



## A GAME CHANGER

### OUT OF POVERTY WITH IRRIGATION



**W**e had jostled for an hour on the last leg of the trip on a challenging road traveling into a remote community. Our driver was experienced and had skillfully managed the rocky road, the steep inclines and hairpin turns. At times we could barely peer through the dense dust to see the men riding in the back of the truck ahead of us, their faces covered with their shirts. It was the long, dry season in El Salvador; a season of heat, no rain, and lots of sun. Nothing was growing here.

The group of men and women from the 24 families living at the end of that difficult road were waiting to thank us for the SHARE project. “We are grateful for the inputs SHARE has provided,” said the community’s leader. “Everything has been done with our needs in mind.”

The group showed us several small agriculture initiatives for food security. The 3 goats and 3 cows, animals brought from other SHARE projects (using the pass on principle), were producing milk that was valued by the families; the small plastic lined pond dug into the hillside was producing large snails and tilapia fish – much needed protein; a few small fruit trees were being cared for near the dug well.

Photos show an irrigation system provided by SHARE to a cooperative farm group of 24 families. Cost effective small scale irrigation has tremendous potential to increase productivity and to raise income levels for the smallholder farmers in drought areas or during a long dry season, called “the hungry months”.

When we walked down the hill to a small field nearer the river we realized that the recent addition of the small irrigation system, a pump, a tank and drip irrigation hoses would be ‘a game changer’ for these 24 families. “This system will irrigate over twice what you see planted here. We have another plot of land ready and plan to have 2 harvests a year using this system.”

With the SHARE funded irrigation system the farmers now have perfect growing conditions in the dry season – heat, daily strong sunshine and now, adequate water. The irrigation system would double or triple their production each year; they could diversify and grow out of season crops. With the farmers’ hard work, this irrigation system, “the game changer” will be the ‘hand up’ out of poverty in the dry corridor in Central America.



# CHANGING FARMING WITH IRRIGATION



## YEAR ROUND PRODUCTION WITH GRAVITY FLOW IRRIGATION

In a SHARE funded irrigation initiative in Honduras, a main pipe was placed along a laneway to transport water flowing from a small reservoir (left photo). Several families use the secondary hoses that come off this main line to irrigate off season crops of corn, strawberries, cabbages, squash and beans (middle and right photos). Both drip hoses and sprinkler systems were working with this gravity flow system. Even though this system was cost effective, these small holder farmers in Honduras, who struggle to meet their families' basic needs, would never be able to afford this technology without a 'hand up' from SHARE.



## INTRODUCING NEW CROPS WITH IRRIGATION

The cool dry climate and poor soils of the high plains of Bolivia restrict campesino farmers to poor grain yields on subsistence farms. Through a Bolivian foundation a group of farmers appealed to SHARE for funds to diversify production with irrigation. The local municipality assisted in the partnership. With the SHARE funded trickle irrigation system the fruit & vegetable crops are improving income for 23 farm families in South America's most impoverished country (2 photos on left). In another community, SHARE helped finance a 3,000 metre line which channels mountain springs to irrigate a 20 hectare field enabling the families in the community to benefit from higher off-season prices for their quinoa crop (photo on right). An added benefit was that families were also able to supply water to their houses in this project.



## PUMPS FOR FOOD: RAISING FUNDS FOR COST EFFECTIVE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS. THANK YOU!

After seeing a SHARE funded irrigation systems working in remote needy communities in El Salvador, Mark Cullen, SHARE's honorary patron and his friend Dr. Jim Clubine made a generous commitment to raise funds for similar irrigation systems. Their golf tournament in August with sponsorships and donations resulted in funds raised for many irrigation systems. When Mark, Canada's gardening guru said, "Just add water" he made it happen! Thanks Mark and Jim and to all who supported year one of this two year initiative!



