in this issue:  changing lives in pastoralist communities • honoring the Peckhams
grand opening in West Africa • intern spotlight: Steven Kluck • a ton of first fruits
“Do you think anyone will come?” That was the question asked a year ago when discussing the idea of holding a “Pastoralists” workshop in East Africa to focus on ways to help those working with semi nomadic people groups and the challenges they are facing. We decided that if we could get 50 people to come we could justify the event. 127 came from as far north as Somalia and as far south as Zambia and Zimbabwe! This is just one of many examples of how the ECHO East Africa Impact Center has been able to reach out to those in the region working with farmers and the multiplier effect that having an ECHO Impact Center creates. A survey of the delegates showed that the 127 workshop attendees have a direct impact on over 27,000 farmers throughout East Africa!

The same question was asked when ECHO Asia began planning a Seed-banking Workshop which focused on developing local seedbanks to store and make available seeds of various traditional varieties of fruits, vegetables, and forest trees. Delegates from nine Asian countries attended the workshop creating an impact that reaches from China to India and the Philippines.

Your generous support of ECHO makes stories like these possible. It is important to note that ECHO does not pay people to attend workshops as many groups do. Each of the Pastoralist Workshop and Seed-banking Workshop attendees paid for their own travel to the workshop. They also paid for their accommodation and the modest workshop fee. We firmly believe that without an investment in the training by the participants, people will attend for the wrong reasons and will not take the training as seriously as they need to.

This philosophy is at the very core of what ECHO is, and we exhibit this in everything we do. This is why we don’t focus on feeding people; we invest in those who work hand in hand with small-scale farmers around the world to enable these farmers to produce more food in truly sustainable ways so they can feed themselves and their communities… now that is real food security!

Psalms 126: 5&6 – “Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping carrying seeds to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.”

We recognize the sacrifice many of you make to allow ECHO to work with small-scale farmers around the world. We also appreciate the struggle and frustration most small-scale farmers face in attempting to feed themselves, their families, and their communities. We want to share more of these real life stories with you about the joy experienced by those we work with when they attend an ECHO workshop. They celebrate receiving valuable knowledge which when put into practice will change the lives of those they work with and in turn bring them both joy and hope through reduced hunger and malnutrition along with an improved standard of living.

“We invest in those who work hand in hand with small-scale farmers around the world to enable these farmers to produce more food in truly sustainable ways so they can feed their communities … that is real food security!”
-- Stan Doerr

This is the multiplier effect that you have created through your support of ECHO and we thank you on behalf of tens of thousands of individuals who are directly impacted through your financial support. Your gifts further the vision to honor God through sustainable hunger solutions.

Stan Doerr, CEO/President

“We invest in those who work hand in hand with small-scale farmers around the world to enable these farmers to produce more food in truly sustainable ways so they can feed their communities … that is real food security!”

-- Stan Doerr
Late last year, Amazon.com launched AmazonSmile, a new program that makes it easy for you to support ECHO every time you shop. Customers who visit AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) will find the same prices, selection and shopping experience -- with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to their favorite charitable organization. There is no cap on the total donation amount.

When you first go to AmazonSmile you’ll be asked to select your favorite charitable organization -- and that’s it. Make sure you choose the correct ECHO, Inc.: you can confirm the city and state if you are unsure. Once you have selected ECHO on your first visit, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from any eligible purchases from that point forward, whether you shop just once or once a day. All you need to do is remember to type smile.amazon.com into the browser on your PC, tablet or phone when you shop.

Donations to charitable organizations will be made by the AmazonSmile Foundation. You can learn more and support ECHO while you shop at smile.amazon.com

Pastoralism is the branch of agriculture concerned with animal husbandry: the care, tending and use of animals such as camels, goats, cattle, yaks, llamas, and sheep. "Pastoralism" generally conveys mobility, moving the herds in search of fresh pasture and water.

In sub-Saharan Africa, pastoralism is predominantly practiced in arid and semi-arid lands. These lands are hot and dry, with low and erratic rainfall. There are not many livelihoods suited to this unpredictable environment, but pastoralism is particularly appropriate, because it enables people to adapt by moving livestock according to the availability of water and pasture.

Pastoralism makes a significant contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) in many East African countries; it provides the majority of meat consumed in those countries; and provides a livelihood for tens of millions of people who live there.

