

Share and Care Children's Welfare Association - Farming initiative Report

Goal:

Setting up a banana, papaya and vegetable farm to augment local and sustainable source of funds for share and care's rural outreach work (education, health, social mobility, women's empowerment and old age care).

Background and Rationale:

Share and Care Children's welfare organization has been working in the Katchur Village for 3 decades now. The founders of this organization are committed social workers who have brought an end to Bonded Labour (modern day slavery) in Katchur and surrounding villages through their rural school (provides free of cost education to 350 children from the most marginalized groups) and their rural outreach programs.

Share and care has done some great work, but their funding (local and international) has been few and far between. The funding landscape has changed a great deal and taking this into consideration, they continue their move towards self generation of funds. Their dairy farm and vermicomposting continue to run well, the massive floods of last year was a major setback, but they have since mostly managed to get things back on track.

Activities Planned:

- Establish and run a banana plantation on 3 acres of land
- Establish and run a papaya plantation on 3 acres of land
- Establish and run a vegetable plantation of 1 acre of land.

Activities achieved:

- The banana plantation has been established as planned.
 - The first batch of bananas will be ready to be harvested towards the mid to end of November.
 - Owing to 'once in a hundred year flood' last December, the project was delayed and has only started towards the end of January, hence there is a delay in the harvesting of the first batch.
 - Owing to a change in thinking post the flood, it was felt a traditional method of irrigation would be better suited to the place in place of the planned drip irrigation. The costs are identical though.
- The papaya plantation has been established as planned.
 - The first batch of papaya should be ready to harvest in the early part of October.
 - This delay is also due to the heavy rains and intense flooding.
- The vegetable farming is one area which has suffered greatly due to the flooding event of last year. The land set aside for it has suffered repeated inundation since and this activity is yet to commence. The organisation is waiting till until the end of this North East Monsoon season (end October through November) to complete this activity.
 - On a couple of occasions the land was levelled and cleared of debris, but breaches from the lake have made the land currently unfit for cultivation.

- If the monsoon is regular this November, the land could be made ready for cultivation.
- The project has experience severe difficulties due to exceptionally harsh weather conditions. Despite this, things are on track albeit with delayed results.

Conclusion:

- The project results have been delayed, but are expected to be delivered as planned (with delay in the time line).
- This has set the organisations plans in disarray, but the situation is being mitigated as best as possible.
- The project is expected to meet its targets, but will not meet the planned timeline. Under the circumstances, saving the project has been a difficult task in itself, but there is optimism as the weather has been good for the better part of this year and with it continuing to stay this way, results will be achieved as planned.

Financials:

| S.No | Items/activities | Planned Budget | Actual expenditure |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Vegetable Cultivation | | | |
| 1 | Seeds, Fertiliser and Labour | 70,000 (CHF.1076.92) | - |
| Papaya Cultivation | | | |
| 2 | Fencing | 1,00,000 (CHF.1538.46) | 1,00,000 (CHF.1538.46) |
| 3 | Irrigation | 1,60,000 (CHF.2461.53) | 1,60,000 (CHF.2461.53) |
| 4 | 600 Banana saplings X 3 acres = 1800X Rs.20= | 36,000 (CHF.553.84) | 36,000 (CHF.553.84) |
| 5 | Labour for planting | 30,000 (CHF.461.53) | 30,000 (CHF.461.53) |
| 6 | Fertilizer | 24,000 (CHF.369.23) | 24,000 (CHF.369.23) |
| 7 | Administration, salary etc. | 80,000(CHF.1230.76) | 80,000(CHF.1230.76) |
| | | 430,000 (CHF. 6615.38) | 430,000 (CHF. 6615.38) |
| Banana Cultivation | | | |
| 8 | Fencing | 1,00,000(CHF.1583.46) | 1,00,000(CHF.1583.46) |
| 9 | Irrigation | 1,60,000 (CHF2461.53) | 1,60,000 (CHF2461.53) |

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|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10 | Cultivation cost 1,200 Plant X 3 acres= 3,600 X Rs. 20/- | 72,000 (CHF.1107.69) | 72,000 (CHF.1107.69) |
| 11 | Labour | 30,000 (CHF.461.23) | 30,000 (CHF.461.23) |
| 12 | Fertilizer | 8,000 (CHF.123.07) | 8,000 (CHF.123.07) |
| 13 | Administration, salary etc. (6 months) | 60,000 (CHF.923.07) | 60,000 (CHF.923.07) |
| | | 430,000 (CHF. 6615.38) | 430,000 (CHF. 6615.38) |
| | Total | 930,000 (CHF.14307.69) | 860000 (CHF. 13230.76) |

Photographs



Banana Plantation February



Banana Plantation September



Papaya Plantation Feb

