



FARMERS FEED  
COMMUNITIES

PAGE 3

*Following Jesus where the need is greatest*

# FOOD SHOULD NOT BE A LUXURY

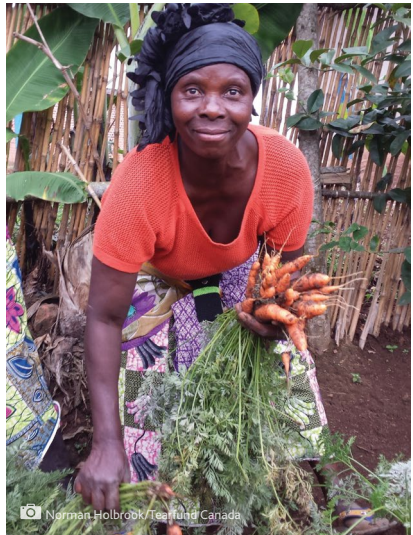
Before God rested from the task of creation, He provided for His children, giving “every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it” for food. For many of our brothers and sisters around the world, traditional farming practices, changing weather, and war prevent them from enjoying this most important provision that we all need to survive.

When you support Tearfund Canada, you are helping people access what God has already made available. Whether it is introducing swamp rice farming in West Africa or conservation agriculture in the dry arid climates of East Africa, new agricultural practices help poor smallholder farmers produce more food for their families - sometimes as much as 5x what they produced before training from our church-based partners!

These kinds of results have caught the attention of the Canadian government. Through the Canadian Foodgrains bank, they have asked the Church to spread conservation agriculture even faster, by training 50,000 farmers in East Africa by 2020! It is exciting for us to be part of seeing so many more people secure in meeting their most basic need - food.

We believe God's creation CAN support his children; no one should go hungry or be malnourished. With your support, the Church - in Canada and overseas - is bearing witness to this goodness of God.

Thank you for your partnership.



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CANADA



AGRICULTURE  
PROGRAMS HELP

16,017  
FARMERS

IN 6 COUNTRIES

AGRICULTURE PROJECTS IN:

DR Congo (CA)  
Kenya (CA)  
Sierra Leone

India  
Tanzania\*  
Ethiopia\*

GIFTS  
HAVE

3X  
IMPACT

Tanzania and Ethiopia are part of the CFGB scaling up agriculture partnership with program dollars multiplied 3x by a government of Canada grant.



Global Affairs  
Canada

“CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE IS GREAT FORM OF FARMING BECAUSE IT COSTS SO LITTLE, IT PROTECTS AND BUILDS THE SOIL AND HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT. MOST FARMERS DOUBLE THEIR YIELD WITHIN TWO YEARS.”



**NORMAN HOLBROOK**

Program Officer, East Africa & India

## OUR APPROACH

Local Christian Organizations train farmers in new methods, that increase yields, promote sustainable farming and help generate more income upon harvest. Methods like conservation agriculture and swamp rice farming allow farmers to produce more food for their labour.







Wayne Johnson/Tearfund

Mary and Silas, show Tearfund's agricultural specialist Norman Holbrook how they've implemented the training from local church partners.

## SHARING THE GOOD NEWS THROUGH AGRICULTURE

Mary and Silas Konya live, with their four children in the village of Gawaye, in the Dodoma region of Tanzania, part of the dry central plateau that receives erratic rains, less than the annual rainfall in Manitoba. Silas is a pastor serving his congregation, while they farm a 6 acre plot to make a living.

In recent years, rainfall has not only been low, but it has become more unpredictable. Their soil was getting more and more depleted, producing less food for them and their 4 children.

Tearfund Canada has worked with a local church partner in Tanzania for years, offering agricultural training in the Dodoma region. Training local farmers in conservation agriculture improves yields, builds resilience to the

harsh climate and improves degraded soils.

When the government of Canada asked members of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to train 50,000 farmers in the conservation agriculture method by 2020 - Tearfund enthusiastically agreed to be part of this ambitious project.

In 2013, Mary and Silas were one of the first farming families trained as part of the project. The Konyas improved their farm yields through minimum soil disturbance, protecting the soil by mulching and rotating their crops in order to see the full potential of their land. They tried it on a ¼ acre plot in 2014 and the land began to flourish. They continued through the drought

year of 2015, when conservation agriculture fields were the only ones producing any crops.

