

August 2009

THE AGRICULTURE ISSUE

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Fair Trade and Farming

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And more...



Oxfam News E-magazine

ONEperson

What's Old is New Again By Ratsamy Souvannamethy

This is my first trip to Huaphan in northeastern Laos for seven years, and I see a lot of improvement in the infrastructure in the major towns – better roads which save travel time from Vientiane to the provincial capital of Semnua from 38 to 16 hours, better telephone and internet access, better schools and health facilities, and more tourists. At first, I thought that the lives of poorer people there have also improved, but looking again, I am not so sure.

On this trip, I am visiting eight villages in two districts, Xiengkhor and Viengxay, near the Vietnamese border. These villages are all remote, located alongside the small rivers - the Houy Deau and Nam Nga – and surrounded by mountains. It takes about five hours to drive to Xiengkhor from the provincial capital, and during the rainy season, getting to the communities can be difficult. As we travel around, it is easy to be overtaken by the richness and beauty of the landscape and culture.

For generations, the way of life has been 'simple' here: villagers traditionally plant upland rice and rely on forest products for their food and income. In the past few years, however, agricultural practices have changed from subsistence farming to growing larger-scale commercial crops. This mono-

cropping has resulted in substantial income gains for many farmers, yet has also led to the forest being cleared, a loss in soil fertility, serious erosion, more landslides, and rice paddies being washed away in the floods. Reliance on a single cash crop – mostly maize – has also made residents vulnerable to price fluctuations. In 2008, maize dropped by more than 50 per cent.

To address these concerns, Oxfam Hong Kong is working in these eight remote villages through a partnership with the Agriculture and Forestry Office of Huaphan Province. The pilot project has been introducing alternative farming practices, such as integrated and diversified farming instead of mono-cropping, which is a relatively new thing here.

In the beginning, I thought that the learning and application would be easy and straightforward, but it did not go as expected. This had a lot to do with the time that it takes to build up trust and confidence, as well as with the 'new' participatory way of working that Oxfam espouses. To be frank, we development workers can be seen as newcomers and outsiders, and farmers are slow to trust us given painful experiences in the past with 'development' projects that have not really benefited them. Villagers can also be wary of people asking their opinions about projects,

but then implementing things contrary to what they had suggested. As such, Oxfam's job has been to help people see that we do what we say we will, and that we are genuinely interested in them being able to improve their lives. For this, we have had to establish personal relationships and work closely with individual farmers; we have had to understand their concerns and help them design sustainable initiatives based on what they think is the best for them and their community. This approach is not usually done in Laos where the centralised 'one-size-fits-all' methodology is common.

During my first year with Oxfam, I participated in discussions among agricultural experts and the villagers, and also joined farmers on an exposure trip to meet with farmer-practitioners for some hands-on training. I have learned a lot. I have learned the importance of building up trust and genuinely understanding individual and community contexts before doing any 'development' work. I have learned

the necessity of identifying drivers and champions of change in the villages, where the community itself – not the 'project' – takes the lead. I have also learned that meaningful change takes time, and that new things in particular take even more time. This can be the technical principles of 'integrated agriculture' to methodological values such as 'participation' and 'empowerment' – all of which Oxfam is trying to introduce. In Laos, people may see these methods and principles as being innovative and maybe even 'revolutionary' while people in other countries might see the concepts as 'old' and already in place in their societies. For me, I see the concepts as being appropriate tools. With these tools, farmers can fulfill their personal potential and improve the way of life for the entire community.

Based in Vientiane, Ratsamy Souvannamethy joined Oxfam Hong Kong as a Programme Officer in 2008. The agency has been supporting projects in Laos since 1995, and began working in Huaphan in 2007.

Ratsamy at work in the field, and posing for a photograph with villagers.



FAIR TRADE

– bringing smiles back to faces By Charlotte Wan



A smiling Disomenica (right) and her husband – Fair Trade has improved their lives.

