

Zukunft durch nachhaltige Landwirtschaft – Eine Erfolgsstory aus Simbabwe

A future based on sustainable agriculture – a success in Zimbabwe

**Report on an exchange visit with Julious Piti and
Kumbirai Dube in Switzerland, 24.05.2018-
08.06.2018**



In May and June 2018 two small-scale farmers active in PORET and the Chaseyama Permaculture Club (CPC) visited Switzerland. This exchange visit served the sharing of experiences and inspirations about how to bring about an ecological turnaround and sustainable development based on the engagement of communities.

Fepa, PORET and CPC: Report on exchange visit Switzerland 2018

Editorial

More than Ecology



Before this exchange with fepa project partners PORET and CPC, we had long reflected on whether the word «permaculture» should feature in our communication. Would it look as if fepa called for an «esoteric» get-together of freaks on things that might be lifestyle questions, rather than real bread-and-butter issues that are touching on human rights and are relevant to humankind? The two weeks in Switzerland soon proved that it was right to go beyond agroecology or organic farming and that it was possible to raise the social issues and show that ecological issues are intensely linked to social development. Not only as a problem (think of human made climate change, or human-made degradation of land), but also as a way forward: This tour has shown that people in Zimbabwe and in Switzerland can engage in ecological projects, because through such activities we can address central elements of economy and of building stronger communities and therefore lay the foundations for sustainable livelihoods. We have addressed the practical side of reaching the sustainable development goals, goals that are, nota bene, not set for the Global South only, but also demand real participation of people in the richer north.

I am also happy because we have learnt so much from each other and have seen that there isn't such a thing as a gap between «Europeans, who know it all», and «Africans, who are poor because they are helpless». It has been possible in this exchange to see where all of us contribute

with smart activities and where we can learn from the ways of others. Together we have enjoyed good food and appreciated the cultural richness that makes these food systems. We have also learnt about the ingredients to good agro-ecological practice, for example the complex system of the «forest gardens» that PORET promotes, or the potential in indigenous and local knowledge or the need to rebuild producer and consumer relations after the industrial agriculture has severed our mutual trust, and we allowed it to drift towards unchecked exploitation of labour and nature.

I have been inspired by the constant manner in which Julious Piti and Kumbirai Dube explained their work and how it effects change. Faced with the most diverse kind of questions and suggestions, they boldly defended their essentially bottom-up process of building the agroecology work with patience and perseverance and in constant conversation and dialogue with the people who are part of your landscape and community. «No person is a blank slate, and no thing doesn't know anything at all»: this credo by Piti and Dube was strong and, together with a constant willingness to building skills and capacities of human beings in holistic ways, showed the essential humanity in their approach. Knowledge, communal care for your environment, and sharing of the surplus cannot be forced on people, but you can prove how they make life better. Piti and Dube contended that you cannot just teach by books, but you must live in practice. You can start with a small common denominator and build from there. You can start to work together and from this observe and see how each of the participants can grow as much as the community. I am confident that this exchange visit contributed to the ethos and practice of production without destruction and of respect for the earth and for humans, and towards sharing the surplus. At fepa, we don't call it permaculture, we call it development.

I hope you enjoy reading our report on these two weeks of exchange on our work towards our common future.

Marcel Dreier, Geschäftsleiter fepa

Report on the Exchange visit

Activities and key lessons

Friday, 25th May – Arrival in Rehetobel

On Friday, 25.05.2018 Julious Piti arrived from Austria, where he had meetings with a funder interested in supporting the establishment of a primary school building on PORET site. Kumbirai Dube (PORET volunteer and project officer), flew directly from Harare, although with some delay. Piti and Dube were welcomed by Roger Morgenthaler (Environmental Engineer, former intern at PORET), Margreth Holzer (Permaculture Trainer from Permakultur Akademie in den Alpen, funding partner of PORET), and Marcel Dreier (fepa) at Brigitt Baumgartner's home in Rehetobel. Brigitt Baumgartner has been at PORET working mainly with parents of the pre-school children from September to November 2017 as a fepa volunteer.

The day and the morning of the following Saturday served to discuss the program, prepare presentations, and not least for a first introduction to Switzerland for Kumbirai Dube for whom this was the first day in Europe/overseas. We discussed some basics of Swiss agricultural systems (e.g. drainage rather than water scarcity, mechanization, pressure to scale up in commercial production, organic produce market aspects, animal husbandry systems, forest management).



