

Voices

SHARING IDEAS, GROWING SOLUTIONS.

The newsletter for
partners of Farm Radio
International



April 2009, NO. 87

Individuals, families and the communities in which they live are dependent on their environment for energy, for food, for medicine, and ultimately for everything that makes life possible. The environment truly provides all the necessities of life. People's quality of life and their ability to continue the way they live into the future are linked to how they treat their environment.

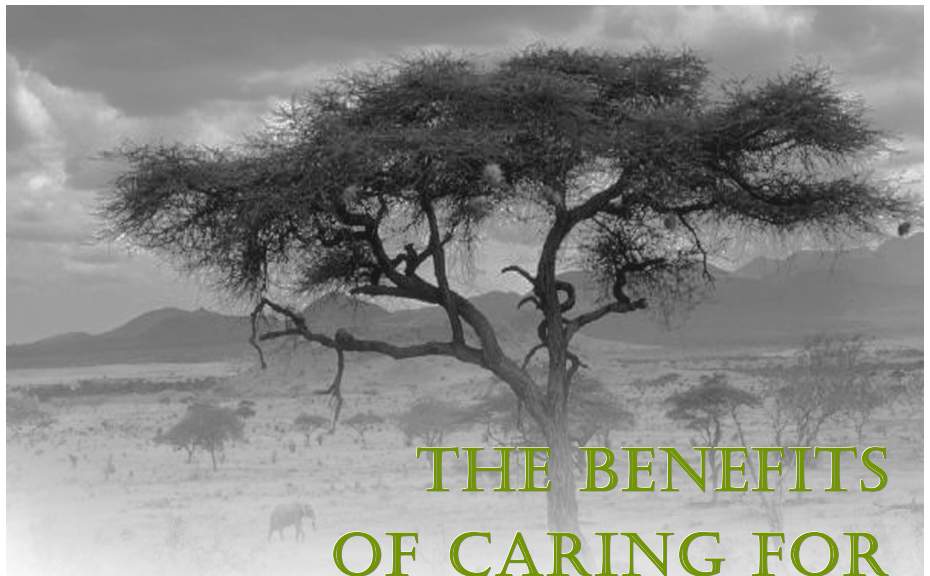
Package 87 is devoted to scripts which explore sustainable ways that communities can live with the surrounding environment. The package is broken down into three sections: renewable energy, community interactions with wildlife, and more general environmental themes.

Renewable energy

Renewable energy is energy that can be replenished at the same rate at which it is used. It can come from the sun, from wind, from falling or running water and ocean tides, from plant or animal materials (called "biomass"), and from heat under the earth's surface (called "geothermal energy"). Often, renewable energy can be produced locally using solar panels, wind turbines, biofuel crops, or manure, which reduces dependency on non-renewable fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas.

Renewable energy represents an important option for people across Africa to improve their lives through more efficient farming practices and better access to household and farm energy. Among the benefits of having access to renewable energy in rural communities are improved health and education, and more opportunities for generating income.

Many African nations already have small-scale solar and hydro systems, and some also use wind and geothermal energy to provide power to urban and rural areas.



THE BENEFITS OF CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

These types of energy are especially useful in remote locations because of the high cost of transporting electricity from large-scale power plants.

There are three scripts in this package that feature renewable energy projects which generate income and help the environment in rural areas. Script 4 profiles women's groups in Mali who are improving their livelihoods by planting jatropha and collecting jatropha seeds for sale to a local project which processes the seeds into biofuel. Script 6 looks at the work of SolarAid, a UK-based NGO which works in central Tanzania, where the organization is successfully promoting affordable solar energy systems for both schools and households. Script 7 describes a biodiesel project operated by Kenyan NGO, Help Self Help Centre. The organization pays a group of farmers to grow and collect seeds from several types of oil-producing plants, which are then processed into biofuel.

