



Technology without Borders

NEWSLETTER III 2025

Dear members, dear friends and supporters of Technology without Borders,

TwB thrives on its decentralized organization with regional groups in Germany and, increasingly, internationally in Ghana, Uganda, and Cameroon. Of course, the primary focus is on projects, their planning, financing, and implementation. However, the recruitment of new members, which is so important for our association, is also strongly supported at the local level through the activities of the regional groups. Ideally, under the motto “social commitment and fun,” potential new members are shown what we are all about. A prime example of such activities is the 1000 Miles Run, now in its 11th year, which was organized by the Erlangen regional group at the end of June. Despite temperatures of almost 30°C, the 270 runners managed to cover a total of over 2500 miles (4000 km)! With the proceeds from food and beverage sales and contributions from sponsors, several projects can be co-financed again this year. The Erlangen Regional Group is looking forward to organizing the run again next year and meeting some of the other regional groups!

The next big event will take place from November 21 to 23 in the Erlangen area: we want to plant 3,000 new trees! Organized by the Erlangen Regional Group, based on a successful event by the Rhine-Main Regional Group in 2021, during which 5,505 trees were planted. This time, we are receiving expert support from our Rotary friend Stefan Stirnweiß from the Office for Nutrition, Agriculture, and Forestry (AELF) in Fürth-Uffenheim. All TwB members are invited. Details can be found in the short message.

As every year, the board will meet again in October for its strategy meeting. The current year will be critically reviewed, but above all, the priorities for the future will be set. One topic is sure to be discussed intensively: the training of two TwB groups from Ghana and Uganda in the field of agroforestry. This core TwB topic is meeting with great interest in these two countries in particular and could be the seed for further micro-business initiatives. During our trip to Uganda in February, Jannik and I were able to lay the foundation for this training event on site. Our agroforestry coordinator for Ghana and Uganda, Abdul Rashid, reports in more detail.

Enjoy browsing through this newsletter and stay committed and motivated...

Robert Schullan

Best greetings from the entire Board

Robert Schullan
Christian Zeidler
Andreas Vierling
Arne Bruns
Dominik Lang

Markus Reinhard
Lara Hachmann
Heiko Blumenschein
Daniel Schaffert

Jannik Mechau
Maximilian Martin
Katharina Mai
Julia Güntherodt

Felix Schofer
Lena Augustin
Jana Landel

Completed Projects

Agroforestry workshops in Ghana and Uganda



In August 2025, nine members of TwB Ghana and four members of TwB Uganda participated in agroforestry trainings with the aim to strengthen our organization's capacity in Dynamic Agroforestry – an innovative and sustainable approach to integrating agriculture and forestry that emphasizes diversity, synergy, and resilience. As the international working group leader for agroforestry, I had the privilege to participate in two Agroforestry Training of Trainers Program, one in Ghana and one in Uganda, alongside with other local members. The first agroforestry training took place on 9th August as a one-day training session at the Obrobibi Peace Complex (OPC) in Busua, Ghana and was held by Dr. Christian Andres. The nine participants of TwB Ghana arrived on 8th August 2025 to ensure punctuality and adequate preparation. The program began with an introduction to OPC's vision and activities, followed by participant introductions. Dr. Christian Andres, with whom ...

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Regenerative Agroforestry Workshop at Bethany Land Institute



From August 17th to 23rd, 2025, a team of four members from Technology without Borders (TwB) Regional Group Ndejje attended an intensive Regenerative Agroforestry Workshop hosted by Bethany Land Institute (BLI) in partnership with the Agroforestry Promotion Network (APN). The four members were Muganzi Peter, Kobusinge Christine, Apili Irene Esther, and Ndayishimye Ivan. The workshop successfully blended theoretical knowledge with extensive practical, hands-on experience. The training equipped participants with the principles and practices of designing, implementing, and managing diverse, productive, and sustainable agroforestry systems aimed at regenerating ecosystems and supporting community livelihoods. The primary objective of the workshop was to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to design and implement regenerative agroforestry systems for various purposes, including homesteads, commercial use, ...

