

ANTENNA NEWS

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011



WATASOL PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN ASIA



WATASOL : OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN ASIA ONE YEAR AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

In 2010, with the support of SDC, Caritas and the Pro Victimis Foundation, Antenna launched pilot projects in Nepal, Bangladesh and India. The objective of the projects is to promote the use of active chlorine in home-based water purification systems and to turn the production and dissemination of chlorine into a revenue-generating activity.

A seminar in Dhaka (Bangladesh) was organised by Antenna for its partner organisations. The aim was to assess the project achievements after one year of implementation and to take advantage of that platform to exchange experiences. Some promising approaches have been discovered and the challenges pinpointed.

In Nepal, ECCA is promoting access to drinking water in schools and communities, making people aware of the importance of hygiene and the use of chlorine. Some 20 schools are using WATA equipment for educational purposes and producing chlorine for their own needs. Three business people are disseminating bottles of chlorine among the local people. After one year of use, consumers have stopped complaining that the water tastes of chlorine.

In Bangladesh, the challenge is even greater because the people are accustomed to making direct use of very turbid pond water. A number of campaigns and considerable encouragement will be needed to change the prevailing mindset. CMES has placed around 30 disadvantaged

young people, especially women, in charge of promoting hygiene and of injecting chlorine into the families' water tanks in return for payment.

In India, a study carried out in the shanty towns of Delhi by our partner, DA, showed that, based on the sample population interviewed, 30 per cent of the families were spending some 1,500 rupees (30 Swiss francs) a month on medical treatment. The doctors say that most of the consultations have to do with malaria, stomach pains and gastric infections. Ten shanty towns have been selected and social entrepreneurs will have the task of selling chlorine. The doctors from the shanty towns will also play a key role in promoting hygiene and the use of chlorine.

Although the contexts vary considerably, these projects all respond to a genuine need, the aim being to improve the quality of the water consumed at home through the provision of a long-term autonomous solution for drinking water. Thanks to the local production of chlorine, WATA is an answer to part of the problem. However, the challenges lie elsewhere: how to change the people's attitude to hygiene and to ensure that regular use is made of clean drinking water? How to devise viable economic models while ensuring affordable prices and sufficient income?

To view all our WATASOL programmes :
<http://www.antenna.ch/en/programs/watasol/>

EDITO

SAFE WATER TREATMENT – A LUCRATIVE ACTIVITY FOR NEW DELHI SHANTY TOWNS?

For the past 20 years, our foundation has set out determinedly to find solutions for and with individuals who are affected by the problems of unclean water. This challenge also relates to urban areas, the core theme of World Water Day 2011.

In the extremely difficult conditions of the New Delhi shanty towns, people have to cope with the disastrous insalubrity of areas close to sources of drinking water. The spread of serious diseases caused by the proliferation of bacteria in the drinking water costs a great deal of time and money in medical checks and necessary medicines.

Faced with that challenge, we place participative logic at the core of our work. Antenna's aim is to create viable and sustainable economic models through the local, financially autonomous production and distribution of chlorine. It is also vital for our work to draw long term on local resources and to ensure its acceptance by the communities.

In New Delhi, our partner Development Alternatives has a project that aims to extend WATA technology to 10 shanty towns as a means of supplying the people with clean water. The strategy is to train people to use WATA, enabling local business people or young community workers to earn a living from supplying drinking water (sale of chlorine, jerrycans of treated water and home-based water chlorination services).

Change starts at the base of the pyramid. However, is it possible to change people's hygiene habits and to design a viable economic model for the people living in the shanty towns without appropriate government policies? Can transferring skills to the base of the pyramid make up for the lack of private and public sector commitment regarding access to drinking water?



ANTENNA TECHNOLOGIES

29, rue de Neuchâtel – CH-1201 Genève
T +41 22 731 10 34 – F +41 22 731 97 86
info@antenna.ch – www.antenna.ch



SPIRULINA PROGRAMMES

FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS ANTENNA HAS BEEN PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMMES TO PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE SPIRULINA. THESE PROGRAMMES ARE CONDUCTED BY ITS LOCAL OFFICES AND PARTNERS UNTIL EACH LOCATION IS ECONOMICALLY VIABLE.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010:

Programmes that have attained technical and financial autonomy

NIGER

The farm at Dogondoutchi, with 6 local jobs created. Humanitarian distribution of spirulina at Dogondoutchi hospital, in the rural areas and through a programme managed by the Red Cross of Monaco.

MADAGASCAR

The farm at Iby (Antenna Technologies, Antsirabé), thanks to the substantial expansion of its commercial network (export sales and the establishment of some 20 sales outlets).

MALI

The Mopti project, almost technically autonomous. The Mopti municipality authorities have to secure the financial autonomy of the project (9 salaried employees) by developing the distribution of spirulina (in 2010, 100 kg distributed to malnourished children and 120 kg sold).

OUTLOOK FOR 2011:

TECHNICAL enhancement and new programmes

PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

The technique of circular ponds perfected by Pierre Marnier, an engineer working with Antenna Kenya, was approved by Antenna France's technical director. The undisputed qualities of this system include the good stirring and impressive washing procedures for the culture medium. Research is continuing in India, where a pilot circular pond is being constructed at Madurai for Antenna Trust India.

CAMBODIA

The new farms at Siem Reap and Kandal, with 400 m² of ponds each, should start producing spirulina very soon. The anticipated output of each farm is 600 kg per annum. All in all, they will meet the needs of 4,000 children.

CENTRAL AFRICA (Kénose-Antenna programmes)
Two new farms (in Boali and Berberati) have been set up to cover the vast demand for spirulina in the Berberati region.

LAOS

A programme to raise awareness and to promote the acceptability of spirulina was launched, with a view to establishing a spirulina farm in the region of Paksé. In that area, infant mortality can exceed 20 per cent.

MADAGASCAR

The Ecoparc project in Rangaina, a centre of agricultural production and diversification based on spirulina, will be starting soon. The production of spirulina (350 m² of ponds) will be complemented by market gardening, bee-keeping and moringa growing. The humanitarian distribution of spirulina will benefit 1,300 children.

MALI

A major project is about to start at the vocational training centre run by the Salesians in the region of Bamako. A 600m² spirulina farm will also pursue agricultural and beekeeping activities.

To view all the spirulina programmes:
<http://www.antenna.ch/en/programs/spirulina-programs>

NEW EMPLOYEES

The Antenna Technologies foundation has 3 new employees since October 2010:

Abel Silva - accountant

Fanny Chavaz Kalbermatten - communication manager

Pierre-Gilles Duvernavy - project coordinator

Meet the whole team at www.antenna.ch/en/about/team/

WATA IN THE GUIDE DES INNOVATIONS POUR LUTTER CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ (EDITIONS FAVRE)

For more than 20 years, the main focus at Antenna has been research for progress in developing countries. That research is now also the subject of a new book that draws on 30 years of experience in Africa, the "Guide des innovations pour lutter contre la pauvreté, 100 inventions géniales au service des pays du Sud". The WATA electrolyser is one of the highly innovative solutions described in this guide that are designed to provide an effective and sustainable response to the basic needs of people living in southern climates.



MAKE A DONATION

Thank you for your precious help and generosity.

Banque Raffenais de la Versoix
Agence du Mont-Blanc - 1201 Genève
SWFT : RAIFCH22 - N° clearing (INCB) : 80215
Au nom de la Fondation Antenna Technologies
IBAN CH07 8021 5000 0017 9861 7