



FEED THE SOIL, FEED THE WORLD



Most of us know that we must care for our air and water to ensure life on our planet. Do we realize that our survival also depends on the health of the world's soil?

Living, healthy soil is essential in food production, fodder for animals, fuel and medicines.

Soil is more than dirt – it hosts one quarter of the world's biodiversity, mixes water, air and tens of thousands of micro organisms. Soil has key functions in the carbon cycle and in controlling flooding and drought. Maintenance and restoration of soil is essential to the food security of the world.

The world's farmers are the custodians of soil. But in developing countries where SHARE works, soils on many



peasant farms are over used and degraded. Small scale farmers are relegated to less than 2 acres of land to eke out a living and feed their families. They lack knowledge and have few resources to reduce soil depletion. Developing countries lack the financial resources (and sometimes the will) to provide the support peasant farmers need to improve farming practices and food production.

SHARE supports partners working with these peasant farmers to improve food production. Ecological, sustainable techniques to improve soil, such as composting, mulching, companion planting, agro forestry and use of cover crops are taught in SHARE funded workshops. SHARE's partners use demonstration plots, agriculture specialists and the 'farmer to farmer' approach to expand the work economically.

Poverty and hunger are reduced in SHARE's projects. Farm families have improved incomes while protecting and preserving their land and soil.

In SHARE projects, every year is the International Year of Soils!



TOP Malnutrition of children in Guatemala is among the highest in the world. In SHARE projects, farmers learn techniques to improve tired soils, diversify and increase food production for improved family nutrition.

BELOW In "Farmer Field Schools" in Bolivia, South America's poorest country, agriculture technicians in SHARE projects teach peasant farmers ways to improve soils.

SOIL IS A NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE – IT TAKES 1,000 YEARS TO MAKE ONE CENTIMETER OF TOP SOIL.



Order the Hugh Beaty story, **Extra Ordinary**, written by Mark Cullen. A real life tale about a living legend, a D-Day veteran and founding member of SHARE. \$20 + shipping. Contact SHARE.

In SHARE Projects HEALTHY SOILS PRODUCE HEALTHY FOOD



INTERCROPPING:

In many SHARE projects edible beans are planted between rows of corn providing ground cover to prevent erosion in the torrential rains of the wet season. Beans improve the soil fertility, providing the nitrogen needed by the corn.



MULCHING:

In Guatemala, crop residue (chopped corn stalk) is left to cover the soil on these steep hills. The mulch protects the soil surface from hot tropical sun, wind and rain, provides organic matter and nutrients and helps soil retain moisture.



WORM COMPOSTING:

In Brazil, Honduras and Guatemala worm composting is introduced in SHARE projects to produce high quality compost used to improve depleted garden plots.



CONTOURING:

In preparation for planting, fields in Honduras are contoured. The gullies catch the heavy rainfall and prevent erosion. SHARE funded agriculture technical assistance and irrigation in this project.



AGRO FORESTRY:

The guama tree, grown on some SHARE projects in Guatemala, is an ecological, affordable method to improve poor topsoil. The roots provide nitrogen for next crop of corn planted between the rows of guama. Branches are trimmed for firewood.



ORGANIC FERTILIZER:

Low income farmers in Honduras who cannot afford commercial fertilizers are taught to make organic fertilizer from local materials in SHARE projects. The compost is spread on small fields and garden plots.

IMPROVING SOIL AND FOOD SECURITY IN BOLIVIA



Recently, a SHARE project assisted 450 farmers working in 22 communities in the harsh growing conditions of the Andean highlands of Bolivia. To improve income these farmers received bags of seeds of the wonder cereal, quinoa. To restore depleted soils, farmers received lupine seeds, the Tarwi bean (*Lupinus mutabilis*). The peasant farmers were assisted in the project by agriculture specialists. The farmers agreed to "pass on" a required amount of seed to other farmers who will then introduce the 2 new crops rotating them with wheat, their staple crop.

The lupine, with its beautiful blue flowers, is


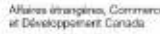
considered a "green manure" that ecologically improves the soil while growing, capturing nitrogen from the air and fixing it in the soil for crops. When worked into the soil, the flowering plant effectively improves the quantity of organic matter and the structure of the soil enabling the soil to retain what little moisture there is on the high dry plains. The seeds are eaten in a variety of dishes after being well rinsed to eliminate the bitter taste.

This SHARE project encouraged diversification of production that also resulted in soil improvements, better family nutrition and income on small Bolivian farms.



