

# Seeds For El Salvador



OCT 24 1984

A. U. C. E.

## A Nutrition Project in the Province of Chalatenango

Chalatenango is the largest province of El Salvador. It is a largely mountainous region located in the north of the country. It is crossed by several rivers, the most important of which are the Sumpul, the Lempa and the Tamulasco. The forest cover has been almost entirely denuded to satisfy the greed of a few landowners. This has resulted in extensive damage to the topsoil caused by wind and water erosion. Chalatenango encompasses two small mountain ranges, one of which is parallel to the Honduran border, the other running parallel to the main highway artery (Troncal del Norte) and the Lempa

river. Large valleys separate the mountains and these valleys contain the indigenous population of the area. The majority of the population are poor peasants who live on the worst land and that is usually on the mountain slopes. The main products that they cultivate are beans, corn and rice, largely on a subsistence level. Because of the meagre yield they are forced to work six months of the year on the coffee plantations of the eastern regions. The wages only amount to about \$40/month which must often support a family of six people.

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*Newborn and very young children, dependent upon their mothers for breast milk, very frequently are malnourished as their mother is ill or has no milk to give, due to the mother's dietary deficiencies. It is a fact that many of these young children do not survive due to the severe limitations of their diets.*

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*"In El Salvador, 25-30% of all the children die before age five."*

Charles Clements, M.D.

## What is the Popular Local Power?

The Popular Local Power is the expression and realization of the new society. It is the political and jurisdictional organization which regulates and co-ordinates the life of the population, tending to health, welfare, education, production, housing and defense.

The co-ordinators of the P.L.P. are elected by the people of the communities at assemblies. Nominations are made by popular organizations such as A.M.E.S. (Salvadorean Women's Association) and the F.T.C. (Federation of Rural Workers).

The Popular Local Power responds to the needs of the people. Many campesinos and their families have been left homeless following Salvadorean Army attacks.

For example, in 1980 the Salvadorean Army committed one of the greatest atrocities of recent times. This was a massacre that took place at Jurique on the banks of the Sumpul river when some 600 unarmed campesinos were murdered. Most of the

victims were women, children and old people trying to flee from the path of the army.

For the survivors of such attacks, there remains nothing to return to. The 'scorched earth policy' of the army guarantees the burning of all food crops and the killing of livestock such as chickens, cattle and hogs. Obviously this 'policy' creates a further impoverishment in health and nutritional terms.

In spite of the constant repression and terror being inflicted by the enemy upon them, the people have managed to consolidate their power in the province of Chalatenango.

"As 90% of the province is now under popular control, many major obstacles have to be overcome in the interdependent areas of health care and nutrition. Therefore, one of the first priorities that the popular forces have set is to alleviate the bad state of nutrition (i.e. food production)."

\* Popular Local Power Chalatenago



### The Population Breakdown Is:

60% are poor peasants  
 15% are middle peasants  
 10% are prosperous peasants and landowners  
 15% are engaged in various small forms of business or transportation, or are handicraft workers and public employees.

## What is Seeds For El Salvador?

SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR is a fund-raising project undertaken by a group of non-partisan volunteers who seek to aid in the health and nutritional needs of the people of Chalatenango.

Funds raised for SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR will be directed to a specific agricultural project -- to alleviate massive shortages of vital foodstuffs-- in the province of Chalatenango. The money will provide for foodcrop seeds and some basic fertilizing equipment.

The Salvadorean Women's Association (A.M.E.S.) will organize nutrition centers in 11 different locations in Chalatenango. Each center will attend to the needs of about 2000 people. The total 22,000 to be served by the program will receive two meals per day each. The basic foods, beans, rice and corn will be distributed by those people in charge of food production.

With regard to vegetable production (e.g. carrots, onions) it is estimated that it will be necessary to plant close to 11 acres per community. At this level of production, each individual would be able to consume vegetables 2-3 times weekly.

- In order to meet the target of this project SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR needs to raise \$22,000.
- It is hoped, that with your co-operation, solidarity and economic support together with the sacrifice and tenacity of the people of El Salvador, that this project will flourish.
- All donations will ultimately assist in the popular control of the resources and the wealth of El Salvador.

### SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR WILL PROVIDE FOR:

A total of 45.5 ACRES for vegetables to be planted during a six month period AND corn, beans and rice production on plots of 75 ACRES each.



A Production Collective at work in the vegetable garden.

What is the Popular Local Power?

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ brochures about SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR

\$5/month  \$10/month  \$25/month  Other

I would like to be a monthly sustainer:

\$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other

I would like to donate:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return with your contribution:



Send your cheque to: SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR  
P.O. BOX 65689  
STATION 'F'  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
V5M 5K8

The help you can give today, through SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR, will make possible a new life for the people of Chalatenango. SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR will send 100% of every dollar received to the project in El Salvador.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR  
P.O. Box 65689  
Station F  
Vancouver, B.C. V5M 5K8



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# Seeds For El Salvador



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Endorsed by:

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October, 17, 1984

As the SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR campaign takes off, we have identified two major goals for the project:

- (1) Focus for education on the conditions of the Third World, increasing awareness of El Salvador in particular.
- (2) Financial/material support for the people of El Salvador.

We are a handful of people organizing this campaign, but through efforts aimed at public awareness we anticipate more and more Canadians will become encouraged to join in this humanitarian project.

We would like to have you join us by contributing your time and skills for specific fundraising and/or educational efforts or by a material contribution. If you would like to have more information, or would like to organize a meeting for people in your group or area, please contact us. We will arrange for a speaker to join you and to show a film on El Salvador.

We are also organizing a speaking tour for a representative of the P.L.P. (Popular Local Power) in the upcoming months. This will provide an opportunity for an exchange of information as well as an appropriate time to make a donation to SEEDS FOR EL SALVADOR.

This form of aid is important not only for its material value, but also as a way to open lines of communications between our population and the Third World. Through these efforts we can demonstrate to North American governments how we prefer our tax dollars to be spent.

OUR GIFTS DEMONSTRATE OUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE, JUSTICE AND FREEDOM.

Please join us in these efforts.

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