Despite providing such value, pastoralist areas in East African countries tend to have the highest incidence of poverty and the least access to basic services compared with other areas. In the pastoralist areas in northern Uganda, 64 percent of the population live below the internationally poverty line of less than two dollars per day, compared with 38 percent nationally. According to IPP Media's Guardian Newspaper, Tanzania is endowed with 22 million cattle but the contribution of livestock industry to the national GDP is as low as four percent.

This situation has alarmed governments and non-governmental organizations alike leading to many different approaches to assist pastoralists. Lack of inter-organizational communication and inadequate resourcing has caused success rates to vary, with anecdotal evidence that some projects have caused more harm than good.

Last year, East Africa Impact Center Director Erwin Kinsey felt the need to organize a training symposium to connect practitioners working with pastoralists, share best practices and promote future cooperation. With such a niche audience, he was unsure if anyone would come to the training. He developed hopeful budgets and plans based on 50 attendees, and set to work.
In early April, the ECHO Symposium on Pastoralist Best Practices in Machakos, Kenya took place, attracting 127 attendees! The content was powerful, challenging, instructive and often profound. We heard from many pastoralists themselves as well as about issues and interventions including: animal care and vet services; water harvesting and management; sources of conflict and the pursuit of peace; and the dynamics between pastoralism, agriculture and conservation.

“Being a young man from a region that is full of conflict, I have learned a lot from this symposium and am optimistic. I shall try my best to replicate all that I have learned. … [This symposium] will help me come up with projects that will enhance pastoralism development in a sustainable manner.”
--Participant from Uganda

Attendees came from Zambia and Mozambique in the South to South Sudan and Somalia in the North. One attendee from Uganda shared, “Being a young man from a region that is full of conflict, I have learned a lot from this symposium and am optimistic. I shall try to replicate all the best practices that I have learned. … [This symposium] will help me come up with projects that will enhance pastoralism development in a sustainable manner.”

Another participant from Garissa, Kenya said, “The symposium was well organized, and changes the way I approach my work; [it will] help me adopt the appropriate practices for improved results in my community.”

Response to the Symposium has been overwhelming. In our anonymous post-symposium evaluation, 98% of respondents said that the Symposium was helpful or very helpful. 85% of respondents were first-time attendees to an ECHO event and 98.8% said that they would like to attend another such symposium. The real measure of success, though, is how we impact communities through these events. Attendees shared that a conservative estimate of the number of people that were likely to be directly affected from the techniques they learned was 27,145 people.

It is an honor for ECHO to work alongside so many people changing lives through agriculture and pastoralism, and to be a small part of their preparation and success. Thank you for all that you do in making symposia like this possible!
Yes, you see candy, but it’s not an Easter party! These volunteers are hard at work folding and stuffing ECHO Development Notes (EDN) issue XX that will be sent to XX people in XX countries. The electronic version was sent to XXXX individuals, but even in this day and age, some of ECHO’s network members do not have reliable access to the internet. Sometimes they live and work in very hard-to-reach areas and correspondence can take a month to arrive.

Bob Hargrave, an ECHO staff member who formerly worked overseas, remembers what it meant to him each time he received his copy of EDN. “I would sit down immediately and spend time absorbing the entire issue. Even my kids knew to give me some space when EDN came. It was such an encouragement to me in my work. I’m proud that we can still be that encouragement both in print and electronically to our entire network around the world.”

These volunteers are also helping us make the most of your donations. Each mailing we save hundreds of dollars by handling this work in-house and volunteer hands make it possible. Our dedicated volunteers fold, stuff, label and even pray for each network member and their work among the least developed countries in the world.

Once the envelopes are stuffed and sealed, those that are going overseas are boxed up and the envelopes are sent to a Global Mail Distribution Center. They are then sent to regional mail distribution post offices throughout the world along with mail from other organizations and companies. This global mail system costs ECHO half as much as the traditional mail system while still allowing us to effectively serve our network members. Well, we’d better get back to work, like Bob, development workers worldwide are looking forward to their next issue of EDN.

“[EDN] was such an encouragement to me in my work. I’m proud that we can still be that encouragement both in print and electronically to our entire network.”

-- Bob Hargrave
It doesn't take long, if you travel to Niger, Chad, or Burkina Faso, to realize that West Africa is home to some of the least developed nations in the world. The United Nations Development Program ranks countries based on health, education, and income metrics, and West African nations currently occupy 8 of the 15 lowest rankings.