Disomenica Basanayake pours us her home-brewed red tea, topping it with an extra serving of warmth and hospitality. The spice farmer looks so radiant and cheerful, it is hard to imagine that in the past, she used to worry about her daily survival, about where the money would come from for her family's needs.

Disomenica, 64, and her husband, 71, live in a village named Isolugola,

a remote part of central Sri Lanka. For four generations of Basanayakes, including their son, the family has depended on spice farming for a living. Isolugola is the husband's hometown.

Farming spices is popular among small-scale farmers in Sri Lanka, mainly because the spice trees are generally inexpensive and 'simple' to harvest – machinery is not necessary

to plough the land and separate the crop, as it is with some other plants. There are more than 200,000 spice farmers in the country, although some only have few trees, typically cloves, nutmeg and pepper.

The remote location of Isolugola used to present a challenge for farmers. They did not have the means to travel to marketplaces to sell their spices themselves, which

would enable them to keep most or all of the profits. In the past, they were left with no choice but to sell their crops to the only purchasing agent in the village, who would then export the spices in bulk. Since the village agent was the farmers' only outlet, farmers had little or no room to bargain and were often subjected



Nutmeg

to unreasonable price squeezes and late payments.

"The village dealer would not adjust the amount he offered to us according to market prices," says Mr. Basanayake. "He would offer a fixed price at 60 rupees (approx. HK\$4) per kilogram, and he rarely paid on time. We once tried to store our spices, so that we could sell them later at a better price when market conditions were more favourable, but it only lasted six months – we were running out of money."

Farmers like the Basanayakes were forced to undercut their profits; they could not even cover their basic spice farming costs. The family suffered from the financial strain. With no alternative, they turned to the village loanshark several times for quick cash: this helped in the short term, but in the end, their debt accumulated.

Fortunately, a Fair Trade organisation reached out to twenty Isolugola farmers, including the Basanayakes. The group offered to purchase their spices for higher-than-market prices, and promised this arrangement over time. That was about twenty years ago. The change was immediately positive way back then, and it continues until

now. The Basanayakes currently earn about 120,000 rupees a year (about US\$1,000).

"Fair Trade has brought tremendous change to our family," says a happy Disomenica. "It has made our lives much more comfortable and brought smiles back to our faces. We still have no savings, but we're clear from debt. We have yet to paint the walls in our home, but we've fixed the window, and even managed to marry off our daughter."

When Disomenica found out that Fair Trade is being promoted in other places in the world, like Hong Kong, she added, "We are proud of our Fair Trade products and are pleased to know that they are in high demand from satisfied customers."

Nowadays, the Basanayakes sell their spices to two Fair Trade groups. One is Ceylon Organic Spice Export, a small Sri Lankan-based organisation that pays its farmers 450 to 950 rupees per kilogram, depending on the spice.

With Oxfam Hong Kong's support, COSE will be participating at Food Expo 2009, one of the largest food fairs in Hong Kong. Oxfam is also assisting the group in developing their product catalogue, which can

help them improve their production and marketing capacity. It is not the first time that COSE has come to Hong Kong. During the World Trade Organization meeting (formally called the Sixth Ministerial Conference) held in Hong Kong in 2005, the group promoted their Fair Trade products in a conference centre kitty-corner to the conference centre where world leaders debated agricultural trade rules.

Established in 1997, COSE ensures that the production and trade of its agricultural products meets Fair Trade standards. They also endorse organic farming, which lowers farmers' costs and improves soil quality. A collective savings fund is in place to help farmers be able to pay for their children's education or for other basic or emergency expenses. A member of the World Fair Trade Organization, COSE currently markets about 15 different spices, as well as cashew nuts and dried pineapple.

Charlotte Wan is coordinating Oxfam's activities at the Hong Kong Food Expo 2009. She met with Fair Trade groups in Sri Lanka in June 2009.



