MINI-TILLERS FOR IMPOVERISHED TIBETAN HOUSEHOLDS

a

FINAL REPORT

to

THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN BEIJING

Summary

What? 40 mini-tillers for 80 impoverished, rural families (564 people)
Where? Gonghuo Tibetan Village, Zhongxinxrong Township, Batang County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China
Investment? 180,960RMB (116,800RMB = Australian Embassy; Batang County Government = 60,000RMB; 4,160 = local contribution
Why? Simplify and improve agricultural production; increase household income

from

Bkra shis (徐扎西  Wayne)
27 June 2013
LETTER OF APPRECIATION
Dear Australian Embassy,

We are impoverished Tibetans who farm as did our ancestors. We are far from cities and modern ways of life. Therefore, not to mention using modern machines, many people in this area have only very poor traditional farm tools used from generations to generations. Throughout our history, plowing has been done by men and cattle. For many years, we have struggled and sacrificed ourselves to heavy labor and a miserable situation in life; still we are only able to obtain enough food to eat and scarcely have adequate warm clothes to wear. In addition, it is impossible for us to purchase certain life necessities. Now, thanks to the tillers provided by the Australian Embassy, we have gained convenience amid heavy labor, and our farming life has become easier and more efficient. Many problems are solved and time is saved. Here, on behalf of all Gonghuo Tibetan villagers, I thank you for your compassionate assistance and generosity.

All the best,

Gonghuo Tibetan villagers
23 March 2013
Final Activity Report

(1) **Project Name:** Mini-Tillers for Impoverished Tibetan Households

(2) **Project Location:** Gonghuo Tibetan Village, Zhongxinrong Township, Batang County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province

(3) **Project Donor:** Australian Embassy, Beijing

(4) **Applicant:** Bkra shis

(5) **Executing organization:** Sanchuan Central Culture Service

(6) **Local Contribution:** 4,160 RMB (52 RMB per recipient family)

(7) **Aims:** The problems mentioned above have been alleviated by the tillers. Throughout the world and in China, plow animals are being rapidly replaced by mechanized tilling in order to increase income, save time, increase yields, and allow the farmers and their livestock to be healthier.

(9) **Project site:** Gonghuo Tibetan Village, Zhongxinrong Township, Batang County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China.
(10) Executing organs: Chengdu Xinan Nongji Shichang Co., LTD

(11) Project Period: 20 November 2012-27 June 2013

(12) Responsible Person: Bkra shis

(13) Australian Embassy Contribution: 116,800RMB

Planned Project Activities

- Bkra shis and the village leader purchase tillers in Chengdu;
- Stay in Chengdu for 15 days for a training course on tiller use, maintenance, and repair;
- Transport tillers to the target village;
- Meet villagers who choose their preferred group members (2 families per group);
- Provide 52RMB/family as local contribution; and
- Instruct villagers for 5-10 days in how to operate, care for, and repair the tillers.
- The process will be photographed and photos included in the final report.

1. Project Expenses
   - purchased 40 tillers@4,400RMB/tiller = 176,000RMB
   - transport costs = 4,160RMB
     - Chengdu 成都 to Batang 巴塘 County = 3,000RMB
     - Batang County Town to Gonghuo 贡伙 Village = 1,160RMB
   - living costs in Chengdu for 15 days of tiller training = 8 00RMB
     - hotel fee: 10 days x 40RMB = 400RMB
     - 10 days x 40RMB = 400RM

   - Project Cost Total =180,960RM

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT: 180,960:00rmb
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: 116,800:00rmb
TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOCAL CONTRIBUTION: 4,160:00rmb
TOTAL AMOUNT OF COUNTERPART FUNDING: 60,000:00rmb
(by county government)

- 20 November 2012: Australian Embassy processed the transfer of DAP funds
- 15 February-3 March 2013: Bkra shis and the village leader were trained in Chengdu in tiller use, maintenance, and repair
- 4 March: bought mini-tillers in Chengdu
- 8 March: factory transports tillers to Batang County
- 18 March: mini-tillers reach Batang County
- 20 March: truck hired to transport tillers to Gonghuo Village
- 23 March: village leader and Bkra shis meet Gonghuo Villagers, who choose their own partners. We give a mini-tiller to one group of two families. Each recipient family provides 52 RMB as a local contribution.
- 24 March-3 April: village leader teaches locals tiller use, maintenance, and repair
- 25 May-25 June: locals use tillers during harvest time
- 5 June: started final report
- 27 June: completed final report and sent to Australia Embassy with photos and receipts
VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

**Location:** Gonghuo Village is located 140 km southwest of Batang County Town, 570 km from Kangding City, the capital of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and 1,050 km from Chengdu City, the capital of Sichuan Province, PR China, and less than 200 km from Burma.

