

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Charity number 800663

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Review for the year ended 30 June 2022



Smallholder farmer marketing potatoes in northern Rwanda. She is a member of an innovation platform facilitating access to inputs, extension advice and markets

Photo credit: David Radcliffe



THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)
Reference and Administrative Information for the year ended 30 June 2022

<u>Registration Charity No:</u>	<u>800663</u>
Trustees	Dr John Wibberley (Chairman) Dr Paul Harding (Vice-Chairman) Dr Elizabeth Jane Warham (General Secretary) Mr Matt Sullivan (Membership) Mr Jim Ellis-Jones (Treasurer)
Contact Address	C/o Montpelier Professional (Galloway) Limited 1 Dashwood Square Newton Stewart DG8 6EQ
Accountants	Montpelier Professional (Galloway) Limited 1 Dashwood Square Newton Stewart DG8 6EQ
Bankers	Barclays Bank Local Business Banking Leicester, LE87 2BB

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION 2021 Trustees report

A. Objectives, Mission, Governance, Trustees and Membership

The Tropical Agricultural Association (TAA) is a unique professional association of individuals, businesses and corporate bodies involved in sustainable agricultural development internationally.

Mission. The Association's mission is *"To advance education, research and practice in agriculture for rural livelihoods and sustainable development."*

Governance. The charity is administered in accordance with its constitution, adopted on 1 December 1988 (registration no 800663).

Trustees and Executive Committee (ExCo) members. The Trustees are supported by TAA's Executive Committee (ExCo), who meet quarterly, often in London, but in the past year this has been entirely virtually using zoom. Trustees and ExCo members are elected or appointed at its Annual General Meetings. Although there is no formal induction programme or training, most Trustees have served the charity for considerable time either as a Trustee or a member of ExCo and serve on other Trusts.

It is the duty of the Trustees as a body to manage the affairs of the charity. As such the Trustees keep under review the major risks to which the Association may be exposed with future strategy and its financial implications taking this into account. A detailed risk assessment undertaken in 2020 has been recently revisited and updated. Declining membership numbers and the associated fall in membership fees remain the major risk factors for the TAA. A major challenge continues to be ensuring that TAA's activities remain relevant to younger members and their willingness to support the Association in the future.

The TAA Trustees and the Executive Committee are charged with the rigorous maintenance of the reputation of the TAA and its TAAF awards. As such ExCo is careful to avoid partisanship in aligning with any controversial agricultural systems, policies or practices, while rigorously reporting and encouraging debate on such topics. At the same time ExCo ensures that TAA's Privacy Policy is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations of 2018.

Membership. At the end of June 2022, the Association had 392 members including 22 Institutional ones, 17 student and awardee members. In addition a few joined as "Introductory Members", this being a category set up in 2019 to encourage younger members. Over 250 individuals contribute through donation but do not receive membership benefits.

B. Activities and Achievements (July 2021 – June 2022)

TAA's activities, as a charitable common interest group of persons and institutions includes:

1. **Networking and information exchange through annual lectures, Regional and international branch activities and specialist working groups**

Annual Lectures

- **The Hugh Bunting Memorial lecture** included a seminar at the University of Reading School of Agriculture, Policy & Development (SAPD), which took place on Tuesday 19th October 2021

on “Reading Roots”, followed by the Lecture given by Dr Jim Godfrey OBE, Hon DSc, FloD, FRAgS on “Potatoes – an international buried treasure”.

- **The Ralph Melville lecture** normally held in September took place in June 2022 given by Professor John Morton of NRI Greenwich in Portcullis House Westminster, the subject being “Developing-Country Livestock Producers: as the Rich World Turns Away from Meat”
- **The 2021 TAA AGM** was held at the Farmers’ Club, London, on 30 November at which awards were made and the Development Agriculturalist of the Year made a presentation

2. Regional Branches and specialist groups

London and the South East: The following talks, discussions and social events took place as the pandemic eased led by

- Dr Richard Baines on “The contribution of grassland to the human diet” in November
- Dr Alan Bullion on “Carbon and regenerative farming” in March
- Dr Bryan Dyer on “The management of sustainability in pariah crops especially oil palm” in May

Southwest

- An informative TAA SW Field visit on Cattle in Farming Systems took place in March 2022 to Bristol University Veterinary School & Kingshay Farming Trust, Somerset, with internationally-applicable messages
- Summer field visits deferred from 2020 were held during July 2021, and included a visit to North Somerset featuring Farm diversification and coastal flood defences.
- A face-to-face conference on *Climate & Agriculture* was held on October 26th at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester – with output sent to COP26 in November, and to other policymakers. Two members of TAA ExCo subsequently attended COP 26 and TAA has become an ally of the Climate Shot initiative, co-sponsored by FCDO and CGIAR, that was launched at the Conference.

