

4. Project personnel

- i) Number of personnel employed - Four
- ii) Their status after completion of the project – The numbers will be increased to six and will be kept in service as long as the project continues.

5. Final financial statement is attached (Yes) Final Financial Statement attached as Annex "A" to this document.

B) Executive summary of the project

Background

The start of the spirulina research project in Sri Lanka dates back to 2010 when UNESCO made a revealing statement about malnutrition of children and lactating mothers in Sri Lanka. The Gandhi Centre decided to address this. Arjuna Hulugalle and Upatissa Hulugalle identified spirulina, a powerful nutrient, to address this problem. I got staff and set up this research project in Kanugala, Wattegedara.. A community person was trained in India for this.

Objectives

1. To cultivate the algae spirulina under farm conditions to support the villagers in the Kurunegala District to overcome malnutrition.
2. To market the grown spirulina at an affordable price to the villagers.
3. To provide training and limited employment to village women.

As a trustee of the Gandhi Centre, I accepted the challenge of setting-up the spirulina farm and contributed physical assets to the project. The Spirulina Research project needed heavy investment. To obtain funding I prepared a grant request to the National Science Foundation as the principal signatory for the research project. Since none of the villagers agreed to release land, I identified 15 perches in my property in Kanugala. the NSF approved a grant of Rs.1.5 million and required me to contribute Rs.654,000/- to make it a joint venture. I pledged the partner contribution. The grant was approved in December 2012, effective 2013 April to 2014 March.

Output

Cultivation commenced in May 2013 with the first instalment of the grant. 20

tanks were constructed and the spirulina introduced systematically. Harvesting using the Indian method proved unsatisfactory and we adopted more sterile Swedish methods. These led to a marketable product and the research has successfully shown a process for producing a marketable product.

The production process encountered many problems. The team members pulled in different directions seeking personal payments through grant money. I then had to administer this single handedly, with some help from villagers. Besides personnel issues, there were also growth problems. These were addressed systematically and we now have a highly recommendable cultivation process together with a project that can output of 60 Kgs of Spirulina per month. This project can be replicated in suitable areas in Sri Lanka.

C) Report in detail

1. Background

In 2010 when I studied the UN reports on Children's health, I came across the following report re the children in Sri Lanka.

"For a Country that suffers no significant food shortages and provides extensive free maternal and child health services, it is rather paradoxical that malnutrition affects nearly one-third of children and one-quarter of women.

- **Almost one out of five children are born with low birth weight – Around 25% of under five are reported to be under weight, rising as high as 37.4% in some deprived districts.**
- **14% of under fives suffer from acute malnutrition (wasting) when their weight is compared to the weight of a normal child of the same height.**
- **Nearly 58% of infants between 6 & 11 months and 38% children between 12 and 23 months are anemic"**

In my own small way I decided to find a solution to the malnutrition problems in Children & Pregnant and Lactating Mothers in Sri Lanka.

As a trustee of the Gandhi Centre, I discussed with the Board of trustees of this centre who wholeheartedly agreed to my idea and Mr Arjuna Hullugalle, a trustee of the centre said that his brother Mr Upatissa Hulugalle an ardent believer in cultivating spirulina and knowing its benefits said that we should cultivate spirulina. He undertook to fund two personnel for a training program to study the growing procedures of Spirulina in a farm in south India provided, me being a go-getter, undertake the growing of Spirulina to overcome malnutrition in Children and Pregnant & Lactating Mothers in the