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“As preparations for the badger culls continue, the pressure against them grows ever greater. Led by celebrities who seem to garner endless headlines and media interviews against the cull, they have quickly whipped up opposition.”



Monday, 08 October 2012

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Emma Penny, editor

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NFU Africa fund-raising team reaches top of Kilimanjaro

7 October 2012 | By Alistair Driver

A TEAM of climbers from the NFU raising money for African farmers have reached the summit Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania.

After a gruelling six-day trek, the team have reported back that they reached the peak of the world's tallest free-standing mountain on Friday morning.

The team, who began their climb on September 29, have been raising funds for the NFU's Africa 100 Appeal for [Farm Africa](#), the UK charity which aims to tackle hunger through agricultural innovation and business enterprise.

NFU senior media adviser Sharon Hockley, who has supported the team for the NFU, said news that the climbers had reached the summit was 'fantastic to hear'.

"The climbers set out from the Kibo Base Camp last night for the final push to the summit, climbing 1,200 metres in dark, freezing conditions and oxygen-thin air. I can't imagine how they are feeling and I can't wait to talk to them. It will have been the most amazing feat to have conquered Kilimanjaro and makes their fund-raising efforts all the more worthwhile," she said.


Farm Africa has received a huge boost thanks to several important businesses that have made substantial donations to the Africa 100 Appeal. These companies include Massey Ferguson, BASF Agrii, the European Crop Protection Association, Morrisons and Syngenta.

Farm Africa's head of corporate and community fundraising, Cathy Whiteman, said: "Farm Africa is thrilled with this morning's news. Getting to the top of Kilimanjaro is hugely demanding so this is an absolutely fantastic effort!"

"All the money raised will help our work supporting African farmers in farming Africa out of hunger. And the good news is that it's still not too late to make a donation that rewards the team's hard work and training."

Farm Africa works on the principle that 'farm aid', not food aid, is the key to banishing famine from a continent which possesses 60 per cent of the world's uncultivated land.

80 per cent of rural Africans rely on farming for their living, but they often use traditional methods and lack access to soil improvers, drought-tolerant and disease resistant plants, and



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water. Farm Africa aims to offer 'fresh ideas and solutions to some of the key problems they face'.

For example, by providing tools, training, better seeds, and new technology, Farm Africa specialists work directly with grassroots smallholders, herders, fish farmers and forest dwellers to modernise their methods, improve harvests, and create a sustainable income without exploiting Africa's fragile environment.

The climbing team is:

Martin Haworth, NFU director of policy

Rebecca Wells, NFU assistant environment policy adviser

Sian Davies, assistant director at the British Agriculture Bureau, Brussels,

Robert Lasseter, a farmer from Dorset

Rob Baker, agronomist and team manager from Agrii

Andy Jones, regional cereal value chain manager at BASF

James Hawthorne, farmer from Somerset

Gila Hale, Farm Africa

You can follow the team on Twitter as they descend Kilimanjaro, using the hashtag #kilichallenge

You can see updates and images from the team since they left the UK via an [online blog](#):

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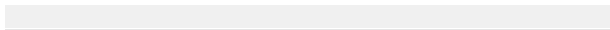
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