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Relationships between communities and wildlife



Relationships between rural communities and wildlife can result in conflict and/or exploitation. Expanding human populations infringe on wildlife habitats, destroying the ecological base on which wildlife depends.

Forests are cleared for agriculture, endangering wild species. But communities can enjoy considerable benefits when they find sustainable ways to co-exist with the wildlife that surrounds them. Three scripts in package 87 look at communities which have found sustainable ways to generate income through the careful management of forests and wildlife. Script 1 features the Buabeng-Fiema monkey sanctuary in Ghana, an arrangement in which two neighbouring communities have agreed to set aside a piece of land as a sanctuary, and are now benefiting from tourist income. Script 2 tells the story of villagers in the mountains of eastern Tanzania who are profiting from butterfly farming. The villagers collect the eggs and pupae of rare butterflies, and are paid for their efforts by an NGO which exports the butterflies for overseas exhibitions. Script 3 looks at the work of WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature) in coastal Cameroon, where the organization is helping villagers in coastal forests to find sustainable ways of profiting from local wildlife, such as beekeeping and raising bush rats and snails for food and income.

More scripts on Maternal Health

Package 87 features another in our series of scripts on maternal health. Script 8 profiles the Love Letter project in

Uganda, in which husbands are invited to accompany their wives on visits to antenatal clinics (clinics that advise women during pregnancy). The last in our series of maternal health scripts will be distributed via our electronic news service, Farm Radio Weekly (<http://weekly.farmradio.org/>). This exciting script consists of eight separate interviews with a couple who are expecting their first baby. The expectant couple talks openly about all the planning, hopes and fears that make up the amazing journey of preparing to have a child.

Farmers growing trees

Script 5 profiles a groundbreaking project in Malawi in which farmers are collaborating with national and international organizations. The farmers set aside a piece of land to plant a fast-growing tree species, and receive regular cash payments for several years in recognition of lost crop production income from the land. Planting trees helps to absorb or sequester atmospheric carbon, which reduces the effects of climate change.

Past scripts about the environment and renewable energy (www.farmradio.org/english/radio-scripts/)

- Package 78, Number 10: Local Experts Give Practical Advice to Care for the Environment
- Package 40, Number 3: Environmental Conservation Begins at Home
- Package 50, Number 3: Choose Energy Sources Wisely
- Package 80, Number 7: Jatropha – Not Just a Biofuel Crop
- Package 79, Number 6: Three Fishing Ladies with a Message about Solar Dryers

Additional resources

- Energy, Environment and Development Network for Africa (AFREPREN): <http://www.afrepren.org>
- Enabling Access to Sustainable Energy (EASE): <http://www.ease-web.org>
- Household Energy Network (HEDON: online network pursuing cleaner, affordable household energy sector): <http://www.hedon.info/BoilingPoing>
- Practical Action-Energy: <http://www.itdg.org/?id=energy>
- SolarAid: <http://www.solar-aid.org/>
- Mali Folkecenter: <http://www.malifolkecenter.org/>
- Help Self Help Centre: <http://www.hshc.or.ke/>
- Buabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary: <http://bf.datawebghana.com/>
- Amani Butterfly Project: <http://www.amanibutterflyproject.org/>
- WWF's Coastal Forest Programme: http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/project/projects_in_depth/cfp/
- PRESA website: <http://presa.worldagroforestry.org/>

Farm radio program on chicken farming is beneficial to farmers in Tanzania

By Heather Miller, Farm Radio International's Farm Radio Weekly Editor

Lilian Manyuka is a bit of a celebrity in the village of Kitete. Every week, farmers from Kitete, a community in the Morogoro District of eastern Tanzania, listen to her program "Busy Village" on Radio Maria.

Ms. Manyuka first met with the villagers in Kitete a year ago. As part of the African Farm Radio Research Initiative (AFRRI), she talked to farmers about their challenges. She learned that farmers confront many issues concerning the production and marketing of crops and livestock, but Radio Maria decided to first address the problem of chicken loss. Kitete's farmers now tune in to "Busy Village" to learn the details of building chicken coops, such as what dimensions a coop should be, and how many chickens can be kept in a coop.