Dinner with Julious and Kumbirai «Raclette» at Brigitt's home in Rehetobel.

Saturday, 26th May – Heiden Festival

The modern folk festival in Heiden invited our guest to the festival and we used the opportunity to dance and get in touch with modern and traditional expressions of rural culture and society.



Traktorkestar playing a Polka at Heiden Festival

Sunday, 27th May – Exchange visit at Kurt Forster

Kurt Forster is a Doyen of Permaculture in Switzerland. The author of several books and the seasoned practitioner at his home in Herisau invited a dozen of guests for a tour and discussion in his garden. His achievements are impressive and helped those from fepa and Zimbabwe who were not yet so much into the details of permaculture in Switzerland to understand some of the particularities of the context. Equally important was to experience the commonalities between permaculturalists.



Kurt Foster with Julious and Kumbirai at his home in Herisau.

Sunday, 27th May – Meeting with Swiss supporter of Mubaya Ecovillage in Zimbabwe

The Mubaya Ecovillage is a Zimbabwean run project that seeks to establish an «Ecovillage». Julious Piti was asked to give some advice on project implementation. He suggested the project be built slowly, and that he will go and visit the ecovillage project for an exchange. Two way visits are probably better and funding is required.

Monday, 28th May – Meeting with Lichtensteinscher Entwicklungsdienst (LED)

We met Ute Mayer of LED at the offices in Schaan. LED has a very strong presence in Zimbabwe and notably through its agroecology projects. The visit offered an opportunity to exchange on approaches and current trends. It was also agreed that PORET would visit LED offices in Harare and discuss how the network and exchange for mutual learning between LED partners in Zimbabwe can be established. A first meeting in Zimbabwe has already taken place on Piti's return to Chaseyama via Harare. It emerged from the discussion that regional networks (such as PELUM) and national bodies, (such as ZIMSOFF) are active and that they have an important role to play especially in top level advocacy. While they rely on local activism and farmer organisations to implement agroecology projects, they can strengthen the local initiatives by networking and pushing for policies fostering agroecology.

We also identified that an exchange with the Tanzanian partners of LED (for example, SAT) could be productive, because of similarities in approach and also because Julious Piti has an expertise of two years as an agroecology project implementer in Tanzania. Tanzania has been a focus country of fepa for a long time. SAT is a partner to Biovision (with whom fepa has already started the discussion on such an exchange, funding has still to be secured).

In the presentation, it became clear that the number of participating farmer households in Chaseyama has risen from 68 to 215 within the last 18 months. Progress has been achieved with farming extension workers (as the local arm of government policies) who slowly change towards supporting agroecology ideas and approaches in the wake of trainings and discussions with the farmers.

On the way back to Rehetobel, we visited the impressive medieval buildings at Werdenberg and also got an informative tour about current trends and prices of small agricultural machines at Schwendener fges AG.

Monday, 28th May – Presentation of PORET in Rehetobel



At the Rehetobel event in Appenzell Ausserrhoden

In Rehetobel, the focus of the public event really was to present the context and activities of PORET. Roughly 40 people from different walks of life attended and showed a great interest in the work of PORET. Since Brigitt had volunteered at the pre-school attached to PORET, the role of education was highlighted too: 1. you ought to value and build knowledge about sustainable agricultural and resource protection with the small ones, and 2. any education must always involve integrating parents and grown-ups. It became very clear that even where it seems that PORET is only about agriculture and production, or the transformation of degraded land, in fact the essence of this project is education and building skills and capacities of human beings.

Tuesday, 29th May – Visit and Speech at ZHAW

At the Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandete Wissenschaften (ZHAW) Julious Piti, Kumbirai Dube and David Giger presented an inspiring talk on the practicalities and importance of agroecology in the Global South and especially in Zimbabwe. The speech was on the occasion of the graduation of students of the module on «Biologische Landwirtschaft». The discussions with students showed that the example in Zimbabwe is inspirational. On the other hand it was impressive for the Zimbabweans to see how much agroecology is already part of the curriculum of higher learning institutions in Switzerland. There is progress in this area in Zimbabwe too but Piti and Dube urge these linkages to be strengthened not least through the agroecology networking and lobbying associations.



