



INSIDE: Pumps for Food: Mark says, "Just Add Water!"

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In developing countries, small scale family farming is key in eradicating hunger, caring for the land and developing local economies in strong communities.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING

The United Nations has designated 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming drawing attention to the fact that family farming is the world's leading form of agriculture. One and a half billion people are involved in family farming; about seventy per cent of the world's food is produced on family farms. (UN web site)

What type of agriculture will be effective to feed our hungry and growing population in the future? Even though commercial scale agriculture is now feeding the majority of the world's population of 7 billion, many people think that the bottom billion, the rural poor in developing countries, will continue to be fed by local small scale farming efforts. Food from commercial scale agriculture is not accessible or affordable to the bottom billion.

In developing countries, where SHARE has projects, family farms are small, sometimes less than 2 hectares. Peasant farm families are often producing their own food and food for local communities in challenging conditions; crops are grown on steep slopes, in drought areas, or on marginal land that is unwanted by large corporations for large scale food production for export.



The reality is that these families must grow their own food if they are to eat. Their income is frequently too low to buy adequate food. The families of small scale farmers and farm laborers are often the hungriest and poorest people in developing countries. It is a cruel paradox.

These small scale farmers will need resources to meet increasing demands. Rural communities and peasant farmers in low income countries have been neglected for decades; they lack access to basic tools, extension services, knowledge, reasonable credit, and appropriate technology such as irrigation systems.

SHARE works with effective local rural partners to change this. When other supports do not exist, SHARE's small agriculture projects assist these peasant farmers to increase production supplying their families with diversified diets, raising family income with small local sales and providing affordable food for their communities.

With your help SHARE will expand our assistance to hundreds of small farmers in the International Year of the Family Farm.

FAMILY FARMS FEED THE WORLD, CARE FOR THE EARTH ...

...USING ORGANIC FERTILIZER

Small scale farmers with very low incomes cannot afford to buy fertilizers and pesticides so ecological food production is used out of necessity. They often farm on land not wanted by larger commercial farmers and this marginal land needs improvements.



In Honduras, the SHARE funded agriculture technician teaches farmers to use local materials to make bokashi fertilizer, a mixture that includes rice hulls, molasses, manure and soil. The recipe results in a quick composting method, producing organic matter in a few weeks that is used to enrich depleted soils and consequently boost crop production.



Farmers in the SHARE/CIDA (DFATD) project spend one day a month making this fertilizer. One Honduran farmer group has made a small enterprise from sales of this organic fertilizer.

...USING "GREEN MANURE"

Farmers in the eastern area of Guatemala provide for their large families by growing corn which is dried and ground to make the stack of tortillas eaten daily. In a SHARE project the small scale farmers are using 2 kinds of beans as "green manure" to improve their fields in place of expensive fertilizers. Edible beans are



grown in a crop rotation with corn to improve the depleted soil. This crop rotation practice is part of the centuries old highly effective farming practice of the Mayans (milpa farming). The nutritional value of the beans is important in a country where malnutrition and stunting are the fourth highest in the world.



In other fields in the SHARE project, the inedible macuna bean, a tropical legume, is planted in between rows of corn growing on the steep slopes. When the leaves of the beans drop they enrich the soil; the roots fix nitrogen back into the soil and the root system holds the soil, preventing erosion. The macuna bean plants grow like vines up the corn stalks which are left to dry with cobs still on.

...USING 'LOCAL' FOOD

There are millions of small scale farmers in the northeast of Brazil where farm families eke out a living on remote settlements battling drought and poverty. It is in this area that SHARE projects are benefiting from a federal school lunch program that supports local food production – a “green” solution that improves local economies, minimizes the transport of produce while improving quality of children’s diets. Here, the school meal is not seen as an expense but as an investment in both the health of rural impoverished children and in the small family farmer.



In this program at least 30 percent of the food for school lunches must be purchased from local family-based farmers. The small scale producers have a local guaranteed market and municipalities have a reliable source of locally produced food for the program, a win-win situation.



SHARE’s small projects here have provided goats, chickens and 2 micro credit funds that are assisting small scale farmers to be part of supplying food to this unique initiative.