When Ms. Manyuka called members of the community to request a meeting between Kitete's chicken farmers, myself, and my colleague Bart Sullivan, they were willing to take a break from their busy day. More than 20 chicken farmers join us in a school room. The farmers tell us they struggle to produce enough food for their families, but they are keen to build chicken coops to protect their investment in poultry. Omar Msham is the first to raise his hand when I ask if anyone has tried building a coop. Later that afternoon, we visit Mr. Msham's homestead where he proudly displays the structure. It's about a metre high. Red bricks form three of the coop's walls and a sturdy wire mesh encloses the front. The coop was a significant investment for the farmer, costing 50,000 Tanzania shillings (about 38 American dollars or 28 Euros), but he is confident it will pay off.

It was only a year ago that Mr. Msham began to raise chickens. At the time, he and his wife were struggling to feed their three children. Their two hectares of maize provided food, and one hectare of sunflower provided income, but the family ate only two meals a day. Then last year, Mr. Msham purchased some baby chicks. Some chickens were used for food. Others were sold at maturity. With this operation, Mr. Msham earns about 20,000 Tanzanian shillings (about 15 American dollars or 11 Euros) every six months. The extra food and income means that his family now eats three meals a day.

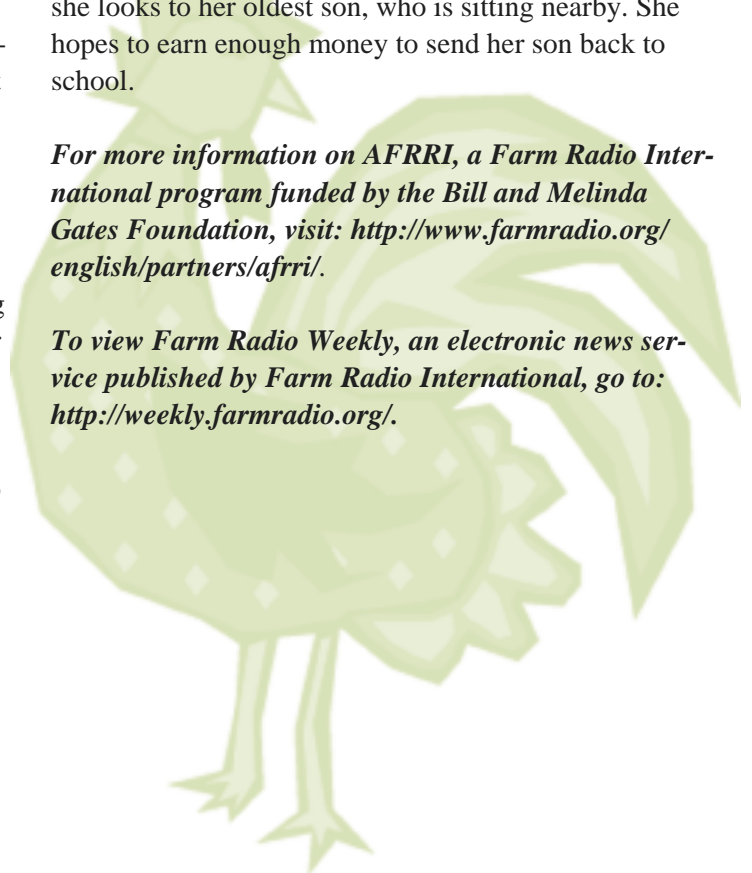
The venture was not without problems, however. Chickens running loose are vulnerable to disease, theft, attack by other animals and collisions with bicycles. Every six months, Mr. Msham lost four or five chickens to disease or collisions with bicycles. Now that he has a chicken coop to keep his poultry safe, he looks forward to earning extra income for clothing and school fees.