**Population:** Gonghuo Village has 80 households (564 Tibetans). Each family has an average of seven members, representing three generations. Most villagers are under the age of 60.

**Income:** Gonghuo Village is predominately a community of Tibetan farmers. In 2002, due to the threat of deforestation and increased environmental degradation in the region, the local government provides a small annual stipend to families of about 150 RMB per mu; the average family in Gonghuo Village owns around 6 mu and thus receives approximately 900RMB in cash annually from the local government, which is used on household expenses, including food, clothing, school costs, and medical expenses. During summer and fall, many villagers go to the county town to earn money from various part-time jobs in non-agricultural enterprises to supplement the government stipend. Only about four village residents have found permanent, government jobs in the local county town. In Gonghuo Village, certain families tend yaks, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, and cows. They use animal products for their own subsistence or sell a portion of those products (butter, wool, quilts made of animal hair, dried cheese, yak hair) for profit. Families who own only a small number of livestock primarily consume animal products on a subsistence basis.

**Education:** Approximately 95% of villagers have never attended school. Only about 10% of villagers are able to read some Tibetan. Some villages studied Tibetan and math for 4-6 years at the local primary school (grades 1-6). Very few of the older generation continued their education beyond primary school because their families needed their children’s assistance with farming and the middle school was located in the county town, 140 km away. Even today, only about 2-4 students who complete the village primary school continue their study in the middle school annually. In Poverty prevents most students from leaving the village to obtain more education.
180,960RMB (116,800RMB = Australian Embassy; Batang County Government = 60,000RMB; 4,160 = local contribution) for 40 Mini Tillers bought in Chengdu City from Chengdu Southwest Agriculture Machinery LTD (成都西南农机股份有限公司). Two families received and share a tiller. The factory guarantees the machines for 5 years.
This is to certify that I, Bkra shis, paid 4,160RMB to Nibu 尼卜 to transport 40 tillers from Chengdu to Gonghuo Tibetan Village (23 March 2013).
From 15 February-3 March 2013, Bkra shis and the village leader were trained in Chengdu in tiller use, maintenance, and repair.
On 20 March 2013, a truck transported tillers to Gonghuo Village.

Preparing to plow in a traditional way.
Sering 次仁 (b. 1961) is one of a 7-person household, including his parents, wife, 2 children, and 1 grandchild. His parents and wife are often ill.

On 23 March 2013, Qupi (b. 1956) came to take a tiller for his and Zhuoma's family. There are 7 people in Qupi's family - his parents, wife, and 3 children. His 2 daughters attend school and his son does migrant labor. Plowing is Qupi's duty.
Tudeng shares a tiller with Aduo's family. Tudeng plows in this photo and commented that it was convenient and easy to use.
Api shares a tiller with Basang's family. In the photo, Api plows Basang's field. Basang said, "My husband is ill and has been unable to do heavy work for 10 years. During plowing time, my family needs help. In the past, it took several days but, now using this tiller, we finish more quickly than using plow animals and we don't have to worry about the health of plow animals."
Luoba shares a tiller with Quxi’s family. This photo shows Luoba plowing. He said, "In the past, I needed about 5 days to finish plow all my fields and orchards and we also had to dig up the field corners. The tiller means I only spend 1.5 days to finish plowing without anybody’s help. Thanks very much to the Australian Embassy for your help!"
Baizha shares a tiller with the Zhama Cun family. Baizha's family includes his wife and two sons. His wife is chronically ill. It's difficult for them to care for livestock that can plow. Now with a tiller from the Australian Embassy, they no longer about plow animals.
Dawa plows with a tiller provided by the Australian Embassy in Beijing.
Dawa plows with his partner's (Lamo) family. "After we got a tiller and became a group, we do field work together. It's quicker and more enjoyable, even in such hot weather. Crops provide our main income. This year, we are confident that our income will increase because the tiller plows deeper than the traditional plow and we are plowing on time," Dawa said.
Wuzhu shares a tiller with the Bamu family. He is very glad to have such of a tiller from the Australian Embassy in Beijing. The people in Wuzhu's family are his parents, wife, and 2 children. His parents are chronically ill. He and his wife are the only laborers in his family. His wife said, "We saw such machines only on TV. It's unbelievable that we get tillers free from you embassy. Our tiller has saved a lot of our time. Many thanks to you – the Australian Embassy."
Fingerprints (Contribution of 52RMB per recipient family)
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(Gonghuo TBT Villagers)

2013 年 3 月 23 日