difference to life in Uganda. Malaria affects the working capacity of every family in and is responsible for 40% of all hospital outpatient visits. 75% of all malaria deaths globally are in children under 5, in 2023 amounting to nearly half a million in African countries. We hope there can now be a new era for health and hope.

Lorna Brown

Permaculture School Outreach (PSO)

Schools permaculture training has taken a leap forward in 2025 under the leadership of teacher Laurence Mutabuza and his team of permaculture teachers. The new organisation grew out of Charles Mugarura's BEU initiative after he achieved government acceptance of permaculture on to the Ugandan school curriculum.

PSO is now registered as a separate organisation from BEU and Dolen Ffermio has agreed to assist it in providing funds for teacher training workshops, materials for school student training, gardening equipment and planting materials. The total school enrolment of 7157 in five primary schools 4 secondary, is exposed to permaculture principles, and in addition, permaculture clubs are enthusiastically formed for the practical activities. There is an important extra benefit in that students share the knowledge with their families and so improve their home livelihoods.

As Laurence says:

Permaculture in schools is the only hope we have for

nutrition, climate change action and income generation. Thanks a lot for the support."

He is acutely aware that schools' permaculture must be self-sustaining, a plant nursery has been established in Kamuli town to supply the schools' planting materials.

In April, a study tour of a permaculture farm in Iganga district, involved 10 teachers and



5 PSO committee members. This was a great success, much was learnt.

"We really admired their way of doing things and we shall copy some concepts for our advancement of our own schools."



Permaculture teachers on Iganga study tour

The farm was adding value to produce, including fruit drinks and ice cream.

A German group visited PSO and conducted a very innovative workshop for teachers introducing "infinity tools", educational toys based on bamboo, used for imaginative play, and design of structures of many dimensions to incorporate into permaculture activities.



Laurence Mutabaza,
leader of PSO

Ngora Vocational Training Institute

With the essential infrastructure of electricity and clean water established on the institute site, thanks to a generous grant from Hub Cymru Africa and WCVA the way has been opened to develop the requirements for many different courses, and to formally register students for them. The first students have been registered to study building construction, motor vehicle repairs and hairdressing, and 5 tutors employed, including



Double classroom block



Students construction training

one for English language training. Before the registration, a group of 50 students took part in a short course in building and completed a double classroom which can also be used as an assembly hall.

A short course in catering and hospitality led to construction of fuel-efficient stoves, important in relation to climate change and health of households.

Hostel accommodation is vital for further recruitment of students who need to travel. 2 acres of land opposite the Institute site and building of the first hostel for 100 students is underway.

Work to enable agriculture training is in progress, much assisted by funding from the Christmas campaigns. Two fishponds have been dug and 4 more are planned. Advice on fish farming is readily available now from Serere, not far from Ngora, where a progressive community fish farm was started in 2006, based on Kikota farm and proving very successful.

At the Institute income generation is already happening through the sale of cloned eucalyptus seedlings. Poultry and goat housing will soon form the start of livestock training.

Now that classrooms are ready, tailoring courses will soon begin. A catering and hospitality facility has been designed; funding still needs to be found for this popular course.

Huge thanks to Dolen Ffermio for assistance to the Institute, from Moses, who heads its development:

"I, Ekoi Moses on behalf of Ngora community that is struggling to build Ngora vocational training institute, am so grateful to all trustees of Dolen Ffermio, well wishers, supporters and the generous donors who together contributed £18,000 to construct the hostel. All the funds are used for the establishment of the institute aimed at skilling the youth who are 70% of the population of 30,000 in Ngora district alone."



Moses Ekoi, FARLU
development leader



Institute student uniforms

In addition to these smart uniforms, there are also work overalls, aprons and sports kit.

Nakyaka demonstration Farm

The farm is taking a fresh direction with the arrival of a new resident Manager Mr John Nyende and his family, following the retirement of Haruna, whom we must thank for plenty hard work and care of the land for many years.

