



## Message from the Chair

My second message comes to you with a couple of thoughts. ***“While you were asleep last night 30,000 children died of malnutrition or malnutrition related diseases”.*** Tony Capolo, Author. Sometimes we need to remind ourselves of the reason we are involved in this

project. This seems to me to be the core of my reasons to be involved.

We have some things to celebrate:

1. We have had three new members join our committee and we are delighted they are have engaged with us in this project; -RTN Les Baxter, RTN Esley Dunham and RTN Tino Barbao.
2. We have achieved 7 signed “Letters of intent”, with the following partners: Indonesia - Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation, Timor Leste - CERES Global, DR of Congo - Southern Africa Development Outreach, Northern Thailand - ECHO Asia Northern Impact Center, Ecuador - Rotary Club Los Chillos Milenio, Kenya - Partners in Community Transformation, and DPRK - Korean Friendship Network.

These letters outline our joint aims and intentions and are very important to us, as working in collaboration is certainly the way this project can best use it resources. It also will assist us to receive feedback about the outcomes of the use of our resources - necessary when we are trying to raise funds from the corporate sector.

3. In the May 2015 newsletter there was an article about the work we are doing in conjunction with the Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation. There have been some really exciting developments since then, which are detailed in this newsletter. RTN Don Hall has worked very hard over many years to get this recognition in Indonesia and he needs to be congratulated by us all. Don certainly is someone who epitomises the theme for this year “Be a gift to the world”.

I look forward to meeting District Governors and District Governors Elect at the Institute in Melbourne. Please come and make yourself known and collect some information we have put together for you.

Yours in Rotary

PDG Una Hobday, Chair Food Plant Solutions

## FPS & Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation - Indonesia

Thanks to a Matching District Grant from District 9640, Rotary Club of Glen Innes Evening and Satellite, 1000 copies of the Bahasa version of “Potentially Important Food Plants of Indonesia” have been printed.

The Rotary Club of Jakarta Cilandak has accepted the responsibility of distribution to interested organisations including Indonesian Rotary Clubs & Indonesians Yayasanans. And, the Australian Embassy has requested 200 copies which will be distributed to Australian Business Week in Indonesia, Kampung Kids, ACIAR and AIP Rural in Surabaya.

For further details please contact us at [info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org) or [phmf@priscillahall.org](mailto:phmf@priscillahall.org)



## Support FPS

All publications etc. that we provide is done so at NO COST to the recipient. To enable us to continue this project we need your continued financial support. Please contact us at: [info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org)

## Speaking Engagements:

Food Plant Solutions has the following engagement scheduled:

- Zone 8 Institute, Melbourne, Victoria  
20-22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015

## Program Countries

Food Plant Solutions has either developed or is in the process of developing field guides, handbooks and posters for the following countries:

- Solomon Islands
- Papua New Guinea
- Timor Leste
- Haiti
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea
- Nigeria
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Mozambique
- Swaziland
- Sri Lanka
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Western Pacific Islands
- North Korea
- China
- N.E. India
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- South Africa
- Northern Thailand
- Ecuador
- Angola
- Pakistan
- Ghana
- Ethiopia
- Madagascar
- Bangladesh

Please contact us for details

[info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org)

*Food Plant Solutions - a self-sustainable solution that empowers local people to make informed choices about what plants to grow that will nutritiously feed their family.*

## Sustainable Production

**Bruce French**

The famine in the highlands of Papua New Guinea is receiving media attention. Usually I am recommending tropical plants for tropical places but I have been recommending frost resistant temperate plants for high altitude areas in PNG.



Naturally frost resistant temperate plants such as swedes, turnips, parsnips, cauliflower and broad beans have been tried at these high altitudes but people don't grow them because they usually don't need them, and for most of these plants they would have to buy seeds. So my pragmatic recommendation has been to grow some each year and feed them to the pigs and then when a frost occurs, there will be some food to eat! However it is hard to get people to plan for a once in a decade event.

'European' potatoes out yield and out produce sweet potato above about 2,000m altitude so are the main starchy staple food. But they also get damaged by frost. When they want to replant potatoes, the tubers won't germinate without a resting period. The solution is to put them into a paper bag and this stimulates sprouting.