TOP: Mureen, a packager in a Fair Trade factory

BOTTOM: Sri Lanka is known for its high quality spices. All photos by Au Sik Hung

Fair Trade @ Food Expo 2009

Oxfam Hong Kong is bringing 5 Fair Trade groups to the Food Expo, including Ceylon Organic Spice Export. Come and taste Fair Trade food from Pakistan, Palestine (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam...

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

- 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong (Trade Hall)
- 13-14 August (10am – 6pm, for trade visitors only)
- 15 August (10am – 6pm, open to public)
- Booth 3c – 32, 34, 35

FAIR TRADE EXPERIENCE FROM PALESTINE AND VIETNAM

Fair Trade representatives from Palestine (Occupied Palestinian Territories) and Vietnam will share their experiences in implementing Fair Trade and working with farmers. Admission is free, but please register with Oxfam; Stephanie Cheung: (852) 3120 5273.

- 16 August, Sunday
 - 2:30 to 4:00pm
 - Oxfam Hong Kong
17th Floor, China United Centre, 28 Marble Road, North Point, Hong Kong
- Enquiries: Stephanie Cheung: (852) 3120 5273

TALKING WITH TWO FARMERS IN TIMOR-LESTE

Timor
Leste

JACINTA and **GRACINDA** are two farmers in the coastal village of Marmer, which means 'marble' for all the limestone in this northern part of Timor-Leste. Marmer is very small, with only 22 families and a population of about 130. Residents here used to farm maize up in the mountains, but they now farm it right in the village, down by the shore. Jacinta and Gracinda tell us, in their own words, how this change came about, and what it means to them.

We stopped growing maize up in the hills about four years ago, due to the lack of enough rainfall, and too many wild pigs and rats. We still plant other crops up in the hills, but we don't plant maize anymore. It's just too much work! We would spend too much energy guarding it from the pigs and rats.

Another reason that we stopped farming so much up there in the hills is the time involved. Now that our children have started to go to school, we don't have enough time to walk up there, do the work, and then walk home.

We now farm maize, pumpkin and other crops nearer to our homes, where we have land. Each year, little by little, we increase the land we use for this. We also have a new vegetable garden near the new community centre [both of which Oxfam has supported]. There are ten women farmers who run this garden, which is functioning like a demonstration plot, trying to show everyone here better ways of farming. We have our meetings right there at the centre. Other groups meet there too, like fishing groups, which are mostly men.

When planting time approaches, we burn the land. It is a quick way to clear the land of weeds. We then plant the maize, using no chemical or organic fertilisers. We know that we won't get as much as when we farmed up in the hills, but at least the harvest is safe from the pigs and rats. We do have to fence the new vegetable garden to protect the crops from goats, as people here don't usually

pen the livestock. Plus, we have a little bit of a problem with caterpillars, but we can handle it by using chilli and kerosene to keep them away.

We usually plant maize in December when we usually get good rain, but if not, then we'll plant in January and harvest in March.

When harvest time comes, we tie the cobs together in bundles and hang them on trees. This is our way of storing the maize. We count our harvests by the bundle, not by kilogram.

When we get good rainfall, we can get up to three or four bundles of maize. Otherwise, it might be only one or two bundles. Before, in the nineties, when we still had many trees and people didn't burn land so much, we could harvest up to fifteen or twenty bundles up in the hills. [In the 1990s, when Timor-Leste was under Indonesian occupation, forest rangers would guard the forests and people who burned any trees would be fined.]

We have three types of maize. Madua can be harvested in just a month. Malnamuk is ready in two months. We also have Sele, a new variety introduced by government which, although it needs three months to harvest, we like it the most. It can survive well in very hot weather, not like the first two.

We plant many crops, not just maize. Some are grown down here in the new vegetable garden, some like snake beans, velvet beans, sweet potato, pumpkin, peanuts, cassava, taro and watermelon still up in the hills. In the past, we would only

eat papaya and cassava leaves as leafy vegetables. Nowadays, we also have mustard and kankung (a kind of spinach). We frequently sell the peanuts, velvet beans, watermelon, and taro – the other crops are mostly for our own food. With the new vegetable garden right in the village, we are happy because we are growing – and eating – a more diverse range of leafy and green vegetables.

