



ABOVE Simple low cost irrigation systems funded for groups of farm families enable food production in the dry season. RIGHT Where water is scarce, hand watering is used in small family and market gardens.



MORE CROP PER DROP

“More crop per drop” is a slogan that refers to the challenges in finding ways to produce more food for our ever increasing world population by using water effectively.

The availability of water is a critical factor in every kind of food production. In many communities where SHARE has projects, water may be available for only a couple of hours a day and in some cases the poorest farmers pay for water usage. Floods and drought often affect food production.

SHARE’s southern partners teach small scale farmers appropriate water management best practices in the design of agricultural

projects to ensure success. Many simple low cost techniques such as using drip irrigation from plastic bottles and trickle or soaker hoses are promoted to reduce evaporation and conserve water for vegetable and small fruit production. This availability of water extends the growing season and increases food and income from sales. Minimal tillage and composting boosts water absorption; inter-planting of crops reduces run off and terracing hillside soils reduces erosion; gray water from households is used into small kitchen gardens.

SHARE agriculture technicians educate producers about using local, native

plants and shrubs that are surprisingly useful for animal feed. The ‘inco shrub’ that grows in arid areas of northeast Brazil provides nutrients for goats; some cacti growing in the same drought areas can contribute up to 15% protein in animal feed.

Some SHARE projects include tree plantings around water sources and in buffer zones to protect and improve the local degraded environments. SHARE funded farm wells, pumps and irrigation systems are invaluable to communities.

SHARE’s projects incorporate many techniques that increase food production and produce “more crop per drop”.

DISASTER IN EL SALVADOR – CAN YOU HELP?

Ten days of continuous rain in mid October caused catastrophic damage to communities in El Salvador where SHARE has agriculture projects. Families, who had very little, lost their humble homes, possessions and crops to torrential rains, flooding and landslides. SHARE sent funds for immediate support (water, food, medicine, black plastic for shelter). It will be important to help in the weeks to come to re-establish crops to feed these families. Please help us support our southern partner who is assisting 138 communities during this disaster.

THREE CIDA PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

SHARE's reach has been greatly expanded over the last 3 years with support from Canada's lead agency for development assistance, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). With funding from CIDA and SHARE, three large projects in El Salvador and Brazil have recently been completed successfully.

The results from the projects are impressive. Our southern partners and SHARE have worked diligently to meet all targets and to manage the project activities and budgets successfully. Over 1,000 small scale farm men and women were directly advised, trained and assisted by agriculture technicians improving food production for their families and raising income from local market sales. Over 1,100 farm men and women and youth have been taught reading and writing in adult literacy classes giving them self esteem, improved skills and opportunities. More than 600 rural youth received vocational training and their remote communities now have access to information.

The projects focused on teaching appropriate ecological farming techniques so that men and women could produce food while preserving their local environments. The support to youth in these projects was important to bring hope for the future for young people who lack even basic opportunities in marginalized rural communities. Women also benefited from training and education and by receiving agricultural inputs resulting in significant change for their families.

Although the government funding for these specific projects has ended, SHARE will continue to work with our southern partners identifying the further needs of the poorest in their rural communities.

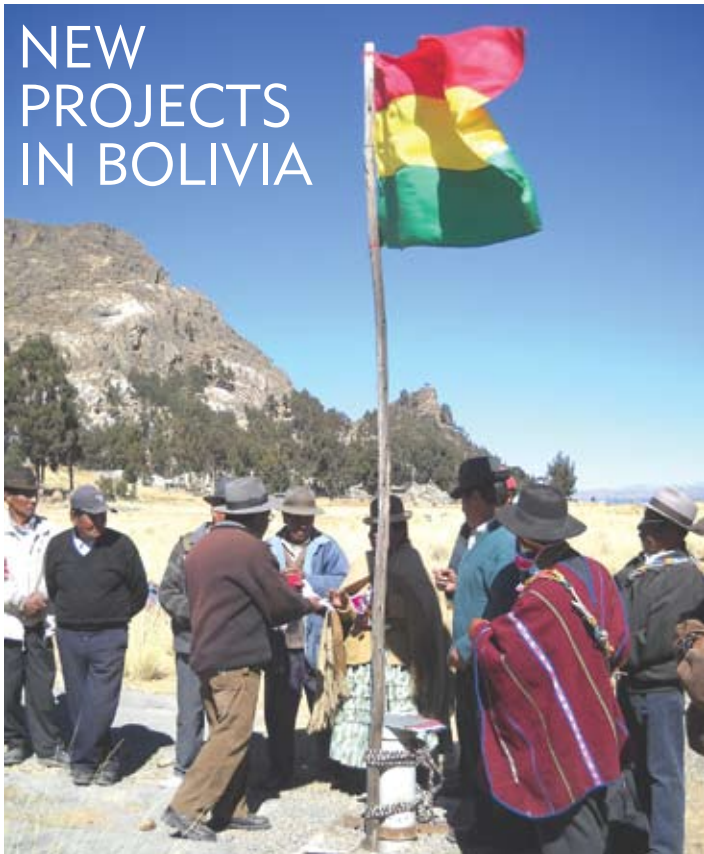
1,000 SMALL SCALE FARMERS TRAINED

1,100 YOUTH AND ADULTS WITH LITERACY SKILLS

600 RURAL YOUTH WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING



NEW PROJECTS IN BOLIVIA



SHARE's commitment to seeking out impoverished rural communities within countries of greatest need has led to new partnerships and new projects in Bolivia, South America.