West Africa has been on ECHO’s mind and heart for years as the ideal home for a Regional Impact Center. Techniques like zai holes and drip irrigation have great potential to improve lives and stop hunger in West Africa, and don’t help anyone if they sit untapped in Florida. We have established Impact Centers in Thailand and Tanzania, and it is with great pleasure that we announce the grand opening of the West Africa Regional Impact Center, based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The official grand opening celebration was held on March 13, 2014.

The incredible team in Ouagadougou, led by Director Robert Sanou, consists of Alain Gouba, Agricultural Advisor, Christelle Tiendrebeogo, Office Manager and Sié Bernard Kansié, Garden Manager whom everyone calls Promesse, for short. ECHO Intern Marie Shelli also assisted with the installation of a demonstration garden on the ECHO West Africa grounds.

The team is hard at work preparing for their first agricultural training and networking events: a conservation farming workshop in May in Mali, a Forum to be held in French in September as well as a Forum to be held in English in early 2015. We are very excited about the increased capacity of ECHO in West Africa and the potential of life-saving resources in the hands and fields of those who desperately need them.
what’s happening

Demonstrations at the ECHO Asia Impact Center show the use of banana leaves to protect young seedlings from sun and heat stress.

#echofightshunger

ECHO staff Charles “Bonny” Bonaventure (from ECHO East Africa - wearing lanyard) and Christopher Daiuto (from ECHO South Africa - right hand side) assisting Christian Missionary Fellowship staff and local interns in creation of keyhole and sack gardens.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

ECHO staff and Interns honored over 150 volunteers on March 27 with a barbecue luncheon followed by the annual skit.

Follow us on Instagram for pictures of ECHO’s work all around the world. #echofightshunger
ECHO News
8 June 2014

What's happening at ECHO

ECHO Asia Seedbank

Student volunteers clean luffa gourd, tomato and eggplant seeds at the ECHO Asia Seedbank. Special thanks to (L-R) Dada, Jiikler, Dao, Kung and Sakuna! Dao and Sakuna were visiting from Chiang Rai, Thailand and Jiikler from Myanmar.

Harvesting Sugar Cane

Staff, interns and volunteers harvested, processed and cooked sugar cane into a delicious cane syrup!

New in Florida

The landscape is changing in Florida! A new propagation greenhouse and a deep-litter pig pen are being constructed this summer on the farm in Florida. These additions will help ECHO with plant and animal resources to share worldwide.
In February, our Board of Directors approved ECHO’s Strategic Plan of 2014-2018 (http://echonet.org/strategic-plan) which guides our missional impact and work. Through the intentional planning process we identified emerging needs for financial support to build ECHO’s capacity in the near term. These resources flow out from the Global Research & Demonstration Farm headquartered in Florida and throughout our Regional Impact Centers abroad — altogether preparing our responsiveness to the enormous plight of 1 billion people faced with malnutrition, extreme poverty and starvation - most of whom are the small-scale farming families living only on the food they are able to grow themselves.

Uniquely positioned yet limited ECHO is discovering & sharing more efficient ways to better equip people with agricultural resources, skills and technologies - all of which deliver critical and well proven practices to create healthy soil, manage & purify water systems, sustain crops and livestock for food. We seek your prayerful engagement and financial partnership because working together, we can alleviate extreme poverty and stop world hunger.

A most remarkable and certain fulfillment of God’s Word is this very calling upon ECHO to encourage, to build up, serve and train others who need it most, especially the poorest among us, in the love of Christ. (Proverbs 28:27, Matthew 19:21; Mark 10:21)
Key Funding Priorities
ECHOcommunity.org
Annual Need: $512,569 ($1,400 per day)
An interactive learning community reaching over 7,000 extension workers representing 165 countries that delivers proven and practical knowledge solutions to hunger, malnutrition, soil restoration, livestock management and appropriate technologies like water purification and management. Comprises ECHO’s Technical Response Unit, ECHO Development Notes, seedbank and staffing.

REGIONAL IMPACT CENTERS
ECHO Asia Impact Center
Annual Need: $423,785 ($1,161 per day)
Providing research and training, seeds, community seed fairs, appropriate technologies and country-based trainings, advising and consulting with targeted knowledge resources throughout Southeast Asia

ECHO East Africa Impact Center
Annual Need: $314,057 ($860 per day)
Providing training, specialized seeds, pastoralist engagement, appropriate technologies, country-based trainings, advising and consulting with targeted knowledge resources throughout East Africa.

