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NO EXCUSE 2015
MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

SPIRULINA - A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION

Achieving the U.N. MDG'S

In eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, the **U.N. Millennium Development Goal #1**, sustainable and long term solutions are essential. These are imperative not only in emergency situations but also as an investment in a productive society to make a change in people's everyday life.

How can society end poverty and achieve prosperity, if its children are underdeveloped, mentally retarded or too weak to attend school? One such sustainable solution is Spirulina, blue-green microalgae which can serve as a vital source of nutrition. Spirulina is an algae growing naturally under tropical conditions in alkaline water and can be cultivated in small ponds with little investment.

In the long run, there are no cheaper and better ways to sustainability than creating local businesses which make use of the knowledge and skills of local women. A truly sustainable solution will emerge if rural women can be profitably involved in the eradication of malnutrition and, in the process, make a living out of it. Spirulina can become a sustainable long-term solution if programmes can be designed which enable profitable enterprises that are capable of combating malnutrition as a business.

How can spirulina eradicate extreme poverty and hunger?

 Spirulina is affordable: to feed a child in India costs between one and two Rupees a day (US$ 6 to 12 per year). Many other feeding solutions are more costly and less sustainable.

 Spirulina is effective: one gram per day is sufficient enough to correct severe malnutrition in a child in a few weeks. New studies suggest that Spirulina not only improves the physical development of the child but also cognitive performance.

 Moreover, spirulina helps people affected by HIV/AIDS to gain weight and feel better in their daily life.

 It is a relatively simple process and requires a low investment of only US$ 500 per tank (18 m2) to produce 150 grams per day.

 It empowers women: spirulina cultivation is labour-intensive, hence an ideal job for rural women and others.

 It is a local business: spirulina production can be organized as a decentralized rural industry and can involve local people. Individuals can generate an income through producing, processing and selling spirulina as a business. It is thus a sustainable long-term solution.

IIMSAM Spirulina Pilot-Projects

The IIMSAM Dar al Muamineen Centre – a success story in Kenya

The IIMSAM Spirulina Nutritional Programme in the Nyanza Province of Kenya works to help physically challenged orphans/children, with housing, feeding, medical care, education etc. The programme, which is the first of its kind in Kenya, aims at making the cultivation of spirulina self sustainable. Today we have daily production which is enough for daily doses of 100 HIV/AIDS infected adults or 200 HIV/AIDS infected children or 500 malnourished children, which is far from enough for all the malnourished children and people living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya. The IIMSAM Spirulina Programme is in the process of rapid expansion and aims at becoming a self-sustainable solution that can be duplicated throughout Kenya, Africa and worldwide.

Iraq

The IIMSAM Spirulina Fallujah project aims at helping the children and adults in need and raises the health profile of the citizens in Fallujah, Iraq. The project's primary focus is on the cultivation and distribution of spirulina and the providence of micro credit loans, to start small private spirulina pool enterprises. In addition, the programme is providing children with a new type of nutritional and health education, enabling them to increase their environmental and social awareness.

IIMSAM`s Initiative for Haiti (Fall 2009 Upon the Availability of Funding).

IIMSAM will provide immediate emergency relief for the areas where nutritional and medical assistance is most needed. Based on IIMSAM's preliminary analysis, this would be the northern part of the country and the area close to the border of the Dominican Republic. In the initial phase IIMSAM will be able to provide relief to 350-500 peoples. However, the emergency relief program will be expanded to the whole area as well as other regions based on need. Under IIMSAM's IMAP Program (International Medical Assistance Program) a team of highest quality medical doctors and practitioners will be brought in to provide emergency medical care. IIMSAM will be treating malnourished children, primarily with ready-to-use spirulina, that includes all the minerals, vitamins, and nutrients that rapidly growing young children need.

GOAL 2: Spirulina as a long-term solution

IIMSAM will facilitate local spirulina production. Based on the same model as IIMSAM is using in Kenya where it has been proven to be very successful, the local population will be educated by IIMSAM's technical experts on how spirulina farming can be organized as a decentralized rural industry generating an income through producing, processing and selling spirulina as a business.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE IIMSAM OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.iimsam.org