A few hundred metres from Mr. Msham's home, Havintishi Salumu shows us the framework she built for her chicken coop. She constructed the frame with sticks from the forest and plans to complete the coop within two months.

For Ms. Salumu's family, chicken is an important source of protein. She started raising poultry last year when she purchased one chicken. Now, Ms. Salumu keeps about 12, allowing her family to eat eggs twice a week and chicken twice a month. With her chickens safe in a coop, Ms. Salumu hopes to start selling some for income. When I ask what she plans to do with the extra income, she looks to her oldest son, who is sitting nearby. She hopes to earn enough money to send her son back to school.

For more information on AFRRI, a Farm Radio International program funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, visit: <http://www.farmradio.org/english/partners/afri/>.

To view Farm Radio Weekly, an electronic news service published by Farm Radio International, go to: <http://weekly.farmradio.org/>.



Community Media space on WikiEducator

The Community Media space on WikiEducator (http://www.wikieducator.org/Community_Media) brings together 40 organizations and 100 people from around the world working in community media. The space is for sharing ideas and resources on strengthening media organizations and using media for learning about farming, skills development, health, secondary schooling, etc.

WikiEducator (<http://www.wikieducator.org>) is an open source, global education project, in the top 1% of the world's websites, with more than 7,500 registered users and 7,500 unique visits per month.

How is it unique?

The Community Media space is a site for Community Media/Radio practitioners to collaboratively develop, share, remix and reuse Open Education Resources (OERs). These are materials directly relevant to the work done in communities around the world, and developed by people who are actually doing the work. The OERs include: radio scripts, case studies, training curricula and manuals, workshop materials, learning programmes, pilot projects and more. It's also a networking space, linking members and sharing community events.

Free Wiki Skills Training

WikiEducator provides free wiki skills training on a monthly basis, through an innovative program funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). People who participate in the online course can receive certification. Learning outcomes focus on knowledge of the mediawiki language (or "syntax") and practical applications which allow users to put their materials on the wiki. COL offers additional training support for special projects.

For more information or to join

You can join the Community Media space by visiting: <http://groups.google.com/group/community-media>, and by following the instructions to "Join this group." You will need to enter a Gmail email address. If you don't have one, you can create one at <https://www.google.com/accounts/NewAccount>. Alternatively, you may email Ian Pringle at ipringle@col.org, and he will subscribe you, using your regular email address.

Links

- Community Media space – http://www.wikieducator.org/Community_Media
- Community of Practice – <http://groups.google.com/group/community-media>
- Free Wiki Skills Training – <http://www.wikieducator.org/Learning4Content>

Stay tuned for...

Package 88 will focus on livestock health. If you have any stories about livestock health in your area that you want to share in *Voices*, please email bmckay@farmradio.org.



Welcome New Partners!



Samuel Apiiga, an agricultural extensionist, during his agricultural program on URA Radio in Bolgatanga, Ghana.

- **GBC URA Radio** – a public radio station based in Bolgatanga, Ghana
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Cooperatives** – the Ministry has a weekly agricultural radio show broadcast on the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC)
- **Radio Evangile Developpement – Léo** – a religious radio station based in Léo, Burkina Faso
- **Shinyalu Community Multimedia/Telecentre** – a multimedia/telecentre based in Kakamega, Kenya

Gender Equality and Radio Workshop in Ghana



A focus group discussion with women in Tindonmolgo village.

Farm Radio International, in collaboration with the Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN) and the Centre for Sustainable Development Initiatives (CENSUDI), presented a workshop on gender equality and radio from February 4 to 10 in Puso Namongo, near Bolgatanga, Ghana. The workshop was supported with funds from “Les Soeurs de la Congrégation de Notre Dame.” Nineteen radio participants from 10 radio stations across Ghana and 10 CENSUDI staff participated in the pilot initiative. One of the workshop outcomes will be a training manual on gender equality and radio that can be used as a basis for workshops in other countries.