SHARE HAS SEEN FOOD PRODUCTION INCREASE BY 100 - 300% USING IRRIGATION IN PROJECTS FUNDED IN CAMBODIA, HAITI, BRAZIL, EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS.

PUMPS FOR FOOD: MARK SAYS, "JUST ADD WATER!"

Mark Cullen, Canada’s gardening guru and SHARE’s Honorary Patron has traveled on monitoring trips with SHARE four times to see for himself the work SHARE is accomplishing in impoverished rural communities in Central and South America. SHARE is very lucky to have a spokesperson that promotes and supports our foundation.

Mark’s repeated question to SHARE is, “What does SHARE need?”- to grow, to be more effective and to continue the good work?



The answer to Mark’s question is always the same: “SHARE could do more with increased funding. SHARE has everything in place to accomplish more good things – strong, effective southern partners, projects that show results, experience and expertise in what we do.”

Mark has seen for himself that “SHARE, as a volunteer organization, gets good bang for the buck.”

Mark and Jim saw how effective small scale irrigation systems are in moving subsistence farmers from merely feeding their



ABOVE: Mark Cullen, SHARE’s Honorary Patron (left) and his friend Dr. Jim Clubine, Minister of Unionville United Church (right), visited SHARE project sites in El Salvador during the long hot, dry season when there is no food production without water.

LEFT: Ever, an agriculture technician in the SHARE/CIDA (DAFTD) project shows continuous production in the dry season in a market garden using SHARE funded drip irrigation. Growing conditions, with the addition of irrigation, are ideal.

..... families to producing food all year with increased income so they are assisting SHARE by raising funds for irrigation systems tanks, pumps, pipes and hoses.

If you can help with this important project, remember to designate your funds to Pumps for Food.

SHARE has irrigation projects waiting funding in 3 countries.

You can be part of Mark and Jim’s efforts to raise \$40,000 over 2 years for approximately 30 farmer groups.

YOU CAN SEE BIG RESULTS FROM OUR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Help SHARE Grow! SHARE has many projects large & small waiting for funding. 100% of your donation goes to a project. Donations applied to the SHARE/CIDA project receive 3 to 1 matched funding.

Every donation makes a difference. Other gifts include:
Eco Stove - \$200; Water Filter - \$200; Cow - \$700;
Adult Literacy - \$100; Water Pump - \$600;
Bakery Oven - \$900; Orchard - \$500; Kitchen Garden - \$100



High School Fees \$300



Goats, Sheep Up to \$150



Agriculture Training \$100



Irrigation Up to \$1200



Youth Skills Training \$100



Poultry, Rabbits \$30



Tools, Equipment \$100



Trees, Seeds \$40

SHARE FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2014

MAY 31 – Annual Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Cheltenham General Store.

JULY 21 – Annual Golf Tournament. 12:00 pm. Shotgun start. Registration from 10:30 am. Guelph Lakes Golf and Country Club. Call Craig 905.866.2964. Visit website to register online.

SEPT. 7 – 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. 1 – Dinner Dance & Silent Auction. Doors open for silent auction at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Speranza Banquet Hall, 510 A Deerhurst Dr., Brampton. ON. \$75 with \$40 tax receipt. Call 905.838.0897 or 888.337.4273 for tickets or to sponsor a table. New menu!

EARLIER EVENTS: Copetown Lions Club Dinner, Wacky Card Tournament

Can't attend? Host a 'satellite' corn roast, plan a dinner, plant or garage sale with your friends, church or club. Help SHARE grow!

A BIG THANK YOU...

to all of our generous donors and to all who attended events, to the Copetown Lions Club for the fund raising dinner, the Copetown planning committee, to the donors who are meeting the Mark Cullen challenge (Mark will still match new funds pledged this year. Call SHARE), the Beauty Foundation for their grant

(funds held in the Oakville Community Foundation), and Gold Sponsors, Green Tractor Inc., Barb and Karl Davis, RBC Dominion Securities, Steve Robinson & Associates.

We pass along to you the gratitude of all the people in SHARE's projects! We wish you could hear directly from them. SHARE is seeing big results from our volunteer efforts and your generous donations.

SHARE News is published twice a year.

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