

Progress Report of Integrated Sustainable Development Project at Nagu Town, Huize County of Yunnan Province (2023 to 2024)

1. Project Overview

Nagu Town is located in a remote mountainous area in northeastern Yunnan. The project area suffers from **a lack of water for irrigation, infertile farmland, poor infrastructure and outdated farming techniques**. With about 70% of the villagers being **middle-aged or elderly** and only able to conduct basic farming and short-term jobs, the target population earn a **low income** and is **at risk of falling back into poverty**.

Furthermore, the farmers lack the awareness on environmental protection and frequently **use chemical fertilizers and pesticides**. This result in high production cost and pollution, jeopardizing the sustainability of local farming and raising hygiene concerns.

In 2023, Heifer Hong Kong launched the Nagu Township Project in **9 villages** including Ganhaizi, Lufang, Lüping, Shimenkan, Tuoche, Yunfeng, Dazha, Hongni and Fajika to assist **800 struggling farm families**. The project aims to develop **eco-friendly cattle production and high-value crop cultivation** to help the smallholder farmers establish a **sustainable livelihood** and **improve the environment**.

The project will establish **9 farmer cooperatives** through which **technical training** including organic farming techniques will be provided. We will encourage farmers to use **silage as cattle feed and plant high-yielding forage grass** to develop eco-friendly cattle farming. Additionally, the cooperatives will provide collective procurement and sales services which will **effectively increase productivity** and help farmers **achieve a sustained income growth**.

Lastly, we will also help the farmer cooperatives **develop partnerships with the local government and corporations**, thus driving sustainable community development in the long run.

2. Project Progress

Objective 1: Increase farmers' income by developing circular agriculture which integrates crop cultivation with animal husbandry

- Provided subsidies to 728 households for purchase of **high-quality cattle and donkey**.
- Trained farmers to **keep cattle in pens** to ensure their health.
- Ear-tagged all cattle for better monitoring and management.
- Developed a technical team on animal husbandry with 91 farmers; organized 29 training sessions on **cattle prenatal care, calf rearing and disease prevention** with 1,025 person times trained; conducted 209 person times of on-site demonstrations.
- 100 families started growing an average of 4 mu of pomegranates and other cash crops. Invited experts to teach **organic farming techniques** to these households.

Objective 2: Set up farmer cooperatives and cultivate a sense of mutual help among villagers

- **9 farmer cooperatives** have been established to provide services for smallholder farmers including **collective purchasing and selling** of agricultural supplies and products as well as **training in animal husbandry**.
- Developed a standardized operating system for the cooperatives and provided 50 training sessions on management and financial knowledge.

Objective 3: Improve awareness on environment protection and public hygiene; organize activities to care for those in need

- Formulated public hygiene plan with the villagers to **improve sanitation of the community**.
- **Formed 2 Women's groups** to organize community activities such as Chongyang Festival and Dragon Boat Festival, attracting over 400 villagers to join and bringing warmth to the elderly.

3. Project Story



Zhao Jihua has endured a life of poverty and never attended school. Caring for his disabled wife prevents him from leaving home for a paid job. With limited knowledge and skills, he can only earn a modest income from growing corn and raising livestock. Unable to afford the educational costs, his 17-year-old son, Shizhou, had to forgo attending a top high school and settle for studying nearby. Jihua blames himself, saying, **"I feel ashamed for depriving him of better opportunities because of my own shortcomings."**

Recently, the Zhao Family has received assistance from our project. We have provided Jihua with high-quality cattle and **training in animal husbandry and eco-farming techniques** such as making silage for feed and disease prevention. By now, a crossbred calf has been born. All these support is helping Jihua steadily increase his income and improve his family's quality of life.

Zhao Jihua is also committed to **"Pass on the Gift"** in a few years by returning the equivalent value of his gifted livestock and sharing the knowledge he has learned with other families in need. This act will **multiply the impact of our donations** and help the community **achieve sustainability**.

Photos



Cooperative leaders and villagers jointly made plans for their villages



Project technicians trained farmers to keep cattle in pens



Project staff and farmers applied ear tag to cattle for accurate record keeping and better management



Farmers learn how to grow pomegranate



Provided pomegranate seedlings to farmers for fruit tree cultivation



Helped cooperatives develop sound management systems so as to provide diverse services to farmers



Cooperatives help farmers purchase agricultural supplies collectively to save cost



Women's groups made dumplings during Dragon Boat Festival to care for the elderly