3. Communications, publicity and advocacy through the Journal, news alerts, website and the APPG on Agriculture & Food for Development

TAA’s Journal - Agriculture for Development continues to provide an important service for members raising the Association’s credibility and impact. As evidence of this, two new members of the Editorial team have been confirmed, one a retired senior staff member of IFAD, the other a former senior staff member of FAO, now working back in the UK. Two editions of Ag4Dev were published during the year, and a third is at proof stage, with publication expected in September 2022. It has still been available to members as both hard and electronic copy with the on-line copy being available to the public at no cost four months after publication (i.e. when the subsequent issue of the Journal is published). This will change after Ag4Dev45, when all issues of the journal will only be published in electronic copy as is already the case with many other journals, and making considerable cost savings.

- Ag4Dev43, the Summer 2021 issue of the Journal, was an open issue attracting a range of contributions from TAA members.
- Ag4Dev44 (published in spring 2022) was a particularly well-received special issue on the life and legacy of Hugh Brammer, a long-term TAA member, published and edited in partnership

with the Bangladesh-based BRAC Institute for Governance and Development, boasting a diverse range of articles on soil science, livelihoods and development policies in the sub-region contributed by longstanding members of TAA, former colleagues and admirers now working internationally in agriculture for development and BRAC's own staff based in Bangladesh. TAA participated in a joint launch event for this issue hosted by BIGD, in which the Director of ICCCAD also participated. This issue was co-edited with David Dent with contributions from BIGD Director, Imran Matin.

- Ag4Dev45 (Summer / autumn 2022), the last issue to be published in hard copy, is also an open issue. It has attracted a range of contributions from TAA members and non-members alike. This trend is set to continue as the journal attracts more readers from outside the TAA family.

TAA's website (www.taa.org.uk). This continues to provide a focus for communication with members, with "email alerts" on latest news, topical issues, publications, job vacancies and events. It is distributed to members weekly and has created positive feedback. While much of the website is open access, it includes sections containing information restricted to members.

TAA's membership data base which is integrated with the website has been upgraded for greater security and automated actions, as well as being fully GDPR-compliant.

4. Professional development through TAA's award fund, careers' support for younger members, and TAA honours

TAA's Tropical Agriculture Award Fund (TAAF) is funded by donations by TAA as well as individual members and non-members. Thanks to the Wye Agricola Fund, Bill Reed family and others who wish to remain anonymous. These awards in the form of small grants enable young professionals to gain overseas work experience in international development and in the case of MSc students to conduct their dissertation projects in developing countries. At the same time the TAAF committee provides a valuable mentoring service for awardees.

Four MSc awardees were supported to conduct research during 2021 (two carrying out remote research as a way of overcoming the Covid 19 travel issues). In the 2021-2022 academic year five MSc awards were made totalling £5,150 to students now able to travel again to conduct research in Brazil, Kenya, Mozambique and Sri Lanka. In addition, two post-graduates were supported in conducting longer term assignments and research in Papua New Guinea and Tanzania. Unfortunately, the PNG based awardee's research into novel soil techniques was cut short due to illness. The Tanzania based awardee, however was able to both learn and contribute much whilst based with a non-profit organisation in Moshi enabling the organisation to implement environmental education initiatives and develop a riverine tree planting strategy in the local area.

As life gradually gets back to normal we hope to resume the returned awardee one-day workshops which proved of great value in terms of networking and careers advice pre the pandemic.