ECHO West Africa Impact Center - Basic operations are funded through March 2018

ECHO GLOBAL FARM - FLORIDA
Appropriate Technologies
Training & Demonstration Expansion Capital Project Need: $225,000
Demonstration, Development & Training Program Need: $103,553 ($284 per day)
Thematically grouped around shelter, food, water and energy presented to facilitate exposure and training; The capital project one-time cost includes design, site work, material and labor, management, equipment & pathway contingencies, security and signage. Program need is annually.

Intern Training Program Per Person Cost for 14 month Intern - $30,000 ($82 per day)
Equipping young Christians with the core practical, professional, and personal skills that can effectively resource missions and non-profit organizations working to address agricultural, food, water and livelihood challenges around the world. Extending the ECHO intern experience abroad at one of ECHO’s Regional Impact Centers for an additional 6 months, the cost per intern is approximately $7,000 (which is fully funded in 2014)

Capacity & Missional Excellence Fund Annual Need: $2.34 million ($6,411 per day)
ECHO’s daily program expenditures at the international headquarters and Global Research & Demonstration Farm. Includes agriculture operations excluding appropriate technology and intern program, i.e. farm management, seedbank, propagation and nursery, public outreach and education, agricultural technical support, research and training, general administration and fundraising.
Philanthropy & Stewardship at ECHO

celebrating the generosity & faithful legacies of our family and friends worldwide

“Why I Give to ECHO” --Dwight Youngkin, ECHO Docent

Dawn and I have been very fortunate in our lifetime of always having enough resources for our family. As we matured, our faith has encouraged us to share. Three areas are personally most important to us: our church, our college, and ECHO. ECHO is important because of our concern for the poor and hungry of the world, the quality and positive attitude of the ECHO staff and volunteers we have worked with through the years and last but not least, the effective stewardship that we have witnessed of the monies that are received to perform ECHO’s mission.

Take Stock of How and What you Give to ECHO

Have you ever taken stock of your investment and retirement portfolios to consider the amazing return and rewards of investing in ECHO’s work to reduce hunger and improve lives?

With your appreciated stock gift to ECHO you can make a bold, tax-wise move to put the breaks on famine and extreme poverty in our lifetime. To learn more, visit http://www.echonet.org/gifts-of-stock or call Melodie Turish, Vice President of Development at 239-567-3327.

Donate Online

You can donate privately and securely through our online donation page. Simply visit: http://www.echonet.org/ and click on “Donate Now” under “Give”

Legacy Society

In Memoriam

The ECHO Family asks for your prayers over the surviving families of these special friends as we pay tribute to their wonderful generosity and lives of service on behalf of ECHO.

Mr. Richard Jendrysik
Pauline Adele Kelly June
Mrs. Marian Nordberg
Mr. Frederick V. Simon
Lifelong learners, missionaries and faithful prayer warriors are just a few of the terms that describe George and Lollie Peckham. They first discovered ECHO 20 years ago when visiting friends on Sanibel island who invited them to tour ECHO’s Global Farm. After conversations with Dr. Martin Price about ECHO’s need for full-time volunteers they committed first to annual winter visits, and then relocated to Florida. George and Lollie were uniquely equipped to share their gifts and talents with ECHO. They remember the light bulb moment when they felt the Lord was directing them to move from Maine to serve in North Fort Myers.

Long before George and Lollie arrived to ECHO, they traveled extensively throughout the U.S., Caribbean, and Latin America both in their professional and personal lives. George is a native of Reno, Nevada where he was raised on a diary farm. Lollie was born and raised in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. They met at the College of Wooster in Ohio during wartime in the mid-1940s and were married in 1946. After George’s graduate school work at the American Institute of Foreign Trade, (now called Thunderbird) he was hired byRalston Purina to go overseas. He, Lollie and their three young children set out on an adventure over the next two decades to Puerto Rico, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, the island of Martinique, which they described as their “Walden Pond,” and lastly to Guatemala.

During a recent Missions Month focus at their local church one of the speakers mentioned, “We are all in search of finding that last piece that fits in perfectly to complete the puzzle.” George and Lollie looked at each other and said, “ECHO!” They knew that serving ECHO’s mission was the last piece of their puzzle. Lollie shared, “many things have grown and changed at ECHO, but then so have we. We never would have guessed that God would allow us to serve and grow for 20 years with ECHO. Our favorite scripture, Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us how good it is to trust in the Lord and not lean upon our own understanding, in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.”
I'm Steven Kluck, hailing from Boulder, Colorado as the current Semi-Arid intern. I graduated from Colorado University Boulder in May 2013 with a degree in Environmental Engineering. Over the course of my time in college, I grew in my awareness and passion for food and farming. I also came to discover the Biblical call to care for those who are oppressed or in spiritual and material need. God, forming my heart for ministry and agriculture, led me to ECHO!

