

Report of the Agribusiness Meeting at TAA Curry Club Event of the London and SE Group

7th November 2014

Part of the TAA Curry Club event this month included input by Roger Cozens, head of the Agribusiness special interest group. Since January of 2014 Roger has been hosting a monthly lunch time meeting called the Talking Shop enabling sharing tales of travel, successful projects and disasters, topical issues, IT tips, business opportunities and more. Its objectives are to improve networking and to overcome a major problem for those not working in a large organization – the need for regular contact with like-minded consultants.

This has proved really successful with a good number of people attending. As well as sharing information on opportunities for consultancy work it has also led to links with other work in development. Roger Cozens hosted an inward mission of arable farmers from Serbia in June to visit producers, millers and processors of gluten free grain, spelt and rye. Also they visited examples of vegetable box schemes and are keen to develop more links in the field of gluten free production including buckwheat. He has also been working in Kosovo this year as team leader of a World Bank project and was in Nepal in the spring following up regular inputs there.

Roger has links with:-

- International Farm Management Association
- British Expertise
- Organic Issues Group of the NFU
- BIAC International Division.
- FCRN
- TAA corporate members

Current opportunities discussed were:-

- *Stevia* and other cash crop production on a piece of land (800-1000 ha) in the Tamale area of northern Ghana
- Dairy and arable production in Algeria
- Soya production and processing in Egypt
- Value chain analysis and chief technical adviser on a REDD project in Sierra Leone
- Arable production in Ethiopia.
- Cocoa and cotton production in Cote d'Ivoire
- Organic production in Malawi
- Gluten free grain production in Serbia

The plan to develop this group is to continue regular monthly meetings around the country

and to set up email connections with interested members to identify opportunities for consultancy. Highlights will be posted on the TAA website and we plan to link with the data base of consultants and CV's. At this meeting we had excellent feedback from Matt Sullivan of Farm Africa and Nigel Melican from Teacraft. We are also working on ways to link with the Land Husbandry Group to promote Conservation Agriculture with Ian Lane.

The location for regular Agribusiness monthly meetings is the Bowd Inn, Bowd Cross Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0ND. This is a lovely venue, good food and easy to find, we have moved from the Exeter venue as it was found to be difficult to access in the city centre and was too far to the west of the country. Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month, 12.30 for 13.00.

For more information please contact: Roger Cozens 07811285832 email:- agribusiness@taa.org.uk