

Shaad Olingo Returns to the Island

Shaad Olingo's many Island friends are delighted that he is now on the Island for a three-week visit. He arrived on August 12th, in good time for the Annual Fundraising Barbeque on the 15th where he greeted many old and new acquaintances. He leaves on September 2nd, the day after the FHF Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Olingo's connection with Farmers Helping Farmers goes back several decades, to the time when he was employed with our former Kenyan partner-organization, the Kenyan National Farmers' Association. He has worked directly for FHF since 2003, when he was hired as our half-time Kenyan Field Co-ordinator.

The success of our Kenyan projects owes a great deal to Shaad's effective work at the local level. His customary efficiency and good cheer have also been at the service of the many Islanders who have visited our Kenyan projects in recent years.

The current visit will be a home-coming of sorts: Shaad came to the Island on two previous occasions, in 1985 and 1989. This time round, he will combine the pleasure of seeing old friends with some training and project development. In particular, he'll be learning more about composting, as a means of reducing Kenyans' reliance on high-cost fertilizer. And he'll be working with the FHF Project Committee on some new funding proposals related to post-harvest storage, drip irrigation, and smoke-free fuel-efficient stoves.

Through the local media and elsewhere, Shaad will also be assisting FHF inform Islanders about our projects in Africa. The speaking engagements arranged so far include talks to three Charlottetown area Rotary Clubs, all of which have funded projects in Africa. He'll also be visiting local tree nurseries, farms organizations, agricultural projects, and the University of Prince Edward Island.

Members of FHF will have ample opportunity to meet Shaad, at the Barbeque, AGM, and other events. If you want to set up a special event or outing for him, or volunteer to help provide transportation, you can contact Harry Baglole at 675-4134, or via email at extraordinaryjr@aol.com