NIGERIA

Water of Life Northern Nigeria Irrigation Project

Farmers in Northern Nigeria typically farm on small plots of land that need to be irrigated using traditional labour-intensive methods. This uses up a lot of time and human resources. A simple technology can help men and women with their daily activity of irrigating their crops. Since January 2005, Guinness Nigeria has introduced and disseminated human powered treadle pumps and installed hand-drilled tubewells to farmers in nearby communities. Guinness Nigeria funded the pilot project with EnterpriseWorks (EWV), an international NGO operating in Nigeria to deliver 271 pumps for a total of $187,750. Each pump can deliver irrigation water seven times faster than a bucket on a rope traditionally used by farmers in the region. The introduction of the treadle pump to the community created other positive knock-on effects - local metalworkers trained to manufacture and market the pump, thus increasing their income, and local vegetable farmers increased their yield and thus their standard of living.

Because of the success of the project, there are plans to introduce the farmers to sorghum and maize cultivation. These grains could be supplied to the Guinness Nigeria breweries, providing a steady source of income for the farmers. Over a 15-month period, EWV has already worked through two growing seasons in two adjacent northern states (Kaduna and Katsina) and has helped farmers earn as much as $1,500 a year—double the average annual household income.

QUICK FACTS

Title: Water of Life Northern Nigeria Irrigation Project

Location: Northern Nigeria

Implementation Date: January 2005 - 2007

Aim: To provide 271 treadle pumps and install hand-drilled tubewells for farmers to irrigate their farms more effectively.

People reached: 20,000

Partners: EnterpriseWorks/Nigeria
GHANA

Water Filter Project

Provision of clean, portable water is critical to reducing health risks associated with the consumption of contaminated/unsafe water. Most communities in Ghana currently rely on open traditional wells, streams and other contaminated surface water sources. Only 36% of the rural population has access to improved drinking water and only 35% of urban households have a mains water connection. Since July 2006, the Diageo Foundation has funded a ceramic filters project, implemented by EnterpriseWorks (an international NGO) working in Ghana. The Filtron filter is made from locally procured resources and sold at an affordable rate from local shops. The filter is designed to be filled manually with water taken from the local supply which may be subject to contamination. The filter removes up to 99.9% bacteria and amoeba and 99% of suspended solids. For $10 one filter provides clean and safe water to a family of six for one year. Filters are distributed via existing private enterprises who sell the filters at full market value. In order to reach poorer households a voucher system is under development. As at February 28 2007, 544 filters were sold in 41 communities in four Districts.

QUICK FACTS

Title: Water Filter Project
Location: Dangbe East and Dangbe West, Accra
Implementation Date: 2006 - 2007
Aim: To provide an affordable household level solution to the problem of unsafe drinking water in areas where high quality piped or well water is not available, and to establish a profitable and sustainable supply chain for the commercialization of the filters through retail outlets and water sector organizations.
People expected to be reached: 50,000
Partners: EnterpriseWorks/Ghana, Potters For Peace, Practica to provide local resources and De Oude Beuk (Dutch Foundation).