DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 4561 Booth Number: 58

Portable Solar/Wind Greenhouse to Grow Fodder for Sustainable Dairy Farms

COUNTRY: India
ORGANIZATION: Greenfield Hydroponic Systems, Inc.
FUNDING REQUEST: $199,556

OBJECTIVE: To demonstrate the technology for year-round production of 2,000 kilograms of green fodder, using two greenhouses to feed 100 dairy animals. In addition, the project, Hydro Fodder Farm, will organize and empower beneficiaries to manage fodder production and distribution on a sustainable basis. The beneficiaries will also be involved in evaluating the implemented project's impacts. The project anticipates a 20 percent increase in peak and total milk yield during a lactation period, a 25 percent increase in the birth weight of newborn calves, and a 20 percent increase in beneficiaries' overall income.

RATIONALE: The severe lack of green fodder is a major constraint in improving the productivity of India's livestock. Little area is under fodder cultivation. Seasonal rainfall, and degradation of grazing land and common property resources are all limiting factors to green fodder availability. Over 70 percent of the milk is produced by small to medium-size farms worked by marginal farmers and agrocultural laborers? The drastic drop in milk production during summer months adversely impacts the livelihoods of large number of poor populations. Hydro Fodder Farm, using 300 square feet of wasteland innovative greenhouses (employing hydroponics) will b dedicated to fodder production and will serve as a viable alternative in areas with land and water shortages

INNOVATION: The project adopts a new approach to green fodder production, using solar- and wind-powered greenhouses with new technology, enables year-round availability of nutrient-, mineral-, and enzyme-rich green fodder of consistent quality and quantity, produced with the most efficient use of water and other natural resources.

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