Discussion with students at the ZHAW campus in Wädenswil

The visit to the gardening and learning fields and nurseries at ZHAW campus in Wädenswil were a good ground for exchanges on how to approach and how to do things. The graduation party gave a chance to discuss with students about the possibilities to work/practice at the PORET training centre in Chaseyama and to eat the chicken that had been raised by the students as part of their training in organic farming practices. A report by ZHAW available on:

<https://www.zhaw.ch/de/lsvm/studium/bachelor/bachelor-in-umweltingenieurwesen/berichte-aus-dem-studium/detailansicht/news-single/bioforum-2018-studierende-treffen-permakulturisten-aus-simbabwe/>



In the vegetable garden at the ZHAW campus

Tuesday, 29th May – Public Event at Evangelische Kirchgemeinde Horgen

In Horgen, roughly 30 people attended a public talk of Julious Piti and Kumbirai Dube at the Kirchgemeindehaus. We started the meeting with a small reception outside the building and then discussed for two hours about the work of PORET and its implications on a global scale: the need for us to work on the issues of climate change and sustainable food systems altogether. We ended the evening with a joint meal at a local restaurant, which gave the opportunity to discuss e.g. the project of a Zimbabwean medical doctor about the production of traditional medicinal plants.



Wednesday 30th May-Visit and public event in Zürich

On Wednesday, we travelled to the northern agglomeration of Zürich, where a collective of consumers and producers called «Meh als Gmües» runs a vegetable garden project caters for roughly 250 households with more than 60 sorts of organically grown vegetables. We enjoyed a series of tours through the fields (passing the agriculture research institute Agroscope on the way), joined the group of children who tend to their own gardens, and then had joined a public tour through the vegetable production in the former flower nursery. In the evening we shared a meal followed by a long discussion based on the presentation of their work in Zimbabwe by Piti and Dube.



Frank of «Meh als Gmües» in discussion with Julious

The audience was very interested, this time mostly listeners had a high awareness and practice of agroecology. The discussion profited from the presence of members of the Permakultur.ch network as well as many others with a deep interest in sustainability issues. Overall, this discussion was impressive as it showed the high levels of engagement for a sustainable change both in Switzerland and Zimbabwe, from the level of producers up to initiatives on the national political level. Still, the conclusion by Piti was that with much love and concrete work for nature and mankind, the project «Meh als Gmües», as it has shown in practice, is truly promoting permaculture's spirit.



Discussions at «Meh als Gmües»

Friday, 1st June – Tour and exchange with bio-dynamic grain cultivator Peter Kunz, Feldbach

In a wonderful location at the lake of Zürich, Peter Kunz's organisation develops seeds for organic farming. The visit was of great interest to Piti and Dube. Seed activities (seed sovereignty, promotion of local seeds, exchange, testing and development of seed varieties with drought resistance and adapted to local environment) are of central importance to agroecological practices at Chaseyama. This visit showed the immense work and intellectual value invested in local seed and food systems. The development of a new seed variety takes at least 12 years! The scientific approach (trials, grading and choice of grains) and the storage facilities were both inspiring and lay the ground for comparing practices. From our side, it was interesting to hear that seed systems are still local to a certain extent, or even national, and that there is great potential for international cooperation to produce better seed that is not controlled by only one or two multinational corporations.



Kumbirai Dube in discussion with staff from Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz in Feldbach.

Friday, 1st June – Meeting with FIBL

We missed our first appointment with FIBL at Frick (in fact we arrived exactly 24 hours late due to a mix up of the dates during the planning process at fepa). Luckily, it was possible to meet one of the experts of FIBL in Zürich the day after. Irene Kadzere is a Zimbabwean with a wide experience in agroecological research. We had an exchange not only on PORET's work with farmers and the context for this in Zimbabwe, but also about the advantages and practicalities of documentation, monitoring and research. We shall keep this topic open, since Kadzere, fepa and PORET have a joint interest. Piti made a strong argument that research must be done on a senior level in order to really be able to contribute additional value to the knowledge that is already within the farmer community.

Friday, 1st June – Meeting with Stiftung Drittes Millennium and Leopold Bachmann Stiftung

We had good learning experiences with representatives of these two foundations who have a wide network and experience with project partners engaging in agroecology. The question of how to make a larger impact on society kicked off discussions on holistic approaches driven by the so-called «beneficiaries» themselves.

