

CTI Volunteers Visit Mali

CTI volunteers Steve Clarke and Mike MacDonald visited Mali in West Africa from May 5 - 12, 2007. The purpose of the trip was to conduct a field assessment of the performance and acceptability of Omega VI grinders previously delivered, and to evaluate the opportunities for a larger-scale CTI grinder project.

The team visited four villages where Medicine for Mali (an NGO based in Des Moines Iowa) had installed grinders in late 2005 and obtained firsthand feedback from users of the grinders. One interesting observation was 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.



Belco Tamboura demonstrating operation of the grinder in Sanambélé.



Steve Clarke and others walking the gardens in Nana Keniba.

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

The team held a series of meetings with a variety of NGOs including KickStart/Mali, Africare, and CARE. The team also made contact with Mali's small-scale food processors association and visited the operations of several members who expressed interest in motorized grinders. In general, the grinders have been well received and were still in use and it appears that there are opportunities for additional CTI grinder technology distribution in Mali.

Going...Going...GONE!!!

We are excited to let everyone know that the free grinder, celebrating the sale of the 100th grinder this fiscal year, went to the Toddler Food Partners, our friend Don Moran's not-for-profit. TFP is starting a new mission in Peru and we are delighted to know that one of our Omega VI grinders will be part of that feeding program. Many thanks to everyone for your support in helping us achieve this goal.



Director of DTC Visits CTI

Mr. Tunga Rukuni, Director of the Development Technology Center, University of Zimbabwe visited CTI for 10 days recently. Tunga, a long-time friend of CTI's technologies, meeting with many volunteers and staff presented ideas for a renewed partnership for building and delivering CTI Omega VI grinders in Zimbabwe and neighboring countries. Out of those meetings has come a draft memorandum of understanding which identifies the need for low cost OMEGA grinders, sets operational standards for local manufacturing, and sets the stage for training and distribution. Everyone came away with a much greater understanding of the needs in Zimbabwe and DTC's ability to deliver relief to thousands of "resource poor" people with CTI grinders and other technologies.



CTI Staff and Volunteers meet with Tunga.

Erica Ledesma Introduces Herself as the New Program Coordinator

Hi Everyone! I am so excited to have this opportunity to be a part of the wonderful projects taking place at CTI. Here is a little bit about me. I recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Masters of Arts in Comparative and International Development Education. Prior to my studies at the University of Minnesota I spent several years as a Bilingual Associate Educator in the Minneapolis Public School District where I taught native language literacy to Spanish-speaking elementary students.

CTI caught my eye because of a long-time interest I have in international issues. International travel has always been a big part of my personal as well as professional life. Some of my favorite places that I have visited are: Cuba, Israel, and Argentina. Argentina holds a particularly special place in my heart since my husband's family still lives an hour outside of Buenos Aires. Currently, I am dividing my time between caring for an extremely active 14-month old little girl named Micaela Ayelen and learning the ropes at CTI. I feel privileged to be part of such an innovative and compassionate group of people with a sincere desire to help those less fortunate in this world.

I look forward getting to know the rest of the "crew" over the coming months!!

Generous Support

Mic Dahlberg, a relatively new volunteer, recently introduced us to Don DeMorett, the new CEO of Mid-Minnesota Wire. Mid-Minnesota (www.midminnesotawire.com), among other operations, has a state of the art electrostatic powder coating paint line. Don very generously offered to donate the use of his painting line for all of our Ewing III parts. As a result of this generosity, our Ewing III components now wear a World Class paint job. It truly is a finish that will make all CTI supporters proud. Many thanks Mid-Minnesota!!!

Meeting Date Reminders

Committee meeting are held at the CTI office (directions are on the website) and anyone is invited, meaning you're welcome to come even if you aren't a committee member!

America Committee	July 9 th – 4:30-6pm (2nd Monday of every other month)
Africa Committee	July 10 th – 4:30-6pm (2nd Tuesday of every month)
Asia Committee	July 19 th – 3:30-5pm (3rd Thursday, every other month)
Technology Committee	June 16 th and July 21 st – 9-11:30am (3rd Saturday of every month)
Board of Directors*	June 19 th – 4:30 pm (3rd Tuesday every other month)

*Please contact Board President [Rob Scarlett](#) if you would like to attend the board meeting.

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