

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Charity number 800663

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Review for the year ended 30 June 2018



Women working in a vegetable market in Tamale, Northern Ghana

Photo: Imogen Bellwood-Howard

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Reference and Administrative Information for the year ended 30 June 2018

Registration Charity No:	800663
Trustees:	Dr Paul Harding (Journal Coordinating Editor and Vice-Chairman) Dr Elizabeth Jane Warham (General Secretary) Mr Keith Virgo (Chairman) Mrs Lin Blunt (Membership Secretary) 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 AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Objectives, Mission, Governance, Trustees and Membership

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

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).

Appointment of Trustees. Trustees are elected or appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Although there is no formal induction programme or training, most trustees have served the charity for considerable time. It is the duty of the Trustees as a body to manage the affairs of the charity. The Trustees keep under review the major risks to which it may be exposed. The Trustees are supported by TAA's Executive Committee (ExCo), meeting quarterly, mainly in London.

Membership. The Association presently has 412 fully paid active members including 30 Institutional ones, the highest number of institutions to date. A further 71 individuals contribute through donation. During the year, 70 individuals and 6 new institutions joined TAA, demonstrating the value of TAA as a professional association.

Activities and Achievements

TAA's achievements during the past year have included:

1. **Proposals for a new Strategy.** Members were consulted by means of a number of group discussions followed by a survey questionnaire to assess attitudes and elicit new ideas for our future. The results were reviewed by ExCo at a strategy workshop, focusing on strengthening what TAA does best. Six Working Groups were established to cover:

- Support to Overseas Branches,
- Careers' Support for younger members,
- Honours and Accreditation,
- Communications and Publicity,
- Institutional Membership, and
- Governance (including compliance with GDPR¹).

TAA's main role was confirmed as a charitable common interest group of persons and institutions, training young professionals through TAA's award scheme, and exchanging knowledge by networking at events, on-line and through the "Agriculture for Development" journal.

¹ Global Data Protection Regulations.

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Objectives, Mission, Governance, Trustees and Membership (Cont)

2. Networking and information exchange

UK Regional Branches. These continue to provide a varied and interesting programme for members in different regions in the UK:

- Southwest organised a number of meetings and seminars, including a tour of the Scilly Islands and a conference on “Rural Tourism” at the Royal Agriculture University (RAU) in Cirencester.
- East Anglia arranged a visit to Aponics Vertical Agriculture trials and, with Cambridge Global Food Security, an annual May seminar on ‘Reducing Crop Waste’;
- London and the South East activities included ‘Curry Club Talks’ on topical development issues, a visit to Reading University’s Cocoa Trials as well as strengthening links with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development (APPG-A&FD);
- Scottish Branch arranged an informal meeting of members.

International Branches. Coordinators continue to act as points of contact in the Caribbean, India, South East Asia, the Pacific and Zambia. The Coordinator in Zambia collaborated with UK-based TAA members in setting up a diploma course on agriculture. The new Coordinator in India successfully promoted new links and new members. Consultations with Branch Coordinators led to plans for greater involvement by Branches.

Specialist working groups. The Land Husbandry group continues to be active at National and International Conservation Agriculture Farming events. A new discussion Forum was set up for farming in Malawi.

3. Communication

TAA’s Journal - *Agriculture for Development*. This provides an important and popular service for members raising the Association’s credibility and impact. The Journal’s already high standard continues to improve with two ‘open’ editions and one special issue on “Women in Agriculture” being published during the year. This is available to members as both hard and electronic copy.

TAA’s Website (www.taa.org.uk) continues to be a focus for communication with members, with “email alerts” on latest news, topical issues publications, job vacancies and events, distributed to members almost daily and creating positive feedback. A contract was agreed with a web developer to rebuild, modernise and improve the site to be launched in the second half of 2018. The Twitter account has been re-invigorated to further promote and share TAA’s activities.

4. Professional development

TAA’s Award Fund (TAAF): The TAAF committee continues to provide a valuable mentoring service for last year’s 15 awardees. This year TAAF made 10 new awards to MSc students to enable them to conduct dissertation studies in developing countries. An autumn conference of past awardees is planned to share experiences. Awards have been funded by generous donations from TAA’s annual contribution, individual TAA members and non-members, including £2,000 from the Agricola Fund.

Honours. The Award of ‘Development Agriculturist of the Year’ was made to CARE International-UK for their Lendwithcare programme, an innovative micro-finance scheme helping entrepreneurs in developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty. Dr Ajaz Khan received this on behalf of CARE. No awards were made for “Young Agriculturalist of the Year”.

5. Evidence and advice for policy

TAA continues to support the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food Development (APPG-A&FD), which was originally established with support from TAA’s institutional members. The convenor for L&SE maintains TAA’s links with the APPG. This year’s Ralph Melville Memorial Lecture on ‘Game Changing Agri-Tech Innovation for the Future Farm’ was jointly held with the APPG at the Houses of Parliament.