Understanding implementation as an art of producing impact based on flexible and smart project tools as well as leading in practice rather than teaching in theory were felt as common ground for PORET, fepa and the two foundations. Piti and Dube were moreover given a number of interesting links to other projects and implementers.

Saturday, 2nd of June – social cohesion and the sustainable use of natural resources

The public event following fepa's AGM highlighted what drew fepa to the topic of ecology: the fact that the health of nature and community are tied together and that that stronger communities can work better towards health of both. At Chasesyama, the cohesion of a community makes the impossible possible. Thus, we were looking for activities in Basel area in order

to learn from each other how to best combine ecology and community in practical activities. Under the motto «Together we are strong, together we can achieve goals», the public event partnered with «Urban Agriculture Basel».



The cooks working in the kitchen

The venue of the event was «Bio Bistro», where, during weekdays, the «Bürgerspital Basel» offers healthy and purely organic food. This now provided an indoor space for presentations and discussions. Additionally, an outdoor area was a perfect fit for the informal part over supper.

The audience of about 30 were mostly members of fepa, nevertheless a number of others with keen interest in the topic attended. Fepa had hoped to attract more outsiders; however, on sunny Saturday afternoon at this time of the year, many were probably working their gardens rather than coming to the old industrial «Gundelinderfeld».



Presentation at the Annual General Meeting

Lena Bloemertz from «Urban Agriculture Basel» (<http://urbanagriculturebasel.ch>) presented on networking and community building processes. She elaborated on a network cycle wherein different aspects such as recycling, distribution, refineries and celebrating together arose.

Bringing together both presentations, the following discussion focused on ideas and solutions of community engagement on sustainable agriculture, by looking towards a common baseline as a way out of poverty in Zimbabwe and an eye-opener for civil society in Western countries.

The event's highlight was supper, prepared by volunteers from fepa. The vegetables were provided by «Pure Taste» (www.puretaste.ch). The dish served was Sadza, a typical Zimbabwean meal, for which Mr. Dube brought maize meal to Switzerland. The atmosphere created through Zimbabwean food and music took guests and friends onto a short trip to Chaseyama District.



Mealtime after the presentations

Sunday, 3rd of June – Les-Creux-des-Biches

On Sunday, the day for our two guests started with a scenic drive from Grenzach-Wyhlen to Les-Creux-des-Biches in the Jura area of Switzerland. <http://www.creux-des-biches.ch/> This is where Sybille Ott and her team welcomed us warmly with self-produced molasses out of berries grown in their garden. Les Creux-des-Biches is owned by a foundation and has a large permaculture garden. This activity also aimed at connecting with the French-speaking permaculture activists and to learn together through a practical field-day by using our hands to assist Les-Creux-des-Biches with their garden work. More friends and former volunteers from fepa (ca. 12)

joined the group arriving by train since a train station is right across the cooperative's location. After the welcome round, a tour of the permaculturalistic garden followed.



One of the goals of the tour was indeed the verbal exchange of information, though not its primary focus. Sharing practical know-how while working on the field or garden of cooperatives fepa is visiting with its guests is very important, too. That being said, all of us were assigned to different work areas for some little physical work, such as preparing future fields, cleaning the henhouse, harvesting food for lunch (salads, flowers) and weeding the fields. Later, we all sat down for lunch and enjoyed the freshly harvested and prepared food.



In the afternoon, Piti and Dube were involved in an informative exchange during a Permaculture Design training course of the region. Twenty participants of the course and fepa's guests engaged into a sharing of information on permaculture and its values behind it.



Monday, 4th of June – Exchange with Swissaid on GMOs

Small scale farmers and food consumers around the globe are opposing genetically modified organisms. In Bern, we met with Judith Reusser of Swissaid. She briefed the visitors from Zimbabwe on current global trends in GMO policies and resistance to their uncontrolled spread. Judith also provided a list with resources and contacts that might be helpful for the Zimbabwean network. Moreover, the Zimbabweans told their story about the power of agroindustry and the needs and activities of small-scale farmers there.

Monday, 4th of June – Swiss Development Cooperation, SDC

In the afternoon, Julious Piti, Kumbirai Dube and two board members of fepa were invited for an exchange with Carmen Thönnissen and Yves Guinand at the SDC headquarters in Bern. SDC is a supporter of the Seed & Knowledge Initiative in Southern Africa, with which also PORET is taking an active part.

