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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 under-developed, mentally retarded or too weak to attend school? One such sustainable solution is Spirulina, a blue-green microalga 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 cheap: 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

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 Green life 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 - A SYNOPSIS

The Intergovernmental institute for the use of microalage spirulina against malnutrition (IIMSAM) works to promote the use of microalgae Spirulina against severe malnutrition. It has been established through two international agreements that are registered in the UN Treaty Series in accordance with article 102 of the UN Charter. IIMSAM is also accredited as a Permanent Intergovernmental Observer with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in keeping with resolution E/2003/212, dated 5th March 2003.

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

Firmly believing in the noble aspirations of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals especially the need to develop a global partnership for development, IIMSAM furthered itself to solicit the support of the private sector, NGOs, IGOs, academia, and the civil society to be a stakeholder in the initiatives of the organization to realize a world free of malnutrition and hunger by mainstreaming the use of Spirulina.

IIMSAM aspires for cooperation and alliances with the private sector, NGOs, IGOs, academia, and the civil society so that the use of Spirulina be mainstreamed as a tool of policy and practice to deliver to the peoples of the world the daily nutritional requirement of a human body; and to make Spirulina a key-driver to eradicate malnutrition, achieve food security and bridge the health divide with a special priority for the Developing and the Least Developed Countries.

IIMSAM Official Selected Working Partners at the Field Level

Providing Logistical and Technical Support:

IN INDIA



The Mahatma Gandhi Foundation



IN AFRICA



African Green Future



Voices of African Mothers In Ghana

IN LATIN AMERICA



Dr. Luis Agote Foundation (Argentina)

OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD



In Turkey



Japan-USA



IIMSAM has an International Panel of Experts that provide technological, scientific, and operational support and biological and engineering advice. These include some of the world's leading experts on Spirulina.

IIMSAM maintains channels of communication with the following Specialized Agencies of the United Nations at the headquarters level as well as their respective Liaison Offices at UN Headquarters in New York: UNDP, WHO, UNIDO, FAO, IFAD.



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