

Helping people help themselves

Our holistic **Community Project** works across all the different sections of the 60,000-strong mid-Gorgol agricultural community. Economic as well as climatic conditions are hard in southern Mauritania, and we help commercial rice farmers diversify and intensify their crops. Using the concept of 'Seeing is Believing', for example, we have shown that using compost as opposed to expensive bought fertilisers greatly improves yields and requires less water.

Livestock health and training

Livestock health has deteriorated over the last few decades as a result of impoverished pastures and increased livestock concentrations. We have selected sites in which to set up vaccination parks, training people in the use of veterinary medicines. As well as many other activities, the Community Project has also trained a number of women's groups in cooperative and micro-credit management.

Organisation and motivation

Half the battle is encouraging motivated, well-organised communities. Whether working with pastoralists or traditional or commercial farmers, our aim is to help people increase incomes and improve their lives through their own efforts.



Community Project: working with traditional rain-fed and flood-recession farmers, we have helped them dig rain-catchment barriers and use animal traction for ploughing, *above*, which results in better yields and is certainly cheaper than hiring in tractors.



Digging Wells: Mohamedou Sall, local partner director, discusses with villagers one of the 4 new wells we will be digging. These marginalised, semi-pastoral communities sometimes have to walk 10 km to collect poor-quality water, using up all their time and energy. In order to ensure villagers take proper responsibility for their well and use it hygienically, they form well-management committees, receive training and help the digging team.

Other Stuff ...

- **Schools:** having helped one primary school in Leqceiba renovate its library, we will be providing 5000 books and helping a second school renovate its classrooms.
- **Micro-credit:** so far 9 women's groups have set up micro-credit schemes lending from £12 to £50 to its members.
- **Fencing:** we have paid for 6 km of a 16-km fence protecting 10,000 hectares of prime land from livestock, allowing for greatly increasing cropping for 36,000 people and rejuvenating natural forestry and livestock pastures.
- **Environment/service provision:** we are researching a new project concerned with agro-forestry and re-greening the Sahel as well as seed and fruit-tree production.
- **Climate Change:** we have been active in the UK, advocating and campaigning for stringent action on climate change.



Fundraising

Charity trustees Gregory Kronsten and Mark Hudson, *left*, dress for the occasion on the Fort William to Glasgow leg of the Big Walk, *right*. Nearly £9000 was raised by the eight sponsored walkers, who also included Andrew Snodgrass, Shane O'Neill, Emily Naper, Dorothy and Ana Giedroyc, and trustee Peter Hudson. A great effort! Planning is afoot for the next stage. As usual, there have been many generous private donations and support from various trust funds.

A great charity to support ...

Our work depends on you. We are actively looking for charity sponsors!



For more information, please see:

www.rainbowdevelopmentinafrica.org

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