



LEFT One hundred community leaders learn agroforestry techniques in workshops and on visits to area farms and demonstration plots at the SHARE sponsored annual Organic Growers' Conference in Brazil. RIGHT A small loan from SHARE allowed Salvadoran farmers to diversify their crops which grow in the forest and in cleared alleys between the native trees.

AGROFORESTRY... Farming in the forests

Agroforestry.... an unknown term in North American agriculture, involves cultivating fruits and crops in the existing native forests. For small-scale farmers in Latin America, with limited land base and in needy communities where SHARE works, it is an alternative to conventional farming that is practised without mechanization, with low or no chemical inputs in sensitive environments. Crops or pastures are intensively cultivated and managed together with native trees and shrubs. Banana and other fruits are planted among

native trees providing revenue, family food and shade for other income producing crops such as coffee and cacao.

It is an ancient practice that is becoming increasingly popular and is encouraged by SHARE's agriculture technicians who are teaching ecological farming systems. Erosion is reduced, moisture preserved and the environment protected while providing a diversity of products year round for farm income at local markets and for family food.

Micro credit from SHARE recently provided lime tree seedlings to expand

and diversify an agroforestry enterprise in El Salvador. Sixteen farmers are growing 13 different crops in the forests and in corridors between the trees on strips of fertile cleared land. The produce, including the banana crop, is carried 2 hours by horseback to a truck for transport to markets from this remote productive farm near the Guatemalan border. These families have a continuous food supply and some income farming the forests in a way that limits the environmental impact.

SHARE HELPS BRAZILIAN WOMEN IMPROVE INCOME THROUGH AGROFORESTRY

Eleven enterprising women from southern Brazil produce organic coffee in their backyards under banana trees and in the nearby natural forest growth. Demand for their organic shade grown coffee exceeds supply at local markets.

SHARE recently supported these women by providing 300 coffee seedlings to increase their production, a scale and a

sealer to improve marketing, and a pulper to assist with the processing of the coffee beans.

These women will “pass-on” their knowledge to other community members interested in agroforestry and to the youth of the community while keeping the traditional techniques alive and earning an income.



Rural youth, literacy teachers and agriculture staff will continue learning at two vocational training centres. These poor rural families lack opportunities for basic education.



A small computer training centre used for vocational training in the SHARE/CIDA project was supported by a donation of computers from a Taiwanese organization, Care2Help, and officially opened in July by the Taiwanese ambassador to El Salvador.



ABOVE Organic products bring higher prices at local markets in Brazil and are produced without the high costs of commercial fertilizers and chemicals that small-scale farmers cannot afford.

LEFT Seedlings, a scale, a sealer and pulper provided by SHARE will enable enterprising women coffee producers to expand and improve their small business.

SHARE ANNOUNCES A THIRD CIDA PROJECT

SHARE will raise funds to manage a third CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) project that provides agriculture training and information in rural communities that lack access to resources and information in El Salvador. The project will also provide vocational training and opportunities for further education for rural youth and adults in 2 computer-training centres and in small resource centres in 20 rural communities.

Agriculture staff will provide training materials via computers and in print for farmers in their communities on diversification of production, knowledge of animal husbandry, horticulture, apiculture, social, health and family issues. Hundreds of farm families will be reached through this training and information project. This project builds on SHARE's literacy and agriculture training work that is ongoing in 40 rural communities.

With 3 to 1 matched funding from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) on 3 projects, your donation will continue to help SHARE make a fundamental difference in many needy rural communities in developing countries.



THE LEGACY CONTINUES WITH COMMUNITY CATTLE HERDS

Community cattle herds provide milk, cheese and income for rural families in El Salvador. The sale of one calf from their herd will double the yearly income of this family living on approximately one dollar a day. SHARE's project manager recently visited a new cattle herd that was created from the "pass-on" of the third generation of offspring of SHARE's first Salvadoran cattle project. The "pass-on" principle is providing a multiplier affect, continually expanding the benefits to many families.



The hungry and needy children of Mossoro Brazil show their thanks for milk that is still being donated today from the offspring of SHARE's very first dairy project, a herd of Canadian Holsteins sent to Brazil in 1977.

A LEGACY TO BE PROUD OF IN BRAZIL!

A Letter of Thanks

"During the last decades it was the only milk we had for the children, the hungry adults, old and sick people, and for beggars in front of the house," writes Sister Ellen, who has worked for 38 years as a Franciscan nun managing slum schools in Brazil. She guesses that over 20,000 children have benefited from the milk from the offspring of the Canadian cows over the past 30 years.

"That Canadian donation has contributed much to the health of our children and to that of many poor people. Many thanks to the Canadian donors. Many thanks to the members of SHARE responsible for that donation that has done an immense good to the poor in the Northeast of Brazil for 30 years," writes Sister Ellen.

READ SISTER ELLEN'S COMPLETE LETTER BY VISITING SHARE'S WEB SITE, WWW.SHAREAGFOUNDATION.ORG.

TAIWANESE SCHOLARSHIP FOR SHARE STUDENT

Never in her most ambitious dreams for the scholarship program that she initiated would Isabelle Harmer have imagined the good news. Last summer, it was very exciting to hear that one of the SHARE high school scholarship students received a 4-year university scholarship to attend a Taiwanese university. Marvin Ruano, from Indian Church Village in Belize, is studying in Taiwan. Marvin's father, a Guatemalan refugee, raises cattle on leased land near the small remote village.



"I am going to try my best to overcome any challenges and succeed in life with a higher education. I am excited to go and experience a new world," wrote Marvin.

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 – \$700



Adult Literacy – \$100



Agriculture Training – \$100



Goat or Sheep – \$150



Healthy Cooking Stove – \$100



Rabbits – \$45-\$100



Micro Credit – \$100-\$250



Fruit Trees – \$75-\$150



High School Scholarship – \$350



Youth Training/Books – \$30-\$60



Agriculture Inputs – \$100



Poultry – \$45-\$75

For those with busy schedules giving to SHARE is made simple. Visit our web site to donate or for gift-giving:

www.shareagfoundation.org

SHARE will send out a gift card if you give us the information.

S.H.A.R.E. AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION COMING EVENTS

Sat. Jan. 23, 2010 at 1:15pm - Annual General Meeting
Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Road,
Caledon, ON (North of Mayfield Rd.)

SHARE IS SUPPORTED BY Canadian International Development Agency

SHARE News is published twice a year.

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Donors are invited to join Project Managers on awareness trips. Call:
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