

**Food For Thought 6-to-1 Project, funded by The Mint Methodist Church.
Final report, December 2016.**

The Mint Methodist Church donated just over £1600, during 2015 and 2016, to Devon Development Education (DDE) to recruit and work with 6 new rural primary schools, as part of DDE's Food For Thought 6-to-1 programme. The title 6-to-1 describes the project: 6 rural primary schools working with one Key Farmer Trainer (KFT) for 12 months or more. The focus of this work is training pupils and teachers in sustainable organic agriculture (SOA), providing them with skills so that they can grow more, better and a greater variety of crops at home, working with their parents. Over 80% of Uganda's population are small-scale farmers



Members of staff of the 6 new schools

and most young people in rural areas have little choice but to return to work on the land after leaving school. We hope that these SOA skills may offer them opportunities to improve their diet, health and income. The Key Farmer Trainer (KFT) is a successful, small scale farmer who has been trained by DDE's partner organisation, Kulika (Uganda) in SOA, and is a good, positive role model for pupils and teachers.

In June 2015, we recruited the 6 schools, from part of Mubende District which is new to Food For Thought (FFT), and about 2 hours' drive from the town of

Mubende. Julius Tumwebaze worked as the KFT with these schools, running two one-day workshops for Garden Teachers from each school, plus the headteachers where possible – to ensure that the head teachers understand the purpose of the Food For Thought programme and so will support the Garden Teachers in their efforts to share their learning with the pupils and fellow teachers. Julius also travelled to each school to work with the teachers and pupils there.

In November 2015 and 2016, the 6 schools were invited to take part in the annual FFT School Gardens competition. Although still new to FFT, they performed quite well. In 2016, Mirembe Maria Primary School was placed 4th and Bweyongedde Primary school was 5th, out of 30 schools. Every school also awarded certificates for the 'Best Girl Gardener' and the 'Best Boy Gardener' in their school, to encourage their efforts. All schools were invited to send Garden teachers to attend the residential workshop for Garden Teachers in both December 2015 and 2016.

Here are the school names of the 6 schools, with a brief note of their school gardens in August 2016, when Beatrice Okumu, our FFT Uganda co-ordinator, visited 5 of the 6 schools.

Name of school	Head teacher	Garden Teacher	Beatrice's comments, August 2016.
Bweyongedde Primary School, PO Box, Mubende	Ndawula Charles	Kayonjo Joseph	Key hole kitchen garden with beans growing. 2 vegetable gardens, but plants destroyed by the harsh sun.
Kalwana Primary School, PO Box 28, Kasanda	Kikonyogo Ibrahim	Tukwatanise Ambrose	Very good banana plants. Kale not so healthy-looking

Kasanda Boarding Primary School, PO Box 20, Kasanda, Mubende	Serunobe Majid	Waswwa Bosco	Not visited on this occasion. However a major problem has been the poor state of the teachers' housing, but this finally being rectified.
Kikandwa Primary School, PO Box Mubende	Mukasa Sulaiman	Waiswa Marijani	Tomatoes in a nursery bed, looking good. Spinach in a kitchen garden doing well Egg plants properly looked after. Matoke banana plants doing well.
Makonzi Primary School, PO Box Mubende	Mukasa James	Kiwanuka Stephen	Lovely looking kale in several veranda gardens and next to teachers' house Egg plants growing well. Had to wait 2 hours for a rain storm to pass! Advised to control the water run-off!
Mirembe Maria Primary School, PO Box Mubende.	Lulangira Augustine	Nakabanda Agness	Banana plants doing very well Eucalyptus tree seedlings, ready for planting out, if it rains. Have FFT environment club – unique!



Practicing participative learning



It's called 'Run and Write'

Professional Development in Teaching: Alongside the garden training, FFT has also been supporting some professional development training for the teachers. A two-day workshop was held in January 2016, plus one day workshops in September and October. The 6-to-1 schools were invited to take part in these sessions. The training was run by two head teachers and two Lead Teachers who had received a week-long training from the Varkey Foundation, in Uganda. It is very interesting that the teachers responded very well to these workshops, especially it seems because they were being trained by their peers! (The Varkey

Foundation, <https://www.varkeyfoundation.org/>, is an international organisation, which runs the Global Teacher Prize each year).