# CHANGING LIVES: ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014



Supplies and training for small rural enterprises (production of fruit drinks, soap, food silos, sewing, baking, gardens, fruit trees and chickens) in **Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador** to improve farm family income

Seeds and training to diversify production for 450 farmers of **Bolivia** for improved incomes

Field wells for 50 families in **Cambodia** for year round production for food security and income

Seed crusher in **Haiti** for sustainable cooking oil production from jatropa to replace charcoal use

Support for organic grower's conference in **Brazil** for agriculture training

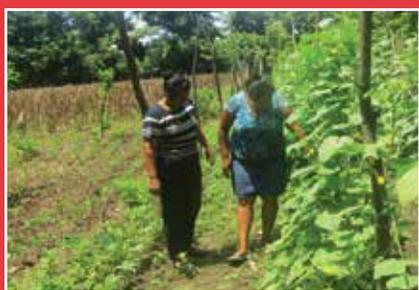
Augment micro credit funds in **Brazil**; implement a new micro credit fund in **Honduras** to provide funds for agriculture enterprises

Rototiller for small orphanage in **Bolivia** to engage boys in food production

Irrigation systems in **Honduras, El Salvador and Bolivia** for improved production

Household water filters, eco stoves and local Mayan stoves in **Guatemala** for improved family health

Assistance for education for 45 rural students in **Belize** (High School Scholarship Fund) and support for 12 agriculture students in **Brazil**



SHARE's 3 year project supported with 3 to 1 matched funding by DFATD (Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development - formerly CIDA) is in its last year. SHARE's largest project has benefitted hundreds of rural families in El Salvador and Honduras. Results to date:

- Over 3,000 registered in SHARE literacy circles to build capacity in rural communities
- Over 1,000 youth with skills training for income generation for rural families; 440 youth with leadership training to build capacity
- 400 improved stoves built in El Salvador and Honduras to improve health of women and children; to use less wood
- Over 1,500 with agriculture training for food security and income



Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce et Développement Canada

# BE A 'GAME CHANGER'. DONATE TO S.H.A.R.E.'S PROJECTS!

WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND OUR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS WE ARE CHANGING LIVES.

*"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."* – Margaret Mead



Cow Up to \$700



Adult Literacy \$100



Agriculture Training \$100



Goat or Sheep Up to \$150



Eco stove Up to \$200



Tools, equipment \$100



Water Filter \$200



Trees, Seeds \$20-\$100



High School Scholarship \$300



Youth skills training \$100



Irrigation Up to \$1200



Poultry, rabbits, fish \$25

## MANY THANKS TO...

SHARE's generous donors \* SHARE's Committees and the SHARE Board \* Friends and family who assist with SHARE's work \* Copetown Lions Club and the planning committee \* Wacky Card participants \* Cheltenham General Store, plant sale donors and volunteers \* Golfers at the Guelph Lakes annual golf tournament, organizers and sponsors \* Ellen and Ray Thomson and family for hosting the annual Corn Roast for Education

\* Mark Cullen, family and staff, Dr. Jim Clubine, supporters, sponsors and golfers at Pheasant Run Golf Club (first annual tournament) \* Dinner guests at the annual SHARE dinner dance, donors of auction items and sponsors \* Beaty Family Foundation (funds held within Oakville Community Foundation) \* **Platinum Plus Sponsor:** Scotiabank, 97 First St. Orangeville, ON \* **Gold Sponsors:** Green Tractor Inc. Barb and Karl Davis \* RBC Dominion Securities (Steve Robinson & Associates)

## COMING EVENTS

Sat. March 21, 2015, **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, 1:15pm. Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Rd. Caledon, ON. North of Mayfield Rd.

Order the Hugh Beaty story, **Extra Ordinary**, written by Mark Cullen. A fascinating real life tale about a living legend, a D Day veteran and founding member of SHARE. \$20 + shipping. First 35 orders also get the story of SHARE, **More Than a Vision**, by Hugh Beaty. Contact SHARE to order.

## DONATE

Online at: [www.shareagfoundation.org](http://www.shareagfoundation.org)

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

SHARE News is published twice a year.

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CHARITY NUMBER:  
BN: 13150 7428 RR0001

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