Silas tells members of the church about the benefits of conservation agriculture, and Mary was chosen as a local trainer by our partners. Her job is to use her success story to spread the word about conservation agriculture to her neighbours. Mary is a natural! She has recruited up to 103 farmers in one year to practice conservation agriculture and better meet their needs for food and income.

**“NOW THAT I HAVE SO MANY RECRUITS TO VISIT I HAVE TO PLAN OUT MY WHOLE DAY FROM EARLY MORNING TO SEE THEM REGULARLY.”**

-Mary Konya

Now as a team, Silas and Mary are going beyond preaching to extending practical love and care to their neighbours. They are bringing good news of God's care through agriculture!



# MANITOBA FARMERS COME TOGETHER TO END GLOBAL HUNGER

In the Book of Matthew, Jesus says *'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.'*

Retired farmer Jake Hamm's response to that call is a very logical one. He responds by doing what he knows best—farming. More specifically, he provides leadership to the Whitemud growing project near Gladstone, Manitoba.

Through the project, local farmers plant, tend and harvest a crop. Once harvested, they sell the crop and donate the proceeds to Tearfund Canada's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank to be used in the work of ending hunger.

**“WHATEVER WE HAVE GIVEN TO US, WE HAVE A DUTY TO SHARE. IT’S WHAT GOD’S PEOPLE DO.”**

Since the project began in 2013, the group has raised more than



Roland Unger of Arden Manitoba is the chair of the Whitemud growing project and helps farm the land.

**“IT’S WHAT GOD’S  
PEOPLE DO”**  
-JAKE HAMM



\$250,000 for Tearfund Canada's account at the Foodgrains Bank. For Hamm, the project is a way to live out his faith. Talking to the Foodgrains Bank's Shaylyn McMahon, he explains that it is also an opportunity to involve non-farming communities in efforts to end hunger. He notes that local churches and community members will raise money through offerings and events to help cover the costs of things like seed and fertilizer.

**“THE PROJECT PRESENTS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-FARMING COMMUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED, WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER TO HELP COMMUNITIES IN NEED OVERSEAS.”**

There are about 250 growing projects across Canada that raise money for Tearfund Canada and other members of Canadian Foodgrains Bank. **To learn more, visit [myvirtualacre.ca](http://myvirtualacre.ca) or [www.foodgrainsbank.ca](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca).**



Wally and Eunice Litwinow



Wally's backyard wheat now stands over 2 ft high.

## A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

Wally Litwinow, is a suburban contractor who decided to get involved in growing projects too. He joined the Kernels of Hope, Virtual Acre farm group and grows wheat on a small strip of soil at his home! He responds to curiosity about his unusual garden by challenging members of his community to make donations and has raised over \$1000 so far. Funds raised go to Tearfund's account at the Canadian Foodgrains bank (CFGB) to help end hunger. Wally plans to use his wheat "harvest" to raise even more money to help farmers overseas.

You can become a virtual farmer and help smallholder farmers access God's provision too.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?



Your \$300 donation purchases seeds, tools & fertilizer to grow crops on an acre of land in Canada.



The crops are sold for about \$500. Donations deposited into our account at the CFGB are multiplied up to 4x.



Just like the crops have grown, your donation has grown to help 9 farming families in Africa or Asia increase their harvest.

GET INVOLVED NOW AT [MYVIRTUALACRE.CA](http://MYVIRTUALACRE.CA)



# PRAY WITH US

- Praise God for the thousands of farmers being reached with conservation agriculture training. Pray that Tearfund and other Canadian Foodgrains Bank members will reach the target of helping 50,000 farmers, produce more from their lands
- Pray that churches hosting World Relief Sunday this fall will touch the hearts of their congregations. Pray that God will use this opportunity to ignite a passion for the poor across Canada.
- Pray that Canadian farmers taking part in Tearfund's My Virtual Acre program will have a bountiful harvest, lifting up small-scale farmers overseas.
- Pray for the fruitful harvest in South Sudan this fall, helping to relieve widespread hunger and enrich local economies.

[TEARFUND.CA/PRAY](http://TEARFUND.CA/PRAY)


*"YOU CAUSE THE GRASS TO GROW FOR THE LIVESTOCK AND PLANTS FOR MAN TO CULTIVATE, THAT HE MAY BRING FORTH FOOD FROM THE EARTH."*


-PSALM 104:14


**tearfund**

CANADA

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World Relief Canada

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