



# GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

E-news of the Global Food Initiative

[www.brethren.org/gfi](http://www.brethren.org/gfi)

Spring 2020



## Honduras: Greenhouse Progress

In 2018, the GFI provided a grant of \$10,000 to Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) towards the construction of a greenhouse in Celaque (western Honduras) for the purpose of providing vegetable seedlings to local farmers. PAG owns the greenhouse, but a women's group operates the seedling production as a business. The total cost of the project was \$65,000 with PAG providing the balance of the funds from other sources. PAG staff work closely with all aspects of production including business training for the women and training in growing techniques for farmers.



Unusually strong winds damaged the structure shortly after it was completed, and a second emergency grant of \$3,500 was needed to get operations back on track. Vegetable seedlings are for sale to more than 450 farmers in 27 communities. Crops include cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber, head lettuce, pepper, and tomato. Farmers in formerly isolated farming communities are now able to sell produce as far away as grocery stores in the United States and as close as domestic programs that support local school lunches, thanks to support from PAG and its staff.

---

Church of  
the Brethren  
1451 Dundee Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120

800 323-8039,  
ext. 332.

Jeff Boshart,  
Editor

---

## Nigeria: International Farming Exchange

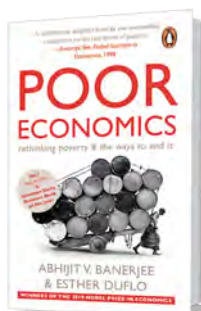
In December 2019, leaders representing Church of the Brethren bodies from around the world met at the headquarters of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) in Kwarhi, Nigeria. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss hopes and dreams for a global Church of the Brethren. One afternoon was set aside for a tour of the activities of EYN's Agriculture Department.

As most of the gathered leaders were also farmers, the farm walk turned into a vigorous exchange of ideas and information about agricultural practices from each of the countries represented (Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Rwanda, Spain, United States, and the host country, Nigeria). The GFI works with partners in each of these countries. It became clear that one thing that unites Brethren from around the globe is a desire to grow and share food with those in need in their communities.



## Rwanda: Pig Farm

Building on a successful potato growing project with the Batwa people near Gisenyi, Rwanda, the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda is now undertaking a new pig farming venture to serve its neighbors. According to the leader of the project, Etienne Nsanzimana, pork is in great demand in the region, and those who are trained in the proper care of pigs will be able to make a good living. The GFI provided a \$20,000 grant for the construction of a central piggery where breeding adults will be kept. Offspring from the farm will be given to families in the community, along with support and training from experienced agronomists.



## Book Review: Poor Economics

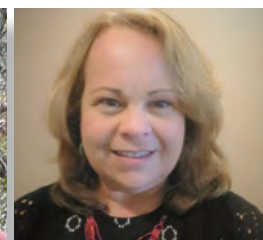
What is the best way to reduce poverty? Some economists argue that international aid should be increased, while others believe aid should be decreased. The authors of *Poor Economics*, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, are the 2019 Nobel Prize winners in economics. They conducted randomly controlled studies across the globe to determine which approaches and policies are the most effective in reducing poverty. This book explores how poor people think and act when it comes to healthcare, education, and agricultural expenditures. Policy makers, large international donors, development workers, and church leaders who wish to be more effective in their efforts would do well to read this book and heed their advice.

## Review Panel Changes

A special thank you to Jennifer Hosler for five years of service on the GFI grant review panel. Jennifer is stepping down to focus on completing her doctoral studies in community psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She also will continue her duties as a bi-vocational minister at Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren, among other ministry interests.



Jennifer Hosler



Linda Dows-Byers

The GFI welcomes Linda Dows-Byers as the newest member of the grant review panel. Linda currently serves as youth director at Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. Linda served for two years with her husband, David, in the Bahamas with Methodist Habitat (BMH) on the island of Eleuthera. At the BMH campus, Linda coordinated a composting and vegetable gardening effort. Before working in vocational ministry, Linda was self-employed as a coordinator for international exchange students in addition to working as a freelance artist and graphic designer.

## GFI Year-end Totals

The GFI wishes to thank all of those who donated to support agriculture projects around the world in 2019. The total income was \$262,217.59. Thirty-five individual grants totaling \$199,883 helped fund work in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, Spain, and the United States. Domestic partners received \$114,219 and international partners received \$85,664. The largest single grant was \$51,605 for long-term recovery of farmers in Puerto Rico, bringing the 2-year total for Puerto Rico to just under \$88,000.