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Eco Plastic Week Celebration 2025



The Eco Plastic Week Celebration is an annual event dedicated to raising awareness in schools, communities, and among the public about the plastic crisis and the strategies that can be employed to manage it. The theme for this year's celebration was "EndPlastic Now", signifying the urgent need for actions that will reduce or eliminate plastic pollution from our environment. The week-long celebration took place from 23rd to 29th June 2025. The event was handled by Technology without Borders (TwB) regional group Tamale in

partnership with other organizations such as Ummy Relief Foundation, EndPlastic Soup and Neighbourhood Forest. Local stakeholders that collaborated in the execution included the Ghana Education Service (for the school-based programs) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The activities were conducted in a hybrid format (both online and in-person) to enable participation from international partners and ...

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Detergent production in rural communities in Uganda



Water, Sanitation and hygiene is a very important aspect of health in everyday life. Due to increased cost of living among some communities in Uganda, it becomes difficult for the citizens to maintain proper hygiene due to the high expense of detergent to wash their hands thoroughly and to regularly clean sanitary places, homes, classrooms in schools and clothes which exposes them to faecal matter and hygiene issues. With support from TwB, I came up with a project to teach natives how to make detergent locally in their homes. If the communities have the materials, a significant amount of detergent can be made with little money affordable to them. The ingredients of the detergents include liquid soap, urea, ungalo, caustic soda, sulphuric acid, perfume, colourant and water. We also provided gloves and masks for ensuring safe handling of the ingredients. Through this project, some rural areas in Mpigi, Bubebbere and Luweero have fully ...

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Newsflash

International meeting at Ndejje University



During his stay in Uganda, where he participated in the agroforestry training at the BLI Institute, our Ghanaian member Abdul Rashid Wumpini Alhassan, RG Tamale and international head of working group “Agroforestry”, paid a visit to RG Ndejje. The two-hour meeting at Ndejje University was a lively and productive exchange about

activities and best practices in both regional groups, and new project ideas emerged. The successful meeting impressively demonstrates how our members are increasingly networking across national borders.

Jannik Mechau, Board

Solar power system for orthopedic laboratory in Makeni, Sierra Leone

The Bintumani D-SL association has been involved in healthcare in Sierra Leone (West Africa) for many years. In recent years, the association has set up an orthopedic laboratory in Makeni in collaboration with the NGO Enable Salone Workshop. Norbert Hoffmann, a TwB member, plans to install a 3D printer there to manufacture custom-fit prostheses and orthoses.

A major problem is the unreliable power supply, which prevents continuous operation. To solve this problem, the RG Rhein-Neckar proposed installing a solar power system. The RG Bayreuth provided 27 solar panels, each with a capacity of 450 watts, and the remaining components were ordered and procured from SaloneSolar in Freetown. The total cost is around €5,700, most of which was covered by the RG Rhein-Neckar, the main association, and the Bintumani D-SL association. The remaining amount is being collected via a fundraising campaign at betterplace.org. The solar system is largely installed, and we expect to receive the first reports on its performance soon.

Norbert Hoffmann, Heiko Blumenschein, RG Rhein-Neckar

Invitation to the big tree planting campaign of RG Erlangen



Following the successful example of our Rhine-Main regional group, which carried out a magnificent tree planting campaign in Schwarzenborn in 2021, planting 5,505 trees, we now want to take action in Erlangen too. We cordially invite the whole of **TwB Germany** to join us.

Unfortunately, the reason for this is serious: in the spring of this year, there was an increase in forest fires in the Erlangen area. That is why TwB is involved in the Bavaria-wide initiative Zukunftswald Bayern (Future Forest Bavaria). In the “Future for Röttenbach” project, pine monocultures threatened by climate change are being converted into climate-tolerant mixed deciduous stands. Under the leadership of the Office for Nutrition, Agriculture, and

Forestry (AELF) in Fürth-Uffenheim, local forest owners are being offered a package of state subsidies, financial support from the municipality of Röttenbach, and the voluntary commitment of TwB. Before the planting campaign, TwB members and all other participants will receive training from the AELF's foresters on correct planting and silvicultural concepts. The AELF will supervise the volunteers throughout the planting campaign.

Our goal: to plant 3,000 new trees!

Where: Forest near Röttenbach (in the Erlangen area)

When: Weekend of **November 21–23, 2025**

- Friday: Introduction by the AELF on how to plant correctly
- Saturday & Sunday: Planting days
- accompanying program for refreshments and a get-together to be announced

[Click here to register](#) - The more helping hands we have, the more trees we can plant!

Jana Landel, RG Erlangen

We hope you enjoy reading it!

To stay up to date, please also visit us on [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#) or have a look at our [website](#).

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