Tuesday, 5th of June – Balmeggberg

Tuesday morning brought us to Emmental, where we visited Balmeggberg. Here, a group of adults and children are working on a rather steep mountain slope, growing their own food and doing agroforestry work. The place is a hotspot for innovation, such as creative techniques in mushroom production and charcoal use for soil betterment.



Toni Küchler showing the garden and forests

We were received by Tony Küchler who was very pleased to have visitors from Zimbabwe, because the first time he heard about permaculture was during his travels in Zimbabwe, roughly two decades ago. A part of the exchange was documented by the Bernese local TV station.

The video can be found on the web:

<https://www.telebaern.tv/118-show-news/24632-episode-dienstag-5-juni-2018/59247-segment-simbabwische-bauern-fuer-kulturellen-austausch-im-trub>



Julious Piti explaining PORET work at Balmeggberg



Balmeggberg: Julious Piti and Kumbirai Dube in a television interview with Telebärn.

<http://www.balmeggberg.ch/permakultur/garten/>

Tuesday, the 5th of June – Schüpfenried

During the late afternoon, we went to «Schüpfenried» where Mr. Fritz Sahli, director and farmer of an organic farm, welcomed us and another group of ca. 15 people with whom we shared the tour. Schüpfenried is one of the largest commercial organic producers in Switzerland. With a focus on grains, and not vegetables, it can do a lot of direct marketing, since there is a shortage of producers of certified organic grains in Switzerland. This in itself was an interesting comparison to Chaseyama, where grains are the staple food too. Biohof Schüpfenried further farms cattle for meat and chicken mostly

for eggs. Fritz Sahli also highlighted the issue of energy in agriculture. Biohof Schüpfenried has invested in solar power on a large scale and can provide for the farm, some additional housing and even charges hybrid cars.

http://www.schuepfenried.ch/hof/front_content.php

Afterwards the guest speakers from Zimbabwe, the fepa friends and other presenters of the evening sat down and had supper together. The food was provided by the «Hofladen und Café Schüpfenried» which is integrated into the farm.



Käthy Hanni, Toni Kuchler and Julia Jawtusch were the guest speakers at this event

At 7pm, the evening event took place at the big hall of the Biohof. More than 100 people came to listen to the speakers Kathy Hänni (an organic farmer who runs a successful direct marketing scheme), Toni Kuchler (Balmeggberg), and Julia Jawtusch (representing Brot für Alle). Piti und Dube (PORET) introduced themselves and the projects they are working for and how it can bring change to rural livelihoods. Ueli Haller chaired the panel discussion and Barbara Müller was the translator for the guests and the audience this evening. The main point of the presentations and panel discussions were about climate change, its impacts on farming due to precipitation, irrigation systems and alternative approaches to the big industrial agriculture. The discussion proved to be inspiring as it made the step from problem to solutions, and brought us all together: producers and consumers from the countryside and the town of Bern.

This event was co-organized in cooperation with Stephan Tschirren of Brot für Alle and a number of local organic producers and environmental movements.



Wednesday, the 6th of June – «Le Montois, Undervelier»

Wednesday once again started with a drive through the landscape of Switzerland from Bern to Undervelier, where we visited the Longo Mai Agriculture Collective at the «Ferme Le Montois». Longo Mai has a long tradition of «going back to the rural» and engages in contemporary debates on the future of agriculture. They are part and parcel of campaigns of global small-scale farmers («Via Campesina») and against the practices of Monsanto and Syngenta of undermining seed sovereignty and sustainable resource management. PORET was presented with a learning video course on seed handling and sovereignty

(<https://www.prolongomai.ch/publikationen/dvd/>)

The apiculture technology was also interesting to PORET. So was the insight into the collective lifestyle, which can, in the eyes of Julius Piti and Kumbirai Dube, offer an inspiration to youth and foster their leadership skills in both cooperation and participation. Longo Mai moreover runs a small network of vending places for agricultural products and crafts, which has become a rich offer as the network members contribute with diverse products.



On the Longo Mai farm «Le Montois»

We had lunch followed by a two-hour discussion on the context in which Chaseyama small-scale farmers work and on the repercussions on a global level. In the evening, Piti and Dube were hosted by Longo Maï in Basel.