John is a retired head teacher and is keen to promote the teaching aspect of the farm. The local community are already appreciating this, coming to learn and plant some annual crops for their families on the land. Paul Musenero continues to volunteer his time and expertise, and has now overseen the establishment of 1500 new cocoa bushes, alongside a 1500 banana plantation. The most mature 500 cocoa bushes planted 4 years ago are now flowering and should produce a very valuable harvest to further develop the farm.

Ground is being prepared for another 1 to 2 acres of coffee, still a valuable export crop. There is still a need for a borehole to provide clean water for the Nakyaka workers and surrounding community and help with irrigation from the tree nursery and crops at the upper end of the land.



Cocoa bush with maturing pods



Connie inspecting cocoa bushes planted with bananas

Farming in Uganda

Dolen Ffermio's links with Uganda, have always centred on the importance of farming in Uganda and Wales.

There have been huge changes in farming strategy in Wales, not least by our exit from the EU and by environmental and climate concerns in the Sustainable Farming Scheme issues. In Uganda considerable improvements have occurred, especially in crop and livestock genetics. These have mainly been pioneered by an individual or group of Ugandan entrepreneurs rather than government agencies. The growth rate in agriculture output is 5.1%, contributing 24% to Uganda's GDP, and up to 50% of export earnings. However, the 80% of Ugandan households who depend on subsistence farming have limited access to modern farming methods, no irrigation, no good storage or processing facilities or affordable transport. There is a huge need for investment to provide good quality seeds, fertilisers, irrigation and infrastructure, including better roads. The average holding is only 1.3 Ha (3.2acre) but many families, 67%, have less than 1 Ha (2.47acre) with which to feed their families.

In spite of all this, there has been an increase in essential foods, root crops, pulses (beans, soya) and oils (sesame, groundnut, sunflower) and plantain bananas. Cash crops of coffee, cocoa, are doing well. Life is still very hard for small farmers, with women doing much of the manual work, with no implements apart from hand-held hoes, and occasional bullock team ploughs to open up very hard ground.

Welcome to New Trustee!



Dr Gideon Nadiope

Dr Gideon Nadiope, veterinarian from Uganda, has joined our board of trustees and will be a great source of advice to Dolen Ffermio, considering the importance of our links with Uganda. Gideon has been an excellent colleague of ours since he organised the first project "Development of a Cattle AI service to increase dairy production in Busoga Diocese

of Uganda." Starting in 1993, 12 inseminators were trained and equipped and Gideon enabled it, visiting and supplying insemination centres in all seasons on difficult roads, and without the aid of mobile phones. He also participated in our subsequent goat improvement projects.

He is now the country director of a very successful community agriculture development project in Kamuli district, partnered with Iowa State University, USA. It is improving the livelihoods of several thousand rural households.

Fundraising Gets Tougher! 2024-5

CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN 2024

We are very grateful to our supporters who continue to raise funds at Christmas time for the Institute, in spite of these hard economic times. This year £2,900 was raised to assist training in agriculture (fish, poultry and goat rearing) tailoring, construction and catering.

The annual plant sales at the Llanfyllin Institute and beside the Spar raised £3,200.

Many thanks again to the Prust family for letting us use their Spar supermarket site. This year they celebrate their 50th year of marketing in the town.

The Lord Merthyr Trust (Community Foundation Wales) generously donated £2750 towards the Wales Uganda School link project, involving permaculture this year.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported Dolen Ffermio through donations, purchases or assisting at events, we value it all enormously.

Please look out for our 2025 Christmas Catalogue which will be launched later in the year.



More information on our website and lookout for more regular updates on Instagram ([dolenffermio](#)), Twitter ([@dolenffermio](#)) and Facebook ([Dolen Ffermio](#)). Contact us on hello@dolenffermio.org.uk or phone Lorna Brown on 01691 648709.

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please let us know and also if you have an email address we could use.

Photos by Moses Ekoi, Laurence Mukabuza. Many thanks to David Goodman for designing the newsletter.

DATA PROTECTION

We only have your email or postal address in our records so that we can send you newsletters. If you do not wish to continue receiving them, please contact us using the details on the front page. We will never use your details for any other purpose, nor will we pass them on to anyone else.