

Sharing SHARE: an article from Mark Cullen's April 2014 Newsletter (photos added)



Dr. Jim Clubine and Mark Cullen hear about seed saving and native corn from a Salvadoran farmer living on a remote land settlement.

This past month I had an adventure that I wish to share with you: I flew to El Salvador on a 5 day monitoring trip with S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation. It was my 4th such trip and 2nd to El Salvador in 10 years.

The goal of these trips is to witness the results of the work that is being done 'on the ground' with hard earned Canadian dollars. For every dollar raised from private sources [like you and me] C.I.D.A. [Ottawa] match with 3 more dollars [tax dollars, like yours and mine]. So it behooves me to see what gives where the rubber meets the road.

I am happy to report that this organization is doing a masterful job of opening doors of prosperity to a great number of people in Central and South America. SHARE supports landless people and subsistence farmers with the tools and resources that they need to get a start. The slogan 'A Hand Up not a Hand Out' originated with this organization 35 years ago.

When I talk about 'opening doors of prosperity' I mean it as a relative thing. None of the people that I visited in the remote mountains villages of El Salvador would even dream of the kind of material wealth that we enjoy here in Canada. For them a definition of great wealth would be a cow. One cow per family. A female that gives milk, can be bred for more cows and at the end of the day can be consumed: that is the ultimate gift.

Pass On Principle



The group of farmers on Hyman's settlement received 3 cows from another settlement using the SHARE "pass on principle" to expand results.

One of the key rules that guides the SHARE strategy is the 'Pass On' principle. This is a rule that, for every gift of resources provided, the fruits of it must be passed on to other needy people. A cow has calves, which are given away to cow-less families. The wealth is therefore spread around to people who can really use it.

The Canadians who volunteer to lead the monitoring trips have been doing so for many years and know their stuff. In my case, the trip was led by Les and Marg Frayne of Fergus, Ontario. Volunteers they may be but amateurs they are not.

Have a look at these pictures and you will see that we are doing some great work with their valuable assistance. Visit Mark Cullen's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151905412700796.1073741923.58245040795&type=3>)

“Pumps for Food”



Mark and Jim walk through a new irrigated garden where SHARE has provided a pump and a drip irrigation system.



The “Pumps for Food” project will improve food security for farm families even in the dry season - “the hungry months.”



The irrigation project will improve the economic well being of poor farm families on remote settlements.

While in El Salvador I travelled with my good friend Dr. James Clubine. He is the minister at Central United Church in Unionville, Ontario.

This was his first 'SHARE' monitoring trip and he was quite overwhelmed by the experience. So much so that he suggested that we come home and raise some money to help supply 30 water pumps to Salvadorian and Honduran farmers.

The pumps provide water through a cistern system that 'dribbles' water very efficiently down to a 2 or 3 acre 'garden'. We witnessed a couple of these 'Pumps for Food' projects and were impressed by the incredible productivity for only a \$1,200 [Canadian] investment per pump/system. They can generate up to 3 crops a year from the same land using these pump systems and they make otherwise marginally productive land VERY productive.

So we are now on the hook to raise \$40,000 for SHARE over the next 2 years.

Would you help us? If you possibly can, a tax receipt is in it for you AND the satisfaction that your money is being invested in places where it is desperately needed AND being monitored by volunteers, at their own expense [there is no admin charge on donated money].

Please donate today, or you will forget.

Go to www.shareagfoundation.org Use the Canada Helps button for ONLINE donations

Find a mailing address in CONTACT US and on the How You Can Help page on the web site.

Please designate your donation to **the Mark Cullen “Pumps for Food” project.**



Mark Cullen with SHARE project manager in El Salvador.

Look at the difference small scale gravity fed and drip irrigation systems can make!

These photos show irrigation systems in use in SHARE's projects that were implemented in Honduras in 2013. This is what Mark Cullen and Dr. Jim Clubine are hoping to accomplish for Salvadoran peasant farmers with their project "Pumps for Food".