We are delighted that the Varkey Foundation has invited the women deputy head teacher from Kasanda Primary School to attend the next training week in January 2017. She will then work with teachers especially in these 6-to-1 schools, to support their professional development.

School Links with Plymouth. We have been able to recruit 6 primary schools in Plymouth to link with these 6. During May 2016, DDE invited Asaph Gheno Were, a Ugandan head teacher and successful small-scale farmer to visit Devon. He visited all 6 Plymouth schools, as well as 8 in Exeter, talking to the children about Uganda, its culture and the children in his school. He is an impressive person and made a great impression on adults and children alike. We hope these links will continue and develop – it takes some time for links to become established.

Challenges: There are always challenges in teaching, in working in low income rural areas and in Uganda! This year has been particularly difficult for a food-growing project, because there has been a major drought. The rains did not come in the first 3 months of the year. Then again in July and August, Mubende was badly affected, with some schools not receiving rain at all. However, sometimes when the rain did come, it caused flooding.

FFT is promoting organic agriculture, so water conservation methods are central to the training. Beatrice Okumu, our FFT Uganda Co-ordinator, also encourages schools to plant trees. She has included tree planting in the school gardening competition: schools have to demonstrate that they have looked after trees planted the previous year – and have planted more this year.

In her report on the competition, Beatrice notes as 'Successes'

- *The schools worked hard by watering and some practicing mulching. Their vegetable gardens could be seen doing well.*
- *Trees planted, which if looked after, can help to fight climate change.*
- *The schools found out that using sustainable organic agricultural methods helps growth and maintenance of plants.*

Conclusion: The funds from The Mint Methodist Church enabled 6 more schools to benefit from the Food For Thought programme, in a new area of Mubende district. This has had a good impact on pupils, teachers and parents. The main focus for FFT is learning organic food growing skills and we have the evidence that this has been achieved by some pupils and adults. This is just a beginning for these schools, but we hope to be able to continue to support them during the coming years.



Children from a typical rural family

Appendix A:

At Christmas, we received two letters from Maria Mirembe Primary School by post, one addressed to Barbara Pillidge at The Mint. The head teacher, Augustine Rulangira writes:

I bring your greetings from Mirembe Maria community in general. Thankyou for your support for our new agricultural innovations through Food For Thought and Madam Sue. Our Lead Teachers have introduced a lot of new methods and now organic methods of farming are the community talk.

We had a good season last April. We were able to harvest 360kgs of beans and 754kgs of maize, so all children get good meals at lunchtime.

We have a good banana plantation and organic green vegetable gardens. These aid a lot the meals for teachers and hostel children.

When you come to Uganda, we shall have a banana meal with you!

God bless. Augustine. 'Plant a tree at every birthday'



Appendix B: Accounts: Payments made according to the budget and all funds were used.

Item. Cost for each group of 6 schools:	Cost
Garden Teachers	
12 Gardens Teachers (2 per school) attend the FFT Garden Teachers week-long, residential training in December. £50 per head. (including KFT)	£650
Teachers with the KFT. Lunch, materials, seedlings etc £10 per head.	£260
A small sum for each school, each term, for seeds, seedlings etc. £10 per term per school.	£180
Key Farmer Trainer's costs	
- KFT's pay for 2 days for workshops for the Garden Teachers. £20 a day.	£40
KFT's pay for training in each school: Half day minimum in each school per term, ie 1.5 days during the year for each of 6 schools. £20 a day.	£180
- KFT's Transport to schools and credit for mobile phones (for planning visits etc) £10 per school per term for 6 schools.	£180
- KFT's pay for planning time and reporting time with FFT Co-ordinator. 1 day.	£20
FFT Co-ordinator's costs	
- Supervision, evaluation, transport, mobile phone credit etc by FFT Co-ordinator. 5 days x £20 a day	£100
- Supervision, evaluation, transport, mobile phone credit etc by FFT Co-ordinator. 5 days x £20 a day	£100
Total for each group of 6 schools	£1610

Written by Sue Errington, Co-ordinator, Devon Development Education. December 2016.