My experience at ECHO thus far has been amazing! The first few months were like a whirlwind of new information, ideas, people, and skills. I went from having no idea what most of the plants were to identifying many fruit trees and other crops – and their relatives. I have been inspired and encouraged by relationships with the other interns - along with having a ton of fun! It seems like God has been confirming my vocation in restorative agriculture and development work through connecting me with so many like-minded people here, whether interns, staff, or missionaries.

After nearly seven months at ECHO, I am still learning new skills day by day, observing dynamic ecological interactions along with how God interacts with His Creation. I’m exploring the area where productive agriculture meets healthy ecosystems, joy-filled lives, and Christ-centered communities. ECHO is an incredible place for an intern like me to grow and thrive.

In terms of other interests and next steps, I am particularly interested in grazing animals as agents of restoration and applying good animal management practices on a small-scale, developing world setting. “Vegetative growth” seems to be the buzz word for this period of my life, and I’m anticipating the next few seasons will be defined by internships, training, and relationship building. Rooted in Christ, and growing in character and wisdom and love, becoming a large tree with branches stretching wide, I hope to bear much fruit to the glory of God.
First Fruits - A Literal Ton!

ECHO donated 2,118.73 pounds of produce to Community Cooperative Ministry International’s Everyday Cafe in 2013.

In this ongoing tithe, ECHO Interns gain experience monitoring produce freshness and harvesting crops at their peak. They also get the benefit of knowing that the crops that they grew are feeding needy populations here in our community. CCMI counts on fresh fruits, vegetables and garnishes to improve the nutritional content of their daily meals. The addition of fresh produce to the meals also helps to encourage recipients to include more fresh produce in their everyday diets.

The idea to donate ECHO produce came out of a desire to make the most impact with the resources that the farm is producing. After the donations are made, the produce is sold at the fruit stand to staff, volunteers and visitors and the Interns harvest from the farm for their own meals.

The donations throughout the year included avocado, bell peppers, broccoli, bunching onion, green and red cabbage, carambola, collards, eggplant, lemons, grapefruit, green beans, hot peppers, mangoes, mustard greens, onions, papaya, sugar snap peas, watermelon radish, sapodillas, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangerine, tomato and zucchini.

Farm Manager Andy Cotarelo shared, “We donate the first and best of what we have to respect the dignity of the recipients. Our mission, both here and around the world is to reduce hunger and improve lives. We are very humbled that we can contribute in this way for our local community.”

Written by Past ECHO Intern Rhoda Beutler

My mouth watered in anticipation as I looked at that shiny brown seed suspended by three toothpicks with its tip in the water of a kitchen glass. I had saved the seed envisioning baskets of fresh avocados.

The seed never sprouted in my kitchen window, but it could never have been at home in our harsh Nebraska climate, anyway. Avocado is a fruit of the tropics and subtropics, originating in Mexico but adapting to other climates. The traits that help it flourish everywhere from the islands to the highlands have allowed the tree to thrive commercially from Israel to Australia. Crosses between races have been made to combine desirable traits, including salt tolerance, cold tolerance, fruit size and oil content.

Grafted trees give the benefit of earlier fruit production of good quality, compared to seedling trees with inferior fruit and a 7-10 year wait between planting and production.

If you have space in your yard, try planting two or three varieties to achieve almost year round fruit production. Or, talk to your neighbors and plan to share the fruit—with a potential annual yield of 50-150 lbs. per tree, there can be plenty to go around.

Avocados should mature on the tree and then ripen on the kitchen counter. When you do get to taste the luscious fruit, you may not want to share with your neighbors, after all.
Save the Dates

Tropical Agricultural Development I: The Basics
June 2-6, 2014

Get Into Gardening Event
Saturday, June 14, 2014

Tropical Agricultural Development I: The Basics
July 28–August 1, 2014

Tropical Agricultural Development II: Underutilized Tropical Crops
August 11–15, 2014

ECHO West Africa French Forum
September 22-26, 2014

Health, Agriculture, Culture and Community Workshop
September 29–October 3, 2014

ECHO East Africa Highlands Symposium - Burundi
October 29-31, 2014

21st Annual ECHO International Agriculture Conference
November 18-20, 2014

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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiKy4LvIKR4
http://kaywa.me/IVMf4

Download the Kaywa QR Code Reader (App Store & Android Market) and scan your code!