Honours and awards

- The 'Development Agriculturalist Award of 2021' was made to Dr Geoff Hawtin for leadership in development and implementation of plant genetic resources policy and establishment of institutions for germplasm research and conservation to safeguard global food security

- **Aditi Solanki Mali** received the **Young Development Agriculturalist of the Year (International)** Award for pioneering efforts in engaging urban planners and citizens in the value of urban food systems to service dietary needs of urban dwellers in India. Unfortunately, no nominations were made for the **Young Development Agriculturalist (UK)** so no award was possible in this category.
- **Awards of Merit** were made to **Jim Waller** for technical editorship of the TAA Journal 'Agriculture for Development' during its evolution from the Newsletter, and for his support to the London and SE Branch, and to **David Wendover** for stalwart support to the SW Branch and to the Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust, serving as Chairman and Trustee.

C. Looking to Next Year (July 2022 – June 2023)

Individual membership fees decreased from the 1st of July 2022 but despite communication to members, considerable have not reduced their subscriptions in line with the decreases and others remain as donation members.

At the time of drafting this report, the COVID pandemic, although easing, does mean that some Association's activities remain curtailed. However, It is intended that these will be resumed in full as the year progresses.

1. **Networking and information exchange** includes lectures and TAA branch activities.

Annual Lectures

- Several members participation in the APPG meeting at the House of Lords chaired by Lord Cameron of Dillington in July 2022 on the theme of *The Global Food Crisis & Africa*.
- The Hugh Bunting Memorial Lecture scheduled for October 25th at SAPD, University of Reading to be given by Dr Christie Peacock, CBE, Hon DSc, FRSB, Frags on the theme of Entrepreneurship via small businesses for Development drawing on her wide experience via *Farm Africa* and now with *Sinai*.
- The 2022 TAA AGM is planned to be held at the Farmers' Club, in London on 1st December where awards will be presented and the Development Agriculturalist of the Year will be invited to make a presentation.

TAA Group activities

- The TAA SW Group in July 2022 completed an excellent Summer visit to Dorset and Hampshire focussing on Water Management integrated with profitable, responsible Food Production. The Group plans its autumn conference at RAU Cirencester for October 19th on *The Importance of Livestock in Farming Systems*.
- The London and SE group has a series of planned Curry Club talks.

2 TAA Branches and specialist working groups

- The London and SouthEast Group will host a Curry Club talk on September 6th 2022 on Climate Change Adaptation for Smallholder Farmers
- The SouthWest Group held a field visit on farm diversification and flood defences in July; a conference is planned for 26 October at the RAU, Cirencester, on Climate and Agriculture;

3 Communication, Publicity and advocacy

The Journal. Rapidly escalating costs of producing and posting the Journal to members has meant that a decision was made to publish only on line with the next issue being the last hard copy journal: In the pipeline are:

- Ag4Dev45, an Open Issue: Much of the material for Ag4Dev45 has been received and the remaining few items are being drafted. It is on schedule for publishing in September. This will be the final issue of the journal to be available in both electronic form and hard copy.
- Ag4Dev46, a Special Issue on Conservation Agriculture. This is well under way and will be published in February 2023. It will be the first issue of the journal to be only available electronically, online as a PDF.

Evidence and advice for policy: TAA has in the past supported the APPG-A&FD, which was originally established with support from TAA's institutional members. However it became non-operational during the pandemic and is only now beginning to become active again.

TAA's Website. The website continues to be improved and made useful to members.

4 Professional development

The Tropical Agriculture Award Fund (TAAF): Although funds for TAAF awards are available, Covid restrictions over the past two years have made it very difficult for students to travel until very recently. Fortunately this situation is now changing.

At the same time through contact with relevant university departments over the winter, it is hoped that there will be renewed student interest in awards, coupled with the ability to travel during the key dissertation 'window' of summer 2022 and 2023.

Honours and accreditation: At the time of writing nominations for awards are being received..

Acknowledgements: The Trustees express their thanks for the support provided by ExCo, the TAAF Committee, Convenors of the UK Regional Branches and Specialist Groups and the organisers of our International Branches. In addition, the Trustees also thank the many TAA members who have contributed ideas, supported the Ag4Dev Journal and participated in the Association's activities.