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Objectives, Mission, Governance, Trustees and Membership (Cont)

Looking to next year

The Trustees, with the support of ExCo, aim to continue the range of activities in line with the proposed new strategy to be approved at the AGM in December 2018. These include:

- The next Southwest Branch annual conference at the RAU on the 18th October will focus on *Food Chain Linkages: Locavores, Preservation, Storage and Minimising Wastage*.
- The next Hugh Bunting Memorial lecture, will be held on 14th November with Reading University, covering 'Climate Risk Management in Sub-Saharan Agriculture'.
- The Annual General Meeting and Annual Reunion will be held in London on 11th December 2018 and will include presentations from TAAF awardees and the award of TAA Honours.
- It is hoped to continue holding annual Ralph Melville lectures jointly with the APPG-A&FD) at the Houses of Parliament.
- TAA's new website is expected to be launched in the second half of 2018.
- A specialist publisher will be contracted to assist with editing, printing and distributing the journal during 2018/19
- A revision of the Honours categories, to encourage participation by young people from developing countries next year.

The Trustees, in conjunction ExCo and members, will seek to implement the new strategy proposals to ensure that TAA continues to fulfill its mission and objectives, and increase membership from students and overseas.

Acknowledgments: The Trustees express their thanks for the support provided by ExCo, the TAAF Commtee, 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
Chairman: Keith Virgo
Vice Chairman: Paul Harding
General Secretary: Elizabeth Warham
Treasurer: Jim Ellis-Jones
Membership Secretary: Linda Blunt
Coordinating Editor: Paul Harding
Technical Editors: Brian Sims and Andrew Ward
Award Fund Chairman: Antony Ellman

Institutional Members:

Martin Evans
Website Manager: Keith Virgo
Honours Chair: David Radcliffe
East Anglia: Keith Virgo
London and South-East: Terry Wiles
North of England: John Gowing
Scotland: John Ferguson
South-West: Tim Roberts
Agribusiness Group: vacant
Land Husbandry Group: Amir Kassam

Environmental

Conservation: Keith Virgo
Student membership: Paul Baranowski
International Coordinator: Steve Vaux
TAA India: Girish Bharadwaj
TAA Caribbean; Bruce Lauckner
TAA SE Asia: Wyn Ellis
TAA South Pacific: Ravi Joshi
TAA Zambia: Chris Kapembwa

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2018

Financial Review

The charity had a deficit of receipts over payments for the year of £3,008 (2017: £5,242 surplus).

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 £32,442, which represents over 12 months unrestricted expenses.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

.....

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Date.....

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2018, which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 Charity'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 respect of the Charity as required by 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.
Montpelier Professional (Galloway) Limited
1 Dashwood Square
Newton Stewart
DG8 6EQ

Date

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 30 June 2018

Receipts	Notes	Restricted	Unrestricted	2018	2017
Membership Subscriptions		-	22837	22837	22538
Award Fund Donations		7370	-	7370	13404
Other Donations		-	500	500	-
Functions-Conference & AGM		-	900	900	688
Bank Interest		-	93	93	17
Inland Revenue		1213	1417	2630	2818
Miscellaneous		-	20	20	53
Total Receipts		<u>8583</u>	<u>25767</u>	<u>34350</u>	<u>39517</u>
Payments					
Charitable Activities	2	11100	23716	34816	32028
Governance Costs	3	-	2542	2542	2247
Total Expenditure		<u>11100</u>	<u>26258</u>	<u>37358</u>	<u>34275</u>
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		(2517)	(491)	(3008)	5242
Bank balance brought forward		28377	35933	64310	59068
Transfers		3000	(3000)	-	-
Bank balance carried forward		<u>28860</u>	<u>32442</u>	<u>61302</u>	<u>64310</u>

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 2018

Bank Balance		2018	2017
Opening Balance	Current Account	2408	1232
	Deposit Account	61902	57836
	Movement in Year	<u>(3008)</u>	<u>5242</u>
		<u>61302</u>	<u>64310</u>
Closing Balance	Current Account	484	2408
	Deposit Account	<u>60818</u>	<u>61902</u>
		<u>61302</u>	<u>64310</u>
Other Assets			
Liabilities		(300)	(300)
Total Funds		£ <u>61002</u>	£ <u>64010</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees on

For and on behalf of the trustees

..... Mr K Vigro

..... Mr J Ellis-Jones

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (UNITED KINGDOM)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2018

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

	2018	2017
Journal	11674	11686
Shows, Exhibitions, Functions & Conferences	3507	2272
Reginal Subventions	100	205
Award Fund Grants & Expenses	11100	14500
LendwithCARE	2000	2000
Biology Society	-	260
UK Forum for All Parliamentary Group	500	500
Internet/web costs	5935	605
	£ 34816	£ 32028

3. Governance Costs

	2018	2017
Insurance	581	462
Accountancy Fees	360	396
Exco/Meeting	1363	1374
Administration	238	15
	£ 2542	£ 2247

4. Trustee Payment

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee or ExCo member. Expenses of £979 were reimbursed to Trustees and ExCo members during the year.

5. Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing Balance
TAA Award Fund	28377	8583	(11100)	3000	28860
Total	28377	8583	(11100)	3000	28860

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