In the first two days of the workshop, participants were introduced to the basic concepts of gender and gender equality, and were provided with an overview of gender and development and its links to poverty eradication. Kofi Larweh from Radio Ada, Kojo Opong from Radio Peace, and Kwabena Agyei from Classic FM presented the story-based approach to program production, developed by Farm Radio International through its African Farm Radio Research Initiative (AFRRI). This approach provided participants with a model of how to create a radio program, and was later used to create programs based on recordings that were made on Day 3 of the workshop.

On the third day of the workshop, participants were split into two groups and visited two communities – Tindonmolgo and Kpagraboug. In both communities, focus groups of women and men were asked who had access and control over resources critical to their livelihood in the past (before the CENSUDI project), what

the current situation is, and what they envision for the future. Radio station participants recorded the different discussions. In each community, CENSUDI staff and radio station participants interviewed key informants such as District Assembly officials and traditional authorities. In addition, one man and one woman in each community were interviewed. These individuals related their life stories and explained how CENSUDI had helped them.

On the fourth day of the workshop, participants reflected on their community visits and were divided into four production groups. The groups were tasked with developing a 10-minute radio program on a topic that arose during discussions with community members. Groups spent the remainder of the day and much of the night preparing their productions.

Participants had a day off on Day 5, a Sunday. When the workshop resumed on Day 6, participants listened to the audio recordings of each group and provided feedback. This feedback was used by the teams to finalize their productions, which were presented on the last day of the workshop. CENSUDI staff plan to play the finished productions for the two communities during their next visits. Radio participants also reflected on gender issues at their own stations and in their programming, and discussed ways that some of these issues could be addressed.



A group of workshop participants edits their audio recording.

Partner Profile: Opsett Media/Africa Farm Radio Bureau



The following is an excerpt from an interview Farm Radio's Nelly Basilly conducted with Joshua Kyalimpa, who works with Opsett Media/Africa Farm Radio Bu-

Farm Radio: Tell us about Opsett Media/Africa Farm Radio Bureau.

Joshua: "Opsett Media is short for *Opinion Setters*.

We started as a group of journalists and we are looking at the role that we can play in the development of our country. What we realized is that the media in Uganda is driven so much with event journalism. So, we are asking, how can we make a difference to spearhead the development and growth of our country? What we do is develop content and programs that are geared towards development, and use the media to achieve that. We don't have a radio station of our own. We use radio stations that exist.

Radio is one of the most effective media for Africa because not many people can read and write. Right now, we have partnered with different radio stations. For example, one of the radio stations is called Vision Voice Radio. We developed a program with Vision Voice called *Harvesting Money*. It is a magazine program geared at improving farming techniques. We have interviews, we have features, and, for example, we have a segment called Farmer of the Week, where we showcase a farmer who can inspire other farmers. We are not targeting very big farmers; we are targeting the smallholder farmer."

Farm Radio: In that segment, *Farmer of the Week*, can you give us an example of a farmer that had an interesting story to tell?

Joshua: "We did a story with a farming group in Uganda that pooled together labour resources because by



Photo: Joshua Kyalimpa

themselves they didn't have the resources. They started small and they started growing tomatoes. One of the women in the group provided land and the others provided labour so they could start growing tomatoes. They have been able to increase the yields from their gardens and export their tomatoes to southern Sudan.

We often hear from farmers that they don't have the capital. So, in this story, what is interesting is that the farmers had land and labour, which they provided themselves. The cost of buying the seeds was not that high, and right now they are doing very well."

Farm Radio: At Opsett Media/Africa Farm Radio Bureau, what are some of the projects you are working on or hope to work on in the near future?

Joshua: "Yes, we have been working on a project that I hope will improve farming in our country. What we want to do is centrally produce information. We realize that we cannot keep running from one station to another. We want to produce a syndicated program about farming that can be fed to radio stations. We are looking for partners so we can have a small studio, we can have computers, and we can have access to the Internet. We want to produce a weekly magazine program which can be downloaded. We have different ideas for methods of distribution. In one of the proposals, we are saying that you can distribute the program through the phone line, so people can phone up and get the information. That program would be produced in the local language so we can target the farmers who cannot speak English."