4TH YEAR OF DFATD PROJECT



 Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada  Affaires étrangères, Commerce et Développement Canada

Working with 2 partner organizations, SHARE is completing 3 successful years of work in SHARE's largest project ever. This project was monitored both in Honduras and El Salvador by staff from the Canadian government, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD, formerly CIDA). This grassroots project fits the Canadian government's development goals to reduce poverty in targeted low income countries, support women and youth and increase food security.

As a result of the excellent results being achieved, SHARE has been granted the opportunity to continue this project for a 4th year!

SHARE appreciates the support and commitment of DFTAD and our donors to this project. This project is improving the lives of many families in 95 rural communities. Donations applied to this project are matched 3 – 1 by funds from the Canadian government.

Watch What We Will Do in Year 4!



Improved stoves replace smoky, open fires – improved health and environment.



Youth leadership and skills training – opportunity and family income.



Agriculture inputs and training – for food security and family income.



Adult literacy – building human capacity, democracy and strong rural communities.

Thank you to Mark and Jim for “Pumps for Food”



Mark Cullen, “Canada’s Gardening Guru” and SHARE’s honorary patron, knows about gardens and food production. While visiting SHARE projects Mark and his

friend Dr. Jim Clubine saw that having irrigation in the long dry season could raise small scale farm families out of poverty and provide food for their families.

Their fund raiser for SHARE, the “Pumps for Food” initiative is going strong. During Lent, Jim’s church, Central United Church, Unionville raised \$6,700! Irrigation projects for several market gardens have been started and land is being prepared for more enterprises.

Groups of farmers share the irrigation equipment, the work and the benefits. The cost per system is about \$1,200 which is about \$250 - \$300 per family. SHARE’s partner organizations research each situation and assist the groups with soil and water management and marketing.

Thank you for donations in year one of this 3 year “Pumps for Food” initiative. Thanks again, Mark and Jim, for your bold vision and generosity.



At the SHARE Annual General Meeting, Hugh Beaty, former long time project manager for SHARE, welcomed new director, Caitlin Armstrong. Caitlin is a third generation Armstrong family SHARE volunteer, granddaughter of founding member, the late David Armstrong. SHARE thanked Steve Anderson for his many years of service on the board and committees.

THANK YOU... 24,135 TIMES!

SHARE thanks you on behalf of each of the 24,135 men, women and children in 8 countries who benefited from a SHARE project last year.

Every donation makes a difference. More gifts to projects

include: Trees/orchards – up to \$200, Kitchen garden – \$30, Seeds, tools - \$50, Cow – up to \$900, Irrigation parts – \$300 - \$1,200, Small rural enterprises – up to \$300, Micro credit loans – up to \$400.



Scholarships

\$300



Goats, Sheep

Up to \$150



Agriculture Training

\$100



Youth Skills Training

\$100



Adult Literacy

\$100



Poultry, Rabbits

\$30



Farm tools, Equipment

\$100



Stoves/water filters

up to \$200

SHARE FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2015

MAY 30 & 31 – Annual Plant Sale. 9am - 1pm. Cheltenham General Store. 14386 Creditview Road, Cheltenham.

JULY 20 – Annual Golf Tournament. Start 12pm, Caledon Golf & Country Club, 2121 Olde Baseline Road, Caledon. Call Craig 905-866-2964 or register online or mail to office.

AUG. 25 - 2nd Annual "Pumps for Food" Charity Golf Tournament hosted by Mark Cullen & Dr. Jim Clubine. Shotgun start, 1 p.m. Pheasant Run Golf Course, 18033 Warden Avenue, Sharon, ON L0G 1V0. Register at markcullen.com registration form.

SEPT. 13 – Annual Corn Roast for Belize High School Scholarship Fund. 3 - 7pm. Raefield Farm, 5231 County Road #27 (between Rockwood and Brucedale). Music, farm walks, swimming, hayride. Bring a lawn chair. Call Ellen Thomson 519.856.9953.

NOV. 7 – Annual Dinner & Silent Auction. 5:30 p.m. Speranza Banquet Hall, Brampton. Cost: \$80/person with \$40 tax receipt. Call 905-838-0897 or 888-337-4273 for tickets or to sponsor a table.

Can you host an event or suggest a special fund raising initiative for SHARE? Let SHARE know; we will help.

A BIG THANK YOU TO...

* Every donor and volunteer *
 Mark and Mary Cullen * Beaty Family Foundation (funds held within Oakville Community Foundation) * **Platinum Plus Sponsor:** Scotiabank, 97 First St. Orangeville * **Gold Sponsors:** Green Tractor Inc. Barb and Karl Davis & RBC

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 All who attended fundraisers and donated auction items.

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