

permEzone Newsletter – December 2016

*Peace on Earth
& good vegetables for all!*



Dear Friends,

As we begin in earnest the hustle and bustle of preparing to travel or to lavish our loved ones with plenitude, let us remember to be thankful for our abundance. It is special and rare - but as we all know- it shouldn't be!

We are all committed to fulfilling every person's birthright to have clean and healthy food and water and we will keep working to achieve that.

Let this season be filled with love, light, clarity, peace, celebration, joy, and of course good food!

LATEST NEWS FROM the Permaculture Research Institute, Kenya



Sheena Shah has stepped up to take responsibility for heading coordination of all PRI programs, following the departure of the former Director Elin Lindhagen Duby for pastures new (including membership of the permEzone Advisory Council). Sheena has been with PRI-Kenya since their inception back in 2011, and previously ran the Education Program while continuing her studies in International Permaculture Design at Gaia University.

The *Permaculture & Regenerative Enterprise Program* is one initiative that Sheena is already deeply involved with in her new role as PRI Coordinator. This program was launched in 2013 as an innovative approach to development that recognizes the need to combine permaculture with entrepreneurship in order to create sustainable livelihoods.

She has been working closely with their partners, [Sustainable Village Resources](#) located at Rongo in Western Kenya to implement an organic coffee project.

With the help of funding from SLush Fund US and Biovision Foundation, farmers are regenerating the land, producing a premium-grade coffee, and creating additional sources of income. Growing the coffee within a food forest system can benefit farmers and the environment - agroforestry farms generally require fewer chemical inputs, reduce production costs, and create further outputs such as fruit or wood.



Mulch created out of the coffee cherry pulp, with added nitrogen-rich elements, is spread around the base of the trees to develop a deep, rich topsoil which helps the plants develop longer root structures, improve moisture content, reduce soil erosion, and improve the quality of the bean - leading to higher prices for farmers.

By forging links with one of Kenya's leading roasters, Safari Lounge Tea and Coffee Connection, and their supporter Fargo Courier, they are getting their premium shade-grown coffee to market - it is now available to discerning coffee drinkers in Nairobi as the only **Christmas Blend** in Kenya.

What a great impact story! We look forward, with your support, to bringing you more great impact stories in 2017.

Meanwhile, we're in regular contact with Sheena, working to create a realistic plan for the first phase of permEzone to get started in the new year.

Thank you for all your support. Happy New Year!

The **permEzone** Team

We are now fundraising to meet the costs of trialing the mobile phone platform that will form a critical component of the permEzone service. Please consider making a contribution if you can. Your donations will be used to run a pilot of the permEzone program, training and supporting farmers in East Africa, developing the mobile phone platform and collecting and evaluating data to demonstrate the impact of the program. This is a chance to make a real difference by empowering people in impoverished rural communities to work together to build resilience and improve the lives of current and future generations.

Any further help you can give to spread the word will be hugely appreciated.

permEzone is a project of Empowerment Works, a 501(c)3 non-profit, and an international project of the Permaculture Association (Britain).

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