



AFP enables rain-dependent farming families to increase crop yields, so subsistence farmers facing water scarcity, grow their way out of poverty. Impact: growing food, conserving water, stabilizing economies

Dear Abundance Farming Project Supporter,

We received great news from Vigyan Ashram in India about their open-field trial growing cabbage in the dry season. This trial, planted in November, is part of their effort to identify crop varieties and protocols for a 3rd growing season for rural small farmers in India. The cabbage trial compares Zeba used with 3 fertilizers, 1 organic and 2 commercial, and all using very little water. It showed the best results using Zeba plus organic fertilizer made with an Indian recipe of cow urine, cow manure, jiggery (sugar), a small amount of ghee (margarine) and neem leaves (insecticide).

The cabbage was grown using ***Zeba and only 10-20% of the water typically used*** by small rural farmers to grow cabbage. Vigyan Ashram's Agricultural Director Ranajeet Pallavi directed the random block design evaluation with control plots and is overseeing the harvest, including observations on weight/volume/specific gravity of each cabbage. The harvest just started and the data will take 20 days to measure and process, so the final outcome will be reported in AFP's February newsletter.

We have a new opportunity for a ***very significant field trial in Africa*** with a well known international organization if we can get funding to cover the direct expenses. We have funds to purchase the needed Zeba material, but not enough for the shipping costs or to pay the customs duties. We need about \$2200 for the additional expenses. Please reach paul@abundancefarming.org ***if you can make a one-time donation toward this initiative.***

AFP provided Zeba to Seeds of Life South Africa, a small US nonprofit that helps to fund schools in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. They will plant vegetable gardens at 7 schools this year using Zeba to grow spinach, pepper, cabbage in the summer and corn, pumpkins, peanuts, and squash in the winter. (see www.seedsoflight.org)

Our 501c3 tax exempt status from the IRS was expected in January but may be delayed by 3 months. We requested the IRS expedite their ruling on our application. The significance is that we cannot get grants from organizations and large donations from individuals that require tax exempt status until this process is completed. Once it is awarded, it is expected to be retroactive to 7/30/09, so contributions after that date will become tax deductible.

AFP is a community partner with the ***ReVisioning Value Conference hosted by Springboard Innovation***. AFP will have a presence at the April 26th Conference and workshops on the following day April 27th – see the information below.



ReVisioning Value | ReVV 2010: The Intersection of Purpose and Profit

Presented by Springboard Innovation

April 26-27th in Portland, Oregon

ReVV 2010 will bring together leaders from the varied fields of **impact investing** and **social innovation** to share how new models for both are increasing the flow of capital to the creation of a more just and sustainable world. The one day conference is followed by a day of hands-on workshops and strategic action roundtables designed to help participants apply the ideas offered at the conference to their own organizations and to create real tools and strategies as an outcome.

AFP continues working with The Smallholders Foundation in Nigeria, who provided the recent photos below



Nnaemeka Ikegwuonu, Executive Director of The Smallholders Foundation distributes Zeba to farmers at a community meeting in Nigeria.



Mr. Ugochukwu Ogbonna is shown growing wild watermelon, or *egusi melon*, in SE Nigeria using Zeba provided by Abundance Farming Project.

Egusi seeds are ground for Egusi Soup, a favorite in Nigeria.

The goal for AFP this year is to demonstrate our impact through significant yield increases with larger scale projects. We plan to enlarge our reach in Nigeria, India and China as well as with our new project in Africa. We also intend to get sustainable funding so that AFP becomes economically viable.

**Best wishes,
Paul Osterlund**

www.abundancefarming.org

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