The need for food plants information for more difficult locations and situations remains a crucial need. In well-watered, rich soils anyone who wanted to could grow nutritious food, if they chose. Knowledge of the widest range of potentially useful food plants can enable sustainable production under adverse conditions.

## FPS in Northern Thailand

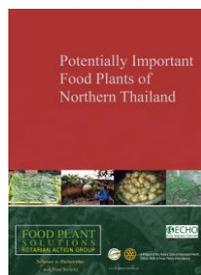
**Abram J. Bicksler, Ph.D.**  
Director, ECHO Asia Impact Center



ECHO Asia is grateful for the opportunity to work with Food Plant Solutions (FPS) in providing guidance and distribution channels for its "Potentially Important Food Plants of Northern Thailand" field guide. For over thirty years, ECHO has been helping thousands of development workers and organizations around the world to better access vital information and other resources needed to improve food production, food security, and livelihoods for smallholder farmers and gardeners. ECHO Asia exists to support development workers, grassroots organizations, agricultural missionaries, local leaders, and non-profits with locally-relevant resources to more effectively work with smallholder farmers throughout Asia to improve their food security and livelihoods.

This guide from FPS has the potential to be highly effective by merit of its relevance to a particular agricultural and culinary context. Its diversity of plant types that are both common and underutilized, coupled with their nutrition information, makes it a useful tool for development workers, local NGOs, community leaders, and community members throughout Northern Thailand and beyond. The accessibility of this guide online through [www.echocommunity.org](http://www.echocommunity.org) (ECHO's free membership portal with over 9,000 global members) will only help to make it more available to a wider audience around the world.

ECHO Asia is excited to continue to collaborate with FPS to help prepare and promote its field guides so that a wider audience of practitioners, farmers, field workers, and gardeners may access this treasure-trove of information in



order to put it into practice, reaping a bountiful harvest of food security and increased nutrition. The next phase is to have the guide translated, and we are actively seeking any person or organisation who can assist us. For further details please contact us at: [info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org)



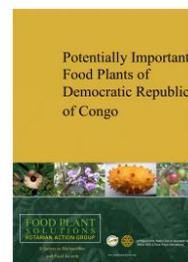
## FPS in Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Abraham J. Meintjes**  
Southern-Africa Development Outreach

The history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DCR), is filled with suffering and hardship. Even in our advanced age, and the increasing innovation that marks the global village, the DRC remains a difficult environment which is known for vast territories, isolated communities and a harsh climate.

The difficulties of logistics, climate, facilities, infrastructure, distances, disease, soldiers, rebels and people not used to visitors make community development work challenging. Having started research about the Congo River communities in 2004, the author has worked along some of the rivers, such as the Congo River, the Lualaba, Tshopo and Lindi since 2007.

It is valuable to find encouraging project partners such as the Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group (FPS) who are willing and able to work on the development of an agricultural food plan based upon edible indigenous plants for the DRC, having already contributed to food security and food plans for various countries in Africa. The field guide has been drafted and is now being reviewed in-country.



## Paypay District School – Philippines

Near the end of 2013 there was an enormous typhoon that hit the Philippines, destroying property and killing over 6000 people. Early in 2015 The Rotary Foundation from Evanston combined with a Rotary district in the United Kingdom and the Rotary Club of Cebu joined forces and financial resources to assist the rehabilitation of the district school centrally located in the "hit zone" of Typhoon Hainan. The school is Paypay District School.

A Rotarian from the Rotary Club of North Hobart, Australia was asked to attend the Paypay School to advise on the plan to make things better for the school. Whilst there he noticed a derelict kitchen garden – this was not part of the agenda for rehabilitation. So as a bonus, information from Food Plant Solutions was shared including the field guide written for the Philippines. The principal, science teacher, other teachers and parents have now adopted and understood the principles of shared kitchen gardens and their benefit to growing children.

There was a hurdle – the grounds of the school were to become a rebuilding site with workers and trucks working on all the spare ground. No room for a garden, one would think. The enterprising school community has solved the problem with portable containers that they can move from spot to spot as the buildings around them are completed.

