

A single Drop of Water



A single Drop of Water! – A webinar on Agenda 2030 and a model for water management in northeastern Brazil.

A digital seminar and webinar 3:00 - 4.30 pm 23th September 2020 (ETC.) 90 minutes

Arranged by the local UNA-Sweden chapter in Stenungsund, Bento50 and Afrika Select

1 million rain water cisterns

In the drought-afflicted northeastern region of Brazil, a social transformation is taking place. A significant driver to shape a more sustainable future in the region is the project [P1MC “Um Milhão de Cisternas”](#) (“The One Million Water Cistern Project”). One million families were in need of their own rain water cistern. The project succeeded with the goal, making it possible for the families to live in the countryside and on their farmland.

This successful initiative is an interplay between innovative technology, social community, as well as local and international cooperation that has fundamentally changed people's lives and conditions in the Brazilian countryside.

The water cisterns have radically reduced the migration wave to the big cities. The migration has created problems both in the countryside and in the slums of the big cities and has affected northeastern Brazil, not least after the extensive drought that occurred during the 1970s and 80s.

In addition to the fact that the cistern project has made it easier for people to stay on their land, it has also created better conditions for building thriving farms. One example is the Montero-Lopez brothers. See link for a short presentation of their farming business:

<https://vimeo.com/413978727>

In December 2019, documentary filmmaker Simon Stanford visited the province of Pernambuco, the northeastern region of Brazil, to film a pilot for a documentary about the project. A ten-minute first version of the documentary will be shown during the digital seminar.

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More than 700 grassroots organizations have collaborated in the development and implementation of the project. The seminar focuses on the successful model for water management in northeastern Brazil and how this work can be linked to Agenda 2030 and its various targets.

Agenda 2030 – 17 goals for sustainable development

The UN's Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDG), Agenda 2030, reflects an ambitious but also absolutely necessary vision for our world. Achieving the 17 goals and 169 sub-goals, all of which are interconnected and based on each other, requires a broad and sustainable commitment from the whole of society. Politics, business and civil society need to work together, both globally and locally. The work with rainwater cisterns in northeastern Brazil is a concrete example of such a commitment, and of how we can make a big difference for a more sustainable world with relatively small resources. The project deals in particular with [goal 6 on clean water and sanitation for all](#) and on targets 6.3 and 6.4 on improved wastewater treatment, safe reuse and increased water-use efficiency.

Project background

The UN COP3 meeting was held in the city of Olinda in Brazil in 1999. One of the most important issues on the agenda was how to stop desertification. During the conference, local NGOs built a rainwater cistern for the city. Brazil's Minister for environment at the time saw the cistern and heard about the plan to build one million cisterns for needy families in the semi-arid northeastern part of Brazil. He was impressed by the work and promised government support for the project.

Through its presence at the COP3 meeting, UNICEF also had a significant impact on the Minister's positive response.

Without the cooperation between families, local NGOs, international NGOs and the federal state, the one million cistern project would not have been the formidable success it is, says Marcelino De Souza Lima, who holds a doctor degree in agricultural and forestry science.

Marcelino De Souza successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in March 2019 on the subject of international cooperation, organizations and civil society networks that affect public policies for coexistence under semi-arid conditions; local contexts and the long-term sustainability of family farming.

Some topics for discussion

- Can this model be transferred to other drought-stricken communities?
- What is the democratic and political significance of the broad grassroots participation in the design and implementation of the project?
- Is there a significant climate benefit thanks to the project?
- Can a project like this reduce the risk of future conflicts over water shortages?
- What is the role of United Nations in the efforts for a sustainable society?



Participants:

- Ulrika Modéer, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy - UNDP
- Henrika Thomasson, Director of Communication, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- Martin Hedberg, Meteorologist
- Marcelino De Souza Lima, PhD in Agronomic and Forestry Sciences
- Gustaf Olsson, professor emeritus, author of *Clean Water Using Solar and Wind* (2018)
- Jennie Barron, professor in agriculture and water management within farming, at The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU.
- Bengt Carlsson, owner of Bento50 AB, volunteer and funder of the Documentary Film "A Single Drop of Water "
- Simon Stanford, Documentary Film producer, photographer, Afrika Select
- Petter Ölmunger, Chairperson at the local UNA Sweden chapter in Stenungsund and member of the board UNA Sweden, host
- Marika Griehsel, journalist, moderator

Collaborating partner: Röda korsets folkhögskola, Skärholmen.

Further information:

The seminar will mainly be held in Swedish.

Interactive participation will be encouraged.

The workshop will be recorded for future reference.

For further information and questions send an e-mail to kontakt@stofn.org

or call Bengt Carlsson (0046) (0)702 65 12 90

Program

- Water for life and Agenda 2030.
Ulrika Modeér, assistant Secretary General of UN and head of UNDP.
- A single drop of water, the good example from Brazil. Short film and talks on why a documentary?
Bengt Carlsson, entrepreneur and initiator of the film and Simon Stanford, documentary filmmaker
- Keys to success - "One million cisterns" in Brazil.
Marcelino de Souza Lima summarizes his research on this project.
- Change of climate and nature – what roll does it play?
Martin Hedberg – meteorologist and lecturer.
- Small scale in Sweden? Water supply for future.
- Jennie Barron, professor in agriculture and water management within farming, at The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU.
- Clean water using solar and wind.
Gustaf Olsson, professor emeritus in industrial automation, Lund's university
- Agenda 2030 and the UN movement
Petter Ölmunger, chairman at Stenungsund, Tjörn and Orust UN Association.
- Why is it difficult to communicate water?
Henrika Thomasson, director of communication at Stockholm Water Institute, SIWI