

# CTI Takes Grinder Production to Uganda

In 2000 CTI joined with AT Uganda Ltd., an NGO based in Kampala, to improve village processing of peanut butter and grain milling in Uganda supported by the McKnight Foundation. The goal was to improve rural nutrition and promote income generation in 10 Northern and Eastern districts.



CTI's role was to adapt its grinder technology to local needs and establish local production capability to sustain the industry in the area. The Ewing grinder, named for CTI founder and designer George Ewing, was selected for this project. A sturdy, low cost, versatile steel burr plate mill developed initially for making peanut butter, it is also adapted to milling grain.

This technology is planned to replace less efficient grinders and the indigenous time and energy consuming mortar and pestle process.

AT-Uganda was responsible for assisting the establishment and management of local processing operations. Through a network of distributors they provide for grinder distribution and operation, financial assistance, marketing support, and training and mentoring rural women and households to successfully operate village grinding businesses.

Based on trial experiences of rural Ugandans using the Ewing, CTI volunteer engineers modified the mill as the Ewing III model. The collaborative process among local users, AT Uganda, and CTI was a critical element in transfer of this technology establishing an "ownership" of the grinder that makes it more readily acceptable.

Mark Kooiker, CTI volunteer and machine shop operator, made multiple trips to Kampala to train local "JBT" technicians in producing the Ewing III and parts following modern design methods and quality control standards. This was a slow process changing from Ugandan artisan manufacturing custom to precision machine fabrication methodology, but CTI's perseverance and JBT's willingness are achieving success. The project goal to locally produce 250 grinders has recently been achieved and the last of these are now being distributed through AT Uganda's network in the target area.



anticipates that many more processors, like Rose Kedi, will be successful in making profitable businesses now that the Ewing III Grinder is available in Uganda. CTI plans to foster continued growth of this industry in the region by seeking collaborations with other in-country NGOs.



The first processors using the Ewing III Grinder reported it to be a better quality and greatly superior to other available imported grinders. Rose Kedi of God's Grace Grocery in Soroti reported "*This business has helped my family very much with school fees as our children are in higher institutions of learning. Without the Ewing Grinder we would not be able to afford to keep them there.*" AT Uganda