Dear Marisol,

I am confirming we have received your project follow-up responses. Thank you for taking the time as a group to clarify our follow-up questions.

We hope to be in touch within the next week regarding the project decision. Have a nice weekend!

Abrazos,

Alli

On Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 4:30 PM marisol marcial <[selvaypaz@yahoo.com](mailto:selvaypaz@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Hi Dear Alli,

The collective met this week and we gathered group answers. Here are our answers to the questions you sent to us.

Thanks for your time and we look forward to hearing from you.

1)      To keep the equipment and machinery in good shape we and specially the members of the collective like Tránsito and Sandra (who have proposed the use of machinery) will apply prevention measures like the use of an electricity regulator, continued oiling and replacement of old parts and maintenance done by a technician once a year.

2)      Our children are involved in our daily activities of our projects and production parcels. They take on age appropriate tasks helping our family economy. In this way they become familiar with the activities involved in the production. We have also opened up a space for the children to sell their creations and products at the monthly agroecological fair.

To ensure that the knowledge of our activities is passed on to our future generations we have also created connections with our local schools and Universities in our province to share our experiences and entrepreneurship skills. We hope to motivate people to a better nutrition through our production and to dream of creating their own sustainable projects.

3)      Doña María Vaca is the one with the knowledge of raising guinea pigs. She is scheduled to give a practical workshop in January to the collective on guinea pig breeding, which we will attend with our children. There will be a work collaborative day or “minga” in which we, the members of the collective will exchange our labor to clean up her guinea pig boxes and move the poop for her technical knowledge on guinea pig raising.

4)      People who attend our monthly agroecological fair in the community of Santa Rosa. Tourists and visitors who come to our entrepreneurships. Our collective is new to technology but we have opened a new facebook page with the name Colectivo Mujeres Emprendedoras de Intag, and hope to be in IG very soon. This is not our final name as we are working on a new name for our collective. There are several Whatsapp chats in the Intag valley where we post announcements for our monthly fair and the different projects services of each member of the collective. Also we are advertising in Radio Cotacachi our fairs and project as a collective.

5)      For the collective we have an initial onetime fee of $20. We also have a 50 cents contribution monthly. We have a treasurer who keeps track of this money and we are still in the process of formalizing our collective saving box in January.

6)      #2 The 5 women who won the grant last year have kept records of the production (when it applies) and sales of the entrepreneurships and the 5 new members will keep also their records in the next year. Here are some examples of our production (P)and sales (S). The production and sales quantified below relate to the grant each woman received and invested in specific areas of their projects:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME | JULY  P/S | AG  P/S | SEP  P/S | OCT  P/S | NOV  P/S | TOTAL |
| NORMA  Only Sales of meals in new restaurant space | 167.50 | 155.00 | 35.00 | 50.00 | 170.00 | $577.50 |
| MARISOL  Only Sales related to the tours in new trail, food grown and served | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | $700 |
| SANDRA  Crickets in kilos and sales | 10K/$100 | 9K/$48 | 14K/$13.5 | $77 | 6.8K/$130 | $368.50 |
| SILVIA  Numbers of eggs produced and sales |  | 140EGGS/$12.50 | 420EGGS  /$39 | 700EGGS/$67 | 700EGGS/$65 | $183.50 |
| MARÍA  Number of guinea pigs prepared, sold and garden products sold | 12 guinea pigs/$250, $35 | 7 guinea pigs, $80 | 50 bags of guinea pig fertilizer sold, $200 | 5 guinea pigs, $80, guinea pigs sold 13-$130 | 5 guinea pigs, $60, 20 sacks of guinea pig fertilizer $80, vegetable $15 | $930 |

#3 We, the collective believes that if we stay in our parcels and homes, carrying on our productive activities, there is more union in the family and a better quality of life. Our family members got sick less frequent because of the better diet we have.  We know that what we are planting and eating is healthier and we saved some money.

For example: Cricket production is replacing meat in Sandra´s diet.

7)      Silvia and Marisol will be in charge of collecting the information on the production and sales for 2024 and also during the visits to each project to present the results of each phase to World Connect in the middle and end of the project.

Marisol and Silvia

On Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 03:30:53 PM GMT-5, Alli Tolbert <[atolbert@worldconnect-us.org](mailto:atolbert@worldconnect-us.org)> wrote:

Dear Marisol and Silvia,

I hope this email finds you well. Thank you for applying on behalf of your community for project support from World Connect.

We are very interested in the proposed project. Before moving forward, we would like to request additional information and clarification. Your complete grant application is attached to this email for reference.  
  
Please review the following questions and comments with the Community Organization Plaza Gutierrez Women's Entrepreneurial Collective identified in the application and any other relevant local stakeholders, and submit a supplemental application document providing responses where necessary:

* Part of the grant is dedicated to machinery and appliances. What is the maintenance process or requirements for this machinery to keep it up-to-date and functioning, etc?
* In your proposal, one of the desired long-term outcomes is that future generations will be involved in these small businesses. How are the youth or children involved in or considered in this project? Will they have active roles?
* Some of the project proposals require more technical experience, and last year’s guinea pig project struggled before becoming sustainable. Who has that experience and how will it be taught or transferred? (example: raising small animals) Will there be training fees or some form of payment?
* Who are the target markets for their sales? Tell us some more about marketing and outreach.
* How is the Group Fund’s development? What is the monthly contribution?
* Thank you for sharing the intention and vision behind each indicator. Going forward, we’d like to suggest that you focus on the following indicators:   
  -- #2 Production of Healthy and Wholesome Food: This is a great indicator. As a suggestion, could you measure the % change in production and sales across each of the businesses?  
  -- #3 Enhanced Health, Happiness, and Family Wellbeing: How do you plan to measure this?
* Who will be in charge of the MRE process? Do they need any tools or guidance on this?

We kindly request this information **by next Friday, December 8th**. The sooner we receive this information, the sooner we can deliver an answer regarding your project application.

Thank you for your time and all of your hard work on behalf of the women and children in your community. We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible so that we can make an informed decision, and we will prioritize your reply for review by our team.  
  
Sincerely,  
The World Connect team

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**ALLI TOLBERT**

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE - ECUADOR

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