Executive Committee members

President: Andrew Bennett
Chair: John Wibberley
Vice Chair: Paul Harding
General Secretary: Elizabeth Warham
Treasurer: Jim Ellis-Jones
Membership Secretary: Matt Sullivan
Editor-in-Chief: Karim Hussein
Award Fund Chair: Jane Wilkinson

Institutional Members: Nicola Yates
Website Manager: Matt Sullivan
Honours Chair: David Radcliffe
East Anglia: Vacant
London and South-East: Terry Wiles
North of England: vacant
Scotland: vacant
South-West: Tim Roberts
Land Husbandry Group: Amir Kassam

Environmental Conservation: Vacant
Student membership: Paul Baranowski
International convenors
India: Girish Bharadwaj
Caribbean: Bruce Lauckner
SE Asia: Wyn Ellis
South Pacific: Ravi Joshi
Zambia: Chris Kapembwa

Financial Review

The charity had a surplus of receipts over payments for the year of £7,684 (in 2021 £1,021).

Reserves Policy

It is the trustee's policy to hold reserves of approximately twelve months expenses so that in the event of a significant drop in income the charity can maintain its current level of activities for a reasonable period until replacement funding is obtained. At the year end the charity held unrestricted cash fund of £27,450, which represents more than twelve months unrestricted expenses, before considering further inflows of funds.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees, after approval at the Association's Annual General Meeting..... *on 1st December 2022*

Dr John Wibberley (Chairman)

R. John Wibberley

.....
Jim Ellis-Jones (Treasurer)

Date:

01.12.22.

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 30 June 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Simpson FCA
Chartered Accountants Ireland
Montpelier Professional (Galloway) Limited
1 Dashwood Square
Newton Stewart
DG8 6EQ

Date 29/12/22

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 30 June 2022

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>Receipts</u>					
Membership Subscriptions		-	19,987	19,987✓	17,811
Award Fund Donations		3,400	-	3,400✓	5,000
Other donations		-	10,000	10,000✓	-
Functions - Conference & AGM		-	1,111	1,111✓	-
Bank Interest		-	9	9✓	13
Inland Revenue (Gift Aid)		1,250	1,102	2,352✓	-
Miscellaneous		-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		<u>4,650</u>	<u>32,209</u>	<u>36,859</u>	<u>22,824</u>
 <u>Payments</u>					
Charitable Activities	2	11,071	16,839	27,910	20,660
Governance Costs	3	-	1,265	1,265	1,143
Total Expenditure		<u>11,071</u>	<u>18,104</u>	<u>29,175</u>	<u>21,803</u>
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		-6,421	14,105	7,684	1,021
Bank balance brought forward		45,299	13,345	58,644	57,623
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Bank balance carried forward		<u>38,878</u>	<u>27,450</u>	<u>66,328</u>	<u>58,644</u>

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Bank Balance		
Opening Balance - Current Account	897	1,058
- Deposit Account	57,747	56,565
- Movement in Year	7,684	1,021
	<u>66,328</u>	<u>58,644</u>
Closing Balance - Current Account	2,206	897
- Deposit Account	64,122	57,747
	<u>66,328</u>	<u>58,644</u>
Other Assets		
Liabilities	(300)	(300)
Total Funds	<u>£ 66,028</u>	<u>£ 58,344</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees on

1st December 2022

For and on behalf of the trustees

Dr John Wibberley

Dr John
Wibberley

Mr J Ellis-Jones

Mr J Ellis-
Jones

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2022

1 Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They consist of a summary of all monies received and paid via the bank and in cash by the charity during the financial year, along with a statement of assets and liabilities. No adjustments have been made for any income due but not received, or any expenses incurred but not yet paid at the year end.

2 Charitable Activities

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Journal	12,822	18,468
Shows, Exhibitions, Functions & Conferences	2,286	-
Regional Subventions	-	150
Award Fund Grants & Expenses	11,071	1,134
LendwithCARE	-	-
Biology Society	-	-
UK Forum for All Parliamentary Group	-	-
Internet/web costs	1,731	908
	£ 27,910	£ 20,660

3 Governance Costs

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Insurance	575	586
Accountancy Fees	348	432
ExCo/Meeting	342	1,134
Administration	-	125
	£ 1,265	£ 1,143

4 Trustee Payment

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee or ExCo member. Expenses of £342 were reimbursed to Trustees and ExCo members during the year.

The charity has Trustee Indemnity Insurance in place

5 Restricted Funds

	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
TAA Award Fund	45,299	4,650	(11,071)	-	38,878
	<u>45,299</u>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>(11,071)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>38,878</u>

The purpose of the TAA Award Fund is to make small grants available to young professionals to gain international development experience.

6 Related Party Transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year, nor the previous year.