While we eat more of the various vegetables we plant, we also sell more. We earn about US\$4.50 for each harvest, which is good for us.

We are happy, because in the past, we would typically only be able to grow enough maize to last us for five months of the year, from harvest time (usually March) until about August or so.

It hasn't been perfect. There are ten women in our vegetable farming group, but it is three of us who are doing most of the work. At first, when our friends didn't come to work in the vegetable garden, we thought about a system to divide the vegetable beds among the group members, so if someone didn't work, they would lose their own vegetables. In the end, we decided not to do this. We have worked so hard to establish the garden, and we didn't want to give up any of the possible harvest. We work well the way we are.

In the future, we would like to have bigger vegetable gardens right beside our homes! That would be nice! The community is advocating for a better water supply with the government right now to try to make this happen.



The new garden near the new community centre provides mustard (middle photo), kankung (a type of spinach) and many other vegetables.

In Marmer, Oxfam is working together with the community organisation Hadia Desenvolvimento Rural, which means To Improve Rural Development. Farming is one component of Oxfam's programme in the area; others are income generation, family literacy, and disaster risk management. This article is compiled by Maria de Araujo Dos Reis, a programme officer with Oxfam Hong Kong. She and her colleagues met with Jacinta and Gracinda in July 2009.

12 STEPS AGAINST POVERTY

By Tobias Jackson

Cambodia



Clockwise: Cambodian farmers using System of Rice Intensification (SRI). In the project area, fields yielded up to 150% more in the very first harvest. Traditional water wheel to irrigate the SRI crops.

In many ways, Thkol Toch is no different than other rural Cambodian communities: people depend on planting rice and catching fish for a living. Yet, life has been changing in this village along Tonle Sap Lake in the west of the country. People are breaking tradition through a 12-step technique known as the System of Rice Intensification, or shortened to SRI by the farmers who use it.

Before SRI, farmers like Chea Sareth and Boeurn Noeurn in this small village were not able to grow enough rice from their small plots of land to earn any cash, let alone to feed their families. Every year, farmers would run out of food before the next harvest: the rice stock would dwindle, usually in July or August. People would be left with no choice but to undertake destructive activities to make a living, such as cutting down trees to sell as firewood, unsustainable harvesting of various forest products, and illegal fishing. This would bring necessary money for families, but the longer term environmental impacts meant negative impacts for the community as a whole: stocks of fish and other 'wild' products would fall drastically, and as years went by, families were less and less able to generate this additional

income. More and more often, people had to borrow from loan sharks, and more and more people could not repay. In the worst cases, families had to sell their farmland, their key asset. All in all, life was getting worse, and people did not see any possibility to improve the situation in the future.

Then, in June 2008, PromVihearThor, a community organisation based in Pursat Province, began working with Thkol Toch and other communities. They assisted residents there to set up village-level associations, and through these groups, the NGO has been better able to implement a range of projects – the most important of which is introducing farmers to the twelve steps of SRI. PromVihearThor encouraged farmers like Sareth and Noeurn to attend information sessions on SRI held right in the community and arranged for study tours so that villagers could observe how other farmers elsewhere had been benefiting from SRI. Their efforts worked. Some families in the village decided to try SRI.

Farmers were cautious at the beginning. Sareth and Noeurn, for instance, used only part of their land, and only during the dry season, to see if this would enable them to produce a

second crop. PromVihearThor further helped the process along by supplying the initial participants with a water pump to enable them to irrigate the land. Once the farmers had carefully followed through with the twelve steps, the results were evident in the very first growing season: the harvest was between 2.7 and 3 tonnes per hectare, 50 to 150 per cent more than in the past, plus their normal wet season harvest. This changed their lives fundamentally – for the first time, Sareth and Noeurn and the other farmers had enough rice to eat for the whole year and a surplus large enough to sell on the open market. This enabled them to earn cash to pay for health care, education and the other essentials of life which had been out of reach for so long.

