



December 12, 2016

Warren A. Dick
BEAUTC - Bethel Environmental and
Agricultural University and Training Center
779 Pintail Lane
Wooster, OH 44691
Phone: 330-464-7126
E-mail: beautc.usa@gmail.com

Dear Friends and Supporters of BEAUTC,

We continue to make progress in the establishment of Bethel Environmental and Agricultural University and Training Center (BEAUTC). This follows the registration of Bethel Environmental and Agricultural Agency/Association/ (BEAA) in Ethiopia as the umbrella organization for the university in 2015. Of significance this year was the hire of a full-time staff member, Teddy Wodajo Amuma. His responsibilities have included setting up an office in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. The office is in shared space with another non-profit organization and (We have separate office). Our office is located in an excellent area near the American embassy. Teddy and the rest of the office staff have established internet connections, developed the accounting framework for BEAA and worked with the North American BEAUTC board in establishing a Memorandum of Understanding. Teddy has also made numerous trips to Woliso, where we plan to site our new, private university. These visits are very important as they keep the people in Woliso informed of our efforts and helps build good will for our project.

In January (2016), BEAUTC North American board members, Gobena Huluka and Mekhael Teshome, were in Ethiopia. The main goals of their visits were to cement relationships between the two boards and to begin planning for activities to be held on the BEAUTC land in Woliso. In September of this year, Warren also traveled to Ethiopia and met with officials in Woliso. One of his major activities was to present a soil quality workshop for agricultural and municipal officials in Woliso and then visiting with farmers (photo at right). This was a very enjoyable time and revealed the great potential BEAUTC can have in helping establish more sustainable agricultural and environmental agroecosystems.



This past year has been a time of getting the word out about. We have paid for half of the 32 acres of land in Woliso with an agreement that we will continue to raise funds to pay for the other half. These efforts included presentations, setting up a GoFundMe page (<https://www.gofundme.com/beautc-ethiopia-2v8ktbw7>) and making personal contacts. Also, we have developed a Facebook page that I hope you will “like” so that you can keep informed of our project. (<https://www.facebook.com/beautc.usa/>). A poster presentation was made in November at the annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America and Crop Science Society of America (photo at left). The interaction was constant and the interest in our project was very strong. You can view the poster at the web address (<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2016am/webprogram/Paper101892.html>).



If you have been following international news, you are aware that the country of Ethiopia has been experiencing social unrest. Our project has not been affected, but it has been difficult to maintain communications as the internet has often been shut off from Ethiopia. We have several key supporters of our project in Woliso and that has been a real important asset for us during these uncertain times. This next year will be an important year as we work on creating a business model for BEAUTC and begin the process of working with officials in moving the BEAUTC project forward.

We would love to hear from you. We would also very much encourage you to pray for us in this coming year and maybe make a one-time gift or ongoing monthly pledge to BEAUTC. Payments must be made out to Interlink with a note that the gift is for the BEAUTC Project. Gifts can also be made online via the web page (<http://www.beautc.org/support.php>), via the GoFundMe page, or can be sent to me directly at the address shown above.

Just as the angels sang to the shepherds a message of peace (Luke 2:14), my wish is also that you and your loved ones will experience true peace in your life this Christmas season and in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Warren A. Dick
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