

## January 2016

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope that most of you have had an enjoyable Festive season

Sadly, floods have affected many and many members have been or currently are involved in relief work in those areas, and many more are on standby to offer assistance when, where and however it should be needed. The FMB will be discussing how best we can assist these areas at our meeting on 8-10th January.

Whilst it is commonly acknowledged that there is a normal cycle of weather we cannot deny that our excessive production of pollutants is accelerating climate change and we must continue to reduce our carbon footprint.

As we start a New Year the Programme Team have been testing the new SIGBI database, which I hope will meet mostly with approval. Sue Biggs, the FMB and the ladies at HQ worked hard to bring this to fruition. When it finally goes on line we all look forward to the reports coming in so that we can use the information to continue our special consultative status at the UN, possibly using some of the information when the SIGBI delegation heads for New York in March for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

By the time this goes to press we should have a full Programme Team once again. Pat Black has been unstinting in her support whilst we have been balloting for a new APD for advocacy and we all wish her well in her International role- although she assures us she will still be there for us at SIGBI.

New Year brings new beginnings and as well as looking forward to the new database we have also given [PAM](#) a new look- gearing it towards the more electronic age and trying to make it a useful tool for recruitment. Our thanks go to Heather for her major input in this. I understand we will also have PAM linked to Facebook and Twitter.



*Meru Women's Garden Project - SIGBI Project 2016-2019*

The next two months will be busy preparing not just for CSW but also for the launch of the Federation Project, Meru Women's Garden Project, on International Women's day. All are working hard in the background to get this off to a flying start. We will need ambassadors in each Region so start to think if you would like to take on this role- adverts will be out soon.

Wishing you all health, happiness and successful project work during 2016.

*Barbara Dixon  
Federation Programme Director*