Welcome to the fifth TAAI newsletter, providing information about events and new items appearing on our website.

Forthcoming Event

Managing Soil Health And Sustainable Production In Malawi

This is a special TAAI presentation being held on 15th July at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution in honour of the late Francis Shaxson OBE (1933-2024).

Full details of the event, the venue and timings may be found on the website at

https://taa-international.org/event/managing-soil-health-and-sustainable-production-in-malawi/

If you would like to attend or require further information please contact Andrew Bennett at president@taa-international.org

Newsletters

We have recently posted newsletters from the following organisations:

CA-CoP
https://taa-international.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-CoP-Alert-89.pdf
This issue leads with an article likely to be of particular interest to all TAAI members, entitled "The carbon footprint of Conservation Agriculture".

TABLE
https://mailchi.mp/tabledebates/upfs-and-naturalness?e=4cbd14e947
An audio version of this newsletter is available on our Multimedia page.

World Association of Soil and Water Conservation
https://taa-international.org/wp-content/uploads/WASWAC-Hot-News-2024-04.pdf

Multimedia

The multimedia page has been sub-divided into separate pages for video and audio content. As the volume of material increases this should make navigation simpler.
If you wish to recommend any 3rd party video or audio of likely interest to TAAI members please send a link to members@taa-international.org. The material must be publicly available on the internet without any access controls such as paid subscriptions or member-only restrictions.
We have a fascinating new podcast from TABLE entitled *"Nature knows best: Naturalness in the Ultra Processed Food debate"*. It sets the scene on the ULP debate and discusses just why the subject has become so controversial. 52 minutes approx.
https://www.buzzsprout.com/1660519/15230271

Tree Planting Project

You should by now be aware of proposals for a TAA International project to plant large numbers of trees in Africa. If by chance this has passed you by, the text of the announcement appears at the bottom of this newsletter as Appendix 1. Comments are still actively sought.
The response to this proposal has been very encouraging but also realistic, with members expressing both enthusiasm and the need for caution in certain areas.

All comments received, from all perspectives, have been collated, and a detailed scoping and feasibility exercise has now begun. All members will be invited to participate in, and comment on, this exercise. All views are relevant and valued – whether positive or negative.
As matters become better defined all members will be kept informed by email alert and a dedicated section will be opened on the website.

Film Recommendation
We have received highly enthusiastic reviews from TAAI members and others of a film entitled "*Six Inches of Soil*". It is the story of British farmers standing up against the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities.
Although not on general release there are showings of the film scheduled across the UK over the coming months, and special showings for local communities can be arranged.
A trailer for the film may be found on Youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaJl0yQ7ufQ
Full details of the film, including scheduled showings and how to arrange one in your area, may be found on the producer's website:
https://www.sixinchesofsoil.org/

In Memoriam
We were recently informed of the death of Professor Monty Jones who was the founding Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). A number of TAAI members worked closely with Prof Jones at various times and we are aware that both he and his work were well known by many other members.
FARA's obituary to Prof Jones may be found on our *Articles of Interest* page.

Coming Soon

You will recognise that the back catalogue of our journal, Ag4Dev, represents a highly valuable resource of articles and other items, dating back to March 2008, written by many of the leading experts in the world of Conservation Agriculture.

An index of the entire back catalogue is currently being compiled and should be available shortly. The initial index is expected to list around 2000 items in a tablular format which can be searched and re-ordered, making the identification of items of interest as simple as possible. Each index record will include a link taking the reader to the relevant issue and page.

There will be a second pass in which the index will be enhanced with keywords where the item title does not in itself sufficiently describe the content. A call for volunteers to assist in this second phase will be made in the coming few weeks.

With best wishes

Nige Verity
Membership Secretary