<https://www.prolongomaif.ch/les-cooperatives/le-montois/>



Debate between farmers: Longo Maï and PORET

Thursday, the 7th of June – Garden Cooperative and Weltengarten

Die Agronauten (Peter Volz) & Bauer Michael Selinger

From Thursday the 7th of June, we reached out to our neighbours in Southern Germany. Julious Piti, Kumbirai Dube, Carlotta May and Johanna Schwarzer were meeting Peter Volz from the garden cooperative «Die Agronauten» in Bad Krozingen. From there, the group first visited the cooperative «Garten Coop» where Michael Selinger, a farmer from the site, gave a tour. The cooperative owns 11ha of land and distributes food to 260 households.

For lunch, we went to the local market in Bad Krozingen where different dishes were provided by local farmers.

Later, a public event at the «Weltgarten» in Tunsel took place. The owners of the cooperative set up a tent, in which Piti and Dube held their presentation on PORET, while focusing on the Permaculture Club and certain techniques they use/developed to farm the land the most effectively. The presentation's focus was on irrigation systems and the techniques and tools they developed to help water the fields. The presentation was followed by a round of questions and discussions.



The initiator of the cooperative Weltgarten asked about the tools and ideas from PORET to get many people involved in growing food in a sustainable and permacultural manner, bringing up the distinction between sustainable agriculture being a strategy of survival or a lifestyle trend.

From both sides, the leaders showed high interest in an exchange program, to welcome people/students from the PCP in Tunsel and some volunteers from Weltgarten to PORET. The question of how such an exchange could work out remained unanswered that day.

After the informative part, the visitors split up into two groups, one with Piti and the other one with Dube. The groups walked around the fields and contributed with some actual gardening.

<http://www.agronauten.net/weltgarten-tunsel/>
<http://www.gartencoop.org/tunsel/>

Friday, 8th of June – Terre des Hommes Schweiz

On Friday the two guest speakers separated in Offenburg: While Julious Piti continued with Lotta to Berlin for further meetings with WFD and BfdW, Kumbirai Dube and Johanna started back on their journey to Basel. Over lunch, they met Hafid Derbal (program coordinator Zimbabwe & South Africa) at the Soup & Chill in Basel (an initiative where refugees cook their traditional meals and guests are free to pay as much as they want/can). The talk contained the current political situation in Zimbabwe as well as an exchange on their different organizations structures; Terre des Homme and PORET.

Furthermore, the two partners engaged in a talk about interfaces of their working fields. The way in which both approach youth was a major topic and how they are able to benefit from each other's work.

Julious Piti in Germany, 8th to 14th of June

Piti continued his trip to Berlin, where he spoke at the sustainability festival «Weltfest». He also contributed to an expert talk with media representatives on the occasion of World anti-desertification day. In addition, he participated in some high level meetings with Bread for the World and Weltfriedensdienst.

<http://www.wasserraub.de/durst/wueste-in-lebensraum-verwandeln/>
<http://eineweltstadt.berlin/veranstaltungen/supaweltfest-am-traveplatz/>



Julious and Lotta in Berlin before Julious' talk at Weltfest

Thank you!

This tour was rich, not only for the exchange of knowledge, but also for its human side. The interactions were countless and diverse, and profited from the broad approach we had taken: mostly travelling as a team of 5-6 people, the views and ideas we could share with the almost 500 individuals who participated directly in the activities of this exchange visit, were often on a high level of engagement. Hopefully, some of them are the roots of joint activities in the fu-

ture. We would like to thank all of those people who have contributed to this exchange.

Fepa would like to thank Julious Piti and Kumbirai Dube for their time, for sharing their knowledge and for becoming friends with so many people.

Die «Stiftung Dreiklang für ökologische Forschung und Bildung» und die «Fachstelle OeME der reformierten Kirchen Bern Jura Solothurn» haben mit grosszügigen finanziellen Beiträgen die Organisation und Durchführung dieses Austauschbesuches ermöglicht.

Alle beteiligten und im Bericht genannten Institutionen haben mit dem Verzicht auf Honorare und Kosten für Veranstaltungsräumlichkeiten und Technik sowie mit der grosszügigen Verpflegung der Austauschpartner (und oft mit Apéro für VeranstaltungsbesucherInnen) und mit unentgeltlichen organisatorischen Arbeiten wesentlich dazu beigetragen, dass dieser Austauschbesuch in einer solch intensiven Art durchgeführt werden konnte.



