

## **Revised Second Kitui Sand Dam Project (\$75,000)(CFGB Project A036)**

### **Report of Results from around 30 November 2003 until 29 February 2004**

The reader is requested to refer to the “Revised Second Kitui Sand Dam Project Proposal” (File \$75,000 – Sand Dam Proposal); the “Revised Second Kitui Sand Dam Project (CFGB Project A036), Report of Results from around 1 November 2002 until 30 November 2003” (File - \$75,000 Sand Dam Report 11-03); and the “Food for Work Project (Proposal) in Support of Kitui Sand Dam Nthongoni Project” (File FFW Kitui); all of which appear in this MCC Kenya FY04-05 plan book in order to receive further clarification as to this rather complex project. It will also help to look at the two reports from SASOL Foundation appended to this report.

The ability of sand dams to transform actual deserts into paradises in the semi-arid Kambaland area east of Nairobi is well documented. CFGB began the funding of construction of 16 sand dams by SASOL Foundation in October 2002 when it dispersed \$37,576. (Actually CFGB financed the construction of 13 sand dams by SASOL costing \$50,000 from 1999 to 2001, hence the title, “....Second Kitui Sand Dam Project....”) The project was expanded to 24 dams through \$25,000 of MCC contingency funding which was dispersed to SASOL Foundation in February 2004 or within FY03-04. **Thus, \$12,424 of CFGB funding for the construction of the last 4 dams of the \$75,000 – 24 sand dam project are being carried over to FY04-05.** Up until the end of February 2004, 12 sand dams had been nearly completed, and work on the associated off take wells begun (see appended January report). Currently, (mid March 2004) work is proceeding well on dams 13 through 20). But, because of famine in the project area, MCC has dispersed \$15,000 from the Food Account to feed the 1,000 workers constructing the dams. SASOL continues to submit at least quarterly narrative and financial reports including receipts. As of the last report in mid February 2004 (covering up to the end of January 2004) slightly more than half of the \$75,000 had been spent and the receipts submitted. We will continue to update MCC/CFGB quarterly as to the progress of the project but will submit receipts and a financial report a month or so before the \$12,424 from CFGB are needed. This could be as late as August 2004.

It was thought originally that no sand dam construction would be financed by MCC or CFGB in FY05-06 since a major donor in mid 2004 will begin financing the construction by SASOL of 300 additional dams in the southern portion of Kitui District. Now SASOL Foundation has informed MCC Kenya that an additional 226 dams need to be constructed near where “MCC’s” dams are now being constructed SSW of Kitui Town. Therefore, \$50,000 from CFGB and/or perhaps FRB) are budgeted for FY 05-06. Of course SASOL Foundation will have to seek funding from elsewhere to complete all necessary dams in “MCC’s” area.

# SASOL FOUNDATION

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22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004

Dr. Larry Loewen-Rudgers  
Mennonite Central Committee  
P.O. Box 14894  
Nairobi

Dear Sir,

**Re: Second Kitui Sand Dam Project (\$75,000) (A036), Progress Report to MCC Kenya (October-December 2003)**

The period October to December is generally a wet season. Usually the rains start lightly from the middle of October and increase gradually peaking in late November and early part of December. Then the rains tail off in late December to early January.

However, in 2003 the rains started with very high intensity at the end of October. During the last week of October the received rainfall was equivalent to the total expected in the season. This magnitude of rainfall on parched land practically devoid of vegetation -especially the annuals and grasses - resulted in severe erosion since the ground was bare.

Paradoxically after this high intensity rainfall in late October/early November there was virtually a total stoppage. Although planting had occurred, this lack of continued rain resulted in crop loss. During the period from middle of November to the end of December the rainfall was far below average. Most of the crops withered and died out. The rains returned to normal in early January which was almost too late but it managed to salvage some of the crop although the yield had been adversely affected already. The sum total of this deviant sequence of events is that there is a food shortage in the area.

## **Sand dam building**

The first half of 2003 was used in community organization and mobilization activities, together with development of baseline data for food security and training in natural resource management. Such kind of background work is deemed necessary for the community to reap maximum benefits from the water resource structures they develop. It is the way to enable the communities to focus beyond the structures and to view them as assets capable of creating wealth and food security.

The second half of the year started with the location of actual sites for development. This was followed by the gathering of building materials at the various sites. Then followed the excavation of the dam trenches which was followed by the construction of the dams. This procedure is followed for every individual site.

The sites which were developed and their status by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 are as shown

<b>Site</b>	<b>Completion status</b>
1. K. kikolo	100%
2. K. Kiema	100%
3. K. Makiti	100%
4. K. Masila	100%
5. K. Kabwere	90%
6. K. Kasoa 1	90%
7. K. Wambua	95%
8. Kamanyi Iviani	80%
9. K. Mutindi	50%
10. K. Gideon	30%
11. K. Kasoa 2	10%
12. K. Nyamai	10%
13. Kitandaa 11	10%
14. Kitandaa111	10%
15. K. Kyumwa	10%
16. K. Nthukumu	10%

All the 8 dams whose construction was complete or more than 80% complete have received and retained water. The partly constructed dams are currently under the process of completion which will increase their retention volume. Dam site 9 has been excavated and is ready for construction while dam sites 10-16 have been identified and are at the stage of material collection.

The rate of filling of the dams by sand has been very high in Yatta. Actually this is the first time in our 10 years of dam building we have experienced a sand dam filling with sand in one rainy season. It usually takes six or more rainy seasons before the dams are full of sand. This is an indication of very high erosion rates coupled with steep gradients of the surrounding land. This prompts the need to re-examine land use and the importance of increasing the amount of vegetative cover. As honey production is one of the major activities contributing to food security in the area, the provision of water coupled with revegetation would result in higher productivity in this industry. Therefore, SASOL Foundation will inevitably have to address the revegetation problem.

Due to the aberrations which were evident during the October/December rainy season, there is food shortage in the project area. Therefore, the provision of food for work would be a good idea to aid the completion of the Project.

Prepared by:

S.M. Mutiso  
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22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004

Dr. Larry Loewen-Rudgers  
Mennonite Central Committee  
P.O. Box 14894  
Nairobi

Dear Sir,

**Re: Special Progress Report for Second Kitui Sand Dam Project (\$75,000) (A036)-  
January 2004**

Further to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly report for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2003 submitted in January 2004 depicting the position as at the end of year the current situation is as follows.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Completion status</b>
1. K. Kikolo	100%
2. K. Kiema	100%
3. K. Makiti	100%
4. K. Masila	100%
5. K. Kabwere	100%
6. K. Kasoa 1	100%
7. K. Wambua	100%
8. Kamanyi Iviani	100%
9. K. Mutindi	100%
10. K. Gideon	90%
11. K. Kasoa 2	75%
12. K. Nyamai	75%

10 Off-take wells are also in progress. A full quarterly report will be made in April for the quarter January – April 2004.

This covers the first transfer of Ksh.2,947,753.50 (\$37,551) of which most has been used.

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