

## CTI Partners with Peace Corps in Senegal

In February 2003 CTI volunteer and former Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) Steve Clarke carried an Omega VI grinder to Kaolack in Central Senegal where he introduced grinding local millet flour and peanut butter to Emily Dunn, a second year PCV in Kohel, a Pular ethnic village. Core rural development issues in this area are typical of those throughout the semi-arid zone reaching across the continent. In rural villages millet and sorghum are usually processed with the traditional mortar and pestle to remove the seed from the head, then remove the seed coat (to hull) and finally to pummel the grain into flour; these are all intensely time and energy-consuming procedures. Indigenous methods for making peanut butter are likewise laborious and lengthy.



CTI's technical objective was to introduce and assess the utility of CTI grinder technology for processing grain and peanuts in the area. PCVs from two nearby villages and two Kohel natives accompanied Emily and joined in the grinder training conducted over the two-day weekend

CTI's management objective was to develop mutual compatibility with Peace Corps as the initial host country liaison utilizing its dispersed network of Volunteers. PCV's can promote CTI technologies through their "Participatory Analysis for Community Action" programs and foster its implementation during their second year of service when they are established in the community.

Several factors contributing to local success of new technologies were reinforced through this experience including development of a sense of ownership – either through purchase or some contribution from users, first-hand participatory training and feedback, close monitoring by PCVs to assure proper grinder use and care, and continuing involvement of CTI volunteers. The potential for generating income with this technology could be a motivating force in communities served by economic development Volunteers.



In response to local preference for hulled millet flour, CTI engineers are exploring attachments to efficiently hull the grain and make the grinder more universally acceptable. However, in a blind trial where both hulled and whole millet flour were used, the villagers did not detect any difference. It was noted, however, that these are very traditional people who strongly adhere to custom in their culture.

CTI is continuing its collaboration with Peace Corps Senegal to extend this experience to additional select villages as the next step in extending this partnership development. CTI is also planning work with individual PCVs and other groups in Mali to extend experience in West Africa.