Unser Dank gilt also Margareth Holzer, Kurt Forster; Ute Mayer; den Organisatorinnen des Heiden Festivals; der Naturgruppe und der Gemeinde Rehetobel; Jürg Boos und Monika Hutter und den interessierten StudentInnen an der ZHAW; Katharina Morello und der reformierten Kirchgemeinde in Horgen für die Gastfreundschaft; Franziska Löpfe, Frank, Rahel und den vielen Aktiven (und nicht zuletzt den KöchInnen) bei «Meh als Gmües»; allen bei der Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz in Feldbach; Irene Kadzere und dem internationalen Team von FIBL; Martin Zulliger; Manuela Balett; Andreas Seiler und seinem Team vom «BioBistro»; Matteo Leoni von «puretaste» für die feinen Biolebensmittel; Lena Bloemertz und Bastiaan

Frich von «Urban Agriculture Basel»; Sybille und den Freiwilligen in Creux-des-Biches; Udo Schilling und allen Longo Mai Mitglieder auf Le Montois und in Basel; Toni Kuchler und all den lieben Leuten auf dem Balmeggberg; den Biohöfen Schüpfenried und Heimenhaus sowie der ref. Kirchgemeinde in Wohlen; der Agenda 21 und der Natur- und Vogelschutz in Wohlen; unseren süddeutschen Freunden Carlotta May, Peter Volz und Michael Selinger; Judith Reusser von Swissaid; André Affentranger und Xenia Keller von Ecosolidar; Stephan Tschirren und Julia Jawtusch von Brot für Alle, Markus Schär von Commundo; Hafid Derbal von TdH Schweiz und Carmen Thönnissen und Yves Guinand von der DEZA. Sie haben uns an ihrem Wissen teilhaben, an ihren Tischen mitessen und in ihren Räumen diskutieren lassen.



Fepa «Tourbus» on the road!

Die Vorstandsmitglieder und Freiwilligen von fepa haben sich für diesen Austausch auf sehr persönlich Weise engagiert. Ihrem Einsatz ist eine weitere Kostenersparnis zu verdanken. Bis auf eine Nacht konnten sämtliche Unterkünfte privat und unentgeltlich organisiert werden und dies meist ohne dass unsere Gäste auf ein Einzelzimmer verzichten mussten. Auch für begleitende Personen konnten wir so die Kosten reduzieren. Gleiches gilt für die Mobilitätskosten, die wir dank dem zur Verfügung gestellten Kleinwagen minimal halten konnten und dabei fast uneingeschränkte Mobilität genossen.

Fepa study trip to Zimbabwe 2019

From ca 14.-28.04.2019 Barbara Müller and Ueli Haller will guide the third fepa study trip to Zimbabwe. The group will also visit PORET for a few days. If you are interested to participate, please contact info@fepafrika.ch before 30.10.2018.

Der Austauschbesuch und die Veranstaltungen wurden von der fepa Geschäftsstelle in enger Zusammenarbeit mit einem OK aus Freiwilligen organisiert. Johanna Schwarzer, Carlotta May, Susi Zurbuchen, Brigitt Baumgartner, David Giger, Roger Morgenthaler und Ueli Haller haben sich alle mit voller Kraft an der Organisation beteiligt und für ein freundschaftliches und familiäres Klima gesorgt!

Report by: *Marcel Dreier and Johanna Schwarzer. Tatenda Mutema has assisted with editing. The pictures were taken by various people, amongst them Martin Bloch. We were happy to have photos from the PORET site provided by PORET, Christian Furrer, and Eleonora Matare-Ineichen.*

Who is PORET?

PORET is a local Zimbabwean organization dedicated to improving living conditions in Manicaland, Zimbabwe. PORET offers trainings on agroecology. PORET's approach is practical, innovative and rooted in local knowledge.

Who is CPC?

More than 200 small-scale farmer families have organized in the fast-growing Chaseyama Permaculture Club (CPC). Together and on their own land they rebuild the fertility of the land and soil. They are working towards sustainable agriculture that ensures adequate and healthy food production. Together with PORET the CPC works towards a turnaround which strengthens the community, respects nature and overcomes poverty.



CH97 0900 0000 3000 24056



**Ihre Spende
in guten Händen.**