The twelve steps of SRI have many positive ramifications. The technique has helped empower hundreds of farmers in Cambodia to become

more self-reliant, sustaining the rice production as well as other sources of income. The pilot farmers in PromVihearThor's project, for instance, have had the confidence to diversify their livelihoods by converting parts of their farmland to growing vegetables, farming fish, and raising livestock. SRI and their subsequent innovative agricultural ventures have helped them to work their way out of poverty and to ensure that their food and income are secure.

Overall, SRI has also been a good model to assist impoverished farmers around the world to change their mindsets from a negative and seemingly powerless one to a more positive, can-do spirit. Sareth and Noeurn, and other farmers, have come to believe that they can effect change in their lives. In Oxfam jargon, this can be called sustainable self-driven development. In their minds, it probably means a better life, for themselves, their families and their communities.

Tobias Jackson coordinates Oxfam Hong Kong's projects in Cambodia, where the agency has been supporting projects since the 1980s. The project with PromVihearThor outlined in this article began in 2006 and is due to phase out at the end of 2009.

CHANGE TAKES COURAGE

By Xiao Sha



It is easy to be amazed by the beautiful landscape of Lanquan, a village in the northwestern province of Gansu in China: the pure blue sky, with clouds as white as snow, feels close. And it's true: Lanquan is situated about high on a plateau, with wide horizons. Yet, life here can be harsh. The high altitude, from 2,040 to 4,884 metres high, means that the temperatures are too low to plant preferred crops like rice and wheat, so farmers mostly eat barley and beans, and get by on raising livestock, mostly sheep. The average annual income is only about 700 Yuan, which classifies the community as impoverished, by official national standards.



Qian Xiushan, pictured here with her young child, was one of the first people to join the new agriculture project in Gansu. She says, "it is the wisest decision we [my husband and I] have ever made."

Qian Xiushan, 37, and her husband provide for their family – their four-year-old son – by tending about sixty sheep and three cows. Last year, she decided to change the way they had been raising the animals. She was one of only a handful of farmers in the village to embark on the change – the majority hesitated.

It was Dr. Yang Lian, an expert of agriculture from Gansu Agriculture University, who initiated the project.

He and his student Chen Zhimei did the project assessments with the villagers in Lanquan, discussing the possible ways of improving the quality of life. One option was building sturdy sheds, about 7 x 4 x 2 metres, where the livestock could sleep. This would ensure better health for the valued animals, especially during bitterly cold and windy winters. The average temperature in Lanquan is about six degrees Celsius, and in winter, as low as minus twenty. Winters were feared: it was in those months that sheep often grew thinner, weaker, became ill, and many died. It was winter, in January 2008, that the proposal of shed-building was approved by Oxfam Hong Kong, with financial support of 3,000 Yuan per shed.

Change began, but slowly. Farmers felt unsure about the new methods of using a shed, as opposed to open grazing, which traditionally, the herders had been doing for hundreds of years, rain or shine, summer and winter. Not everyone was aware that too much open grazing was damaging the grassland, and causing water loss and soil erosion. Few farmers had training in para-veterinary skills, and did not always see the linkage between disease and wintertime grazing.

Dr. Yang and Yu Huamei, a development worker with Oxfam, spent extra time with villagers like Qian to communicate how the sheds could work to their benefit. A new hay, triticale, a cross of wheat of rye which grows fast and needs less water, was also being introduced. In time, Qian decided to attend livestock training offered by Gansu Agriculture University and to try the new way of grazing. She and her husband were in the first group who joined. She says, "My husband and I discussed the shed project for two days, and finally



One of the new stables in the village – keeping valued livestock safe and warm during the long, bitter winters.

made the decision to try it, with huge encouragement. Thank God it is the wisest decision we have ever made. It profits us so much."