Even though Bolivia is a country of great natural and cultural beauty, with snow-capped mountains, lush rainforest and rich resources there is wide-spread poverty, especially among rural communities. Bolivia has struggled with an unsettled

political past and continuing social unrest.

Small scale farmers struggle to feed their families by growing food at unbelievably high altitudes with soils that are increasingly infertile using unsustainable land use practices; erosion runs rampant, the rainy season seems to be shortening bringing extended dry seasons and droughts.

In the Andean highlands, SHARE has started a well and irrigation project in

partnership with a local community and a national organization working to improve biodiversity and agriculture extension. This project will provide year round irrigation water from a 65 metre well for the traditional quinoa and kenoa crops for 80 small scale farmers.

Another small project with 40 producers of native seed potatoes will provide equipment that will assist with post harvest sorting and sizing of potatoes. An adobe warehouse will be funded to improve storage that will ensure a quality product which will bring better prices.

Thirty other Bolivian farmers who grow quinoa (a high protein grain) as a rotational crop with potatoes will be supplied with simple technologies that will improve the threshing of the grain resulting in a cleaner, more uniform product. A metal silo will be built to improve storage conditions resulting in a higher quality grain product bringing higher prices.

These small projects, accomplished with SHARE's new partnerships and hard working small scale farmers, will bring positive changes to poor farming communities in the mountains of Bolivia helping to improve the diets, crop yields and incomes of over 150 farming families.

IN MEMORIAM:

David L. Armstrong

1930 – 2011



"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." – ALBERT PIKE

SHARE remembers with great gratitude the dedication and work of the late David Armstrong, loyal supporter and valued advisor. David was a founding member of the S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation; in fact David conceived the idea for the foundation and its work and inspired farm leaders to organize this charity in 1976 in the region of Peel and then also in Halton. He remained on the Board of Directors of SHARE until 1993, acted as chairman of the Board for 3 years demonstrating his strong leadership qualities and integrity. He continued to attend board and committee meetings regularly, listening intently to all opinions before using his insight, knowledge and solid analysis in decision making.

David was an inspiration to all the volunteers of S.H.A.R.E. He was a great promoter of our largest fund raising event, the annual dinner dance held the first Saturday of November. Ticket sales were his specialty.

David was honoured with the Farmer of the Year Award in 1987 by the Peel Federation of Agriculture, the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Senate of Canada in 2003 for his service to others and the Caledon Volunteer and Citizen Achievement Award in 2004. He was a lifetime member of Mayfield United Church, a long time respected dairy farmer in Caledon and was involved with many other community and farm organizations. His dedication and passion for helping others will be missed.



LEFT A high percentage of rural Bolivian families live on less than \$2 a day. RIGHT Small scale farmers produce food in the highlands of Bolivia in incredibly challenging conditions. TOP A new well will benefit over 80 farm families, improving their traditional crops of potatoes and quinoa.

GIVE GIFTS OF HOPE & OPPORTUNITY

Give a gift with meaning this holiday season. Honour someone's birthday, anniversary or special occasion throughout the year. Honour someone's memory with a lasting gift.

Your gift will be a "HAND UP" to someone who has very little, multiply many times over with SHARE's "Pass-On-Principle" and will help needy families become self sufficient. 100% of your donation will go to worthwhile projects in developing countries.



Cow Up to \$700



Adult Literacy \$100



Agriculture Training \$100



Goat or Sheep \$150



Healthy Cooking Stove \$100



Small Enterprises \$10-\$75



Small Loans \$100-\$250



Trees & Seeds \$10-\$150



High School Scholarship \$350



Youth Training/Books \$30-\$60



Agriculture Inputs \$100



Poultry \$10-\$30

DONATE

Online at:

www.shareagfoundation.org

Or by mail:

**S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation,
14110 Kennedy Road, Caledon ON, L7C 2G3**

Gift cards are sent to the recipient if you request and provide information.

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sat. Jan. 21, 2012 at 1:15pm

Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Road,
Caledon, ON (North of Mayfield Rd.)

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS:

**RBC Dominion Securities, Steve Robinson & Associates
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WRITERS/EDITORS: Marg Frayne
(519-843-3274 margfrayne@hotmail.com),
Laurie Weber, Trish Murphy
DESIGNER: Jay Dart

TELEPHONE: 905-838-0897
or toll free: 1-888-337-4273
FAX: 1-905-838-0794

CHARITY NUMBER:
BN: 13150 7428 RR0001

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