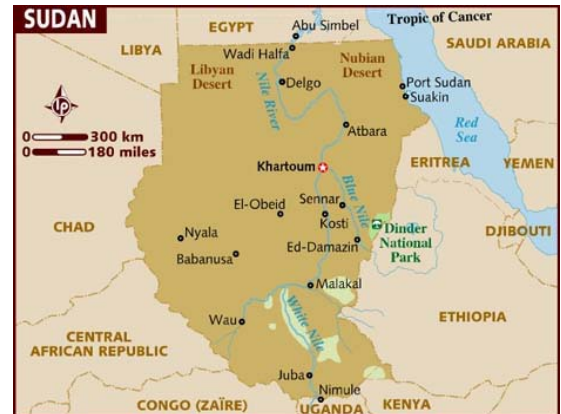


International Relief Agencies Find the Benefit of CTI Grinders in Sudan

One of the most important aspects of ensuring the sustainability of CTI technologies is ensuring the users have adequate knowledge of how to troubleshoot and properly utilize that particular technology. To this end, CTI volunteer Kathleen Graham visited Jalimo, Sudan in June, 2007 where she welcomed twenty Sudanese agricultural extension agents to the three day “Training of Trainers” technology workshop she had organized with the help of Norwegian People’s Aid manager Ezana Getahun. The goal was to transform these agents into CTI Ewing grinder experts, so they could return to their communities and teach villagers to use and maintain the Ewing grinder (see photo).



Before the workshop was over, each agent had to stand and demonstrate how he or she would teach others to take the grinder apart and put it together, how they would teach others to process peanuts, millet, sorghum, coffee, maize, sesame, cowpeas and coffee, and how to clean and maintain the grinder in good condition. Homework included each participant preparing a written training plan, which was also presented to the group and critiqued! Basic business planning, record keeping and food preparation and



food safety were also on the agenda, as Norwegian People’s Aid and CTI hope the grinders will become part of income generating activities.

The U.S. government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Office of Federal Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has provided humanitarian relief to the hundreds of thousands of Sudanese villagers who were driven from their towns and fields during the 21 year civil war that ravaged Southern Sudan. Though the war ended with a peace accord in 2005, many of those displaced families remain in camps in Southern Sudan and

Northern Uganda, as the process of repatriation goes on amidst relief and optimism. USAID funds a number of international relief and development organizations to support the transition to civilian life.

The large petrol-powered mills installed in the camps to make peanut paste and millet flour have proved unsatisfactory. They broke down, petrol is expensive and sometimes unavailable, and the queues to use them were unpopular and sometimes dangerous. Since 2005 Kathleen has been touting Ewing grinders to the NGOs working in Southern Sudan, as the perfect alternative. She found a sympathetic ear in the regional OFDA manager, who funded the purchase of more than 60 grinders by Norwegian People’s Aid, the American Refugee Committee, MEDIC and CHF, for their development programming. Now, villagers all over Southern Sudan are grinding their nut paste and flour rather than pounding it with rocks or a mortar and pestle!