The positive impact has many levels. Village-wide, the mortality rate for sheep has been lowered from twenty-five per cent before the use of sheds, to ten per cent. Sheep has been growing better in the warmth of the sheds: the fattening rate has increased by ten per cent. Having sheds has considerably reduced people's workloads, especially for the women. Qian says, "We woman do all the work by ourselves. In the past, before the sheds, I kept the livestock outside, making sure there was always enough hay for them. When it rained, everything got wet – the sheep and the hay – and the livestock would often get sick, and some would die. As soon as the rain stopped, I had to quickly clear out the hay, replace it with a fresh supply, and round up the sheep again into the clean, dry area.

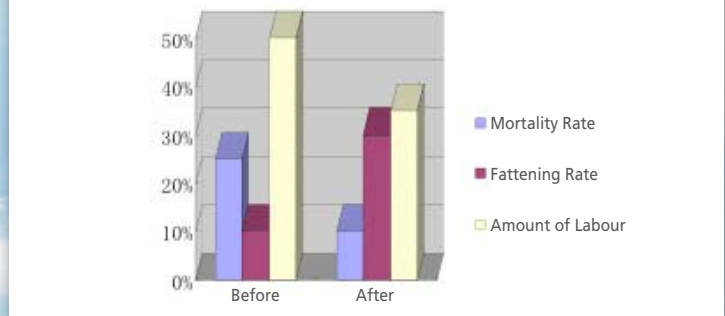
It took a whole day to do that. I would be exhausted. Now, the sheds keep the hay dry. It relieves me a lot." She ended her account with laughter. "I love the rain because the land needs it, but I hate it too!"

The winter of 2008-2009 was the first winter Qian tried the experimental sheds. "Last winter, we kept the sheep inside from early October. We were very worried about that, because we had never done that before." With a huge, warm smile, she says, "The shed works. It really did!"

The success of the experiment has convinced other villagers to accept the project. As of now, 38 farmers have built themselves new sheds for their livestock. Qian and the other villagers also planted 95 acres of triticale and improved 413 acres of highland barley with better agricultural techniques.

An Assistant Communications Officer with Oxfam Hong Kong, Xiao Sha is based in Chengdu, China.

Table 1
Before and After the Sheds



Stop Climate Change, Stop Poverty



Less hot water in bathtubs in Hong Kong will mean less flooding in Bangladesh



Less air conditioning in Hong Kong will mean less poverty from typhoons in the Philippines



Less use of a dryer in Hong Kong will mean less drought in northwest China

Around the world, Oxfam Hong Kong is making sure that impoverished farmers are being better prepared for and can adapt to the increase in typhoons, monsoons, floods, droughts and other changes caused or exacerbated by climate change. Locally and globally, we are also advocating better governmental policies about carbon dioxide emissions.

Around the virtual world, the World Wide Web, we are also making our voice heard.

In Hong Kong, through www.oxfam.org.hk/climatechange, we are saying Less is Less – Less CO₂ means Less Poverty. Hong Kong emits twice the global average of carbon dioxide emissions, and this has to stop! Better policies are needed, and better daily habits too. Please go to our website and make your pledge to push for a fair climate deal at the next major UN climate change meeting in Copenhagen. Meanwhile, look out for these three new posters that have been up around Hong Kong since the middle of July.



**BROWSE
OXFAM'S
CAMPAIGN
ON THE
NET.**

In Mainland China, through www.oxfam.org.cn/ido, we ask people to say, and mean, I DO – I do fight against climate change! I do love 0° of poverty! A media event was held in Beijing in the last week of July, when we lifted a red cloth (symbolising the heat of CO₂) off of the planet. In attendance were 32 Chinese media representatives, 20 company executives, 10 representatives from embassies, and 9 NGO representatives.

www.oxfam.org.hk/climatechange (our Hong Kong-based campaign)

www.oxfam.org.cn/ido (our Mainland China-based campaign)

Twitter: www.twitter.com/oxfamhongkong

Facebook: www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=34678733199

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/oxfamchina/sets/72157621665879745

N E W Partner Organisations

Every day, Oxfam Hong Kong works alongside hundreds of groups around the world, from small NGOs to international bodies, from government departments of developing countries to community groups based in Hong Kong. Here are 12 'partner organisations' that we are supporting for the first time, all in Mainland China.

