

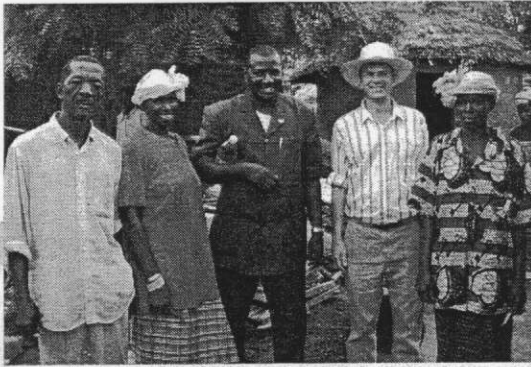


A Trip to Mali for Compatible Technologies International

By Mike MacDonald, RPCV Mali 03

MNRPCV Mike MacDonald traveled with another Compatible Technologies International (CTI) volunteer, Steve Clarke, to Mali in West Africa from May 5 - 12, 2007.

They went to conduct a field assessment of the performance and acceptability of the Omega VI hand grinders (used for grinding grains and nuts) that CTI had previously delivered, and to evaluate the opportunities for a larger-scale CTI grinder project.

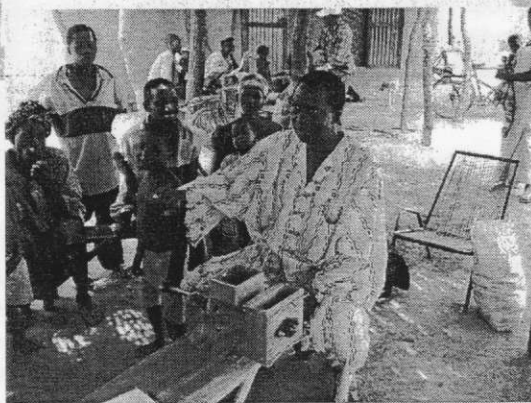


In Mali, Omega VI grinders are typically used for grinding peanuts, but can also be used to grind millet, sorghum, and corn. The CTI team visited four villages in which Medicine for Mali (an NGO based in Des Moines, Iowa) had installed grinders in late 2005, and we obtained firsthand feedback from users of the grinders. One interesting observation was that, after the Omega VI grinder had been in use in these villages, many families purchased a smaller hand grinder (a Corona brand) for their own use.

The team also met with Mr. Belco Tamboura, a senior faculty member at the IPR, an agricultural school in Mali. Mr. Tamboura was a recent training participant at St. Thomas University in St. Paul who became acquainted with CTI during his stay in the United States. The team visited

the two locations where Mr. Tamboura had placed an Omega VI grinder – a group of women in the village of Sanambélé in collaboration with IER (another agricultural school in Mali) and a woman entrepreneur who is operating the grinder as a small commercial enterprise in Katibougou. These grinders have been in use since March 2007.

In general, our delegation found that the grinders have been well received and remain in use. It also appears that there are opportunities for additional CTI grinder technology distribution in Mali. CTI works to improve the lives of people in developing countries by designing food and water technologies that are sustainable and appropriate to local cultures, and by collaborating with in-country organizations to identify needs and to achieve widespread use of our technologies to relieve hunger and poverty.



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Young Heroes Program

On July 19-22, Jack Conrad traveled over 300 miles across Minnesota by bicycle in support of the Young Heroes Program's assistance for Swazi AIDS orphans. Jack's 2007 Red Ribbon Ride raised well over \$4,000, which will be enough to assist over 30 orphans for a year. Over one-quarter of Jack's supporters came from our MNRPCV group, representing quite an effective collaboration between Friends of Swaziland and MNRPCV.