The programs that Opsett Media/Africa Farm Radio Bureau currently produces are in English and Luganda, which is spoken in the central region of Uganda.

THE BEST PROGRAM I EVER PRODUCED!

We asked several of our radio partners to choose the best radio program they had ever produced. The responses we received are listed below. If these programs inspire you to share your own examples with radio organizations across Africa, please send an email describing your best program to bmckay@farmradio.org.



Gladson Makowa from Story Workshop conducts an interview.

Lilian Manyuka, who hosts a weekly program on Radio Maria in Tanzania called “Busy Village,” writes, “the best radio program I ever produced was about 3 different types of housing for chickens. This program was the best because it taught the farmers of Kitete, Wami Sokone and Koo-Mikese in Morogoro how to build the houses for their chickens. In this program the farmers had the chance to know about the types of housing and things they need for building. Because of this, farmers will be able to build houses they can afford. In the program the livestock officer of Mvomero District in Morogoro Region, Jane Kumduru, explained how to build three types of housing.”

According to **Gladson Makowa**, a producer for Story Workshop in Malawi, “I believe one of my best programmes ever produced is a special *Mwana Alirenji* programme [see box on right] which I produced for the Ministry of Forest. This was on forest-based enterprises and was funded by the European Union. The programme features sustainable usage of forestry products. It gives examples of things that can be harvested in the bush every year without damaging the environment. The Ministry organised a farmers’ show where they [farmers] brought things which they are harvesting and use to earn a living. There were things like *Jatropha* oil extraction, mat and hat making from reeds, *Moringa* leaves harvesting and seed oil extraction. The programme outlines examples of enterprises

that the Ministry of Forestry is supporting people to do using natural forest products in a sustainable way.”

Mwana Alirenji

For the past 10 years Story Workshop has been producing *Mwana Alirenji* on a weekly basis. The programme is aired on the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation’s (MBC) Radio 1 and focuses on smallholder farmer food security. Gladson explains, “This programme uses a variety of formats, meaning that it is not rigid. In one programme it can be a feature of a farmer, a village or a new technology, the next programme can be in magazine format. It contains food security issues. It uses the concept of farmer-to-farmer, meaning that it uses model farmers to teach fellow farmers. Farmers share experiences. Farmers are encouraged to carry out their own research and give out their results on *Mwana Alirenji*. Farmers are informed that farming is a science and hence they can prove some facts wrong or right. They can modify some technologies to suit their area. For example, some farmers are busy modifying ways for making good compost manure. *Mwana Alirenji* also encourages the sharing of farming ideas within a village. It is encouraging farmers to go and look for information when they need it rather than waiting for agriculture advisers to come and teach them.”

A donor that supports gender equality initiatives

The Global Fund For Women

(www.globalfundforwomen.org) supports organizations managed by women that demonstrate a clear commitment to women's equality and women's human rights. It has three types of grants:

- 1) General Support Grants – flexible, small grants that cover general operating and project expenses
- 2) Travel Grants – small grants that support members of an organization to attend conferences and events
- 3) Organizing Meeting/Event Grants – small grants to support organizations in planning a conference or event.

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FARM RADIO
INTERNATIONAL

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Supporting broadcasters in developing countries to strengthen small-scale farming and rural communities

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FARM RADIO INTERNATIONAL

IS CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

On May 1, 1979 the first radio scripts were sent out to broadcasters around the world. We would love to hear your stories about Farm Radio International and include any anniversary wishes you may have in the next issue of *Voices*. Please send information to Blythe McKay at bmckay@farmradio.org, by fax at 613-798-0990, or by post at 1404 Scott Street, Ottawa, ON, K1Y 4M8 no later than June 1, 2009.