BEIJING

- China National Institute for Educational Research
- The Ethnic Minority Study Center of China, Minzu University of China

GANSU

- Poverty Alleviation and Development Office of Xihe County
- Qinzhou District Education Bureau, Tianshui City
- Zhen Yuan County Education Bureau, Qing Yang Prefecture

GUANGXI

- Ethnic Minority Bureau of Luocheng Muloazu Autonomous County, Ethnic Affairs Commission
- Ethnic Minority Bureau of Rongshui County, Ethnic Affairs Commission
- Poverty Alleviation Office of Sanjiang Dong Minority Autonomous County, under Foreign Capital Poverty Alleviation Project Administration Center

GUIZHOU

- Civil Affairs Department of JingPing County
- Institute of Sociology, Huazhong Normal University
- Qibuzou Education Team for Migrant Workers' Children

SICHUAN

- Anxian County Office of Qianfo Mountain Conservation Zone

In this edition of O.N.E, we highlight the **Poverty Alleviation and Development Office for Xihe County of Gansu Province**, which Oxfam is partnering with on long-term rehabilitation efforts after the devastating earthquake in western China on 12 May 2008.

The Poverty Alleviation and Development Office, often shortened to PADO, has considerable experience with implementing rehabilitation projects in Xihe County and has a clear direction for social development planning. In Oxfam's meetings with PADO, we sense that it truly understands the needs of the communities it serves. PADO has cooperated with various international NGOs in the past, so they are also familiar with different working approaches and development concepts.

The new joint Oxfam-PADO project being implemented is in Niuyao, where there was massive destruction: of the 688 houses in the village, 386 collapsed and 189 became too dangerous to be lived in any longer. The residents, already poor before the earthquake, were further impoverished.

PADO has already carried out several rehabilitation and poverty relief efforts in Niuyao, which has been helping survivors to reconstruct their homes, and to restore their normal ways of life. The new project extends this work, covering new biogas infrastructure, construction of storage units for collecting rainwater, protection of slopes against erosion, introducing new plant varieties of high-quality potatoes and walnuts, and pig raising projects with some very poor families. Various training sessions will be held with the residents. The total budget from Oxfam Hong Kong is 935,446 Yuan.

OXFAM BOOKS

These are the **BASICS**



Title : 基·不可失——
基礎教育·基本醫療·人類發展
(These are the Basics)

Editor : Tung Tsz-kwan

ISBN : 962-664-029-4

Price : HK\$80

To purchase on-line:
<http://www.oxfam.org.hk/public/bookstore/list>

Last month, this new book by Oxfam Hong Kong was profiled at the Hong Kong Book Fair 2009, one of Asia's largest book fairs. The book covers the challenges that low-income countries face in providing basic health care and basic education. It also outlines the world's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Published in Chinese, an English translation of the title could be These are the Basics: Education, Health Care and Human Development.

The 114-page illustrated book presents case studies from Angola, China, India, Laos, Kenya, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste, including programmes that promote bilingual education with ethnic minority populations, the equal right to an education for girls, and affordable and accessible treatment for people with HIV-AIDS, and more.

MOKUNG

Oxfam Hong Kong publishes this bi-monthly magazine in Traditional Chinese. Mokung, which means both "no poverty" and "infinity", highlights a different aspect of development in each issue. The Editor is Tung Tsz-kwan. The focus of the June 2009 edition was on the financial crisis. The next edition will focus on farming and alternative community planning and development in Hong Kong. There are already hundreds of farms in Hong Kong, and tens of them are organic.

To subscribe: www.oxfam.org.hk/public/bookstore/?lang=big5

Mokung is online at www.oxfam.org.hk/public/contents/category?cid=1017&lang=big5



ONE

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