

In the newsletter articles "Lotus Spreads Its Petals" (winter 2013) and "Clean Water - A Gift From the Heavens" (winter 2014) we described Mexico's ongoing drought, big agriculture accelerated depletion of aquifers. This results in naturally occurring high levels of Arsenic and Fluoride, which contaminates water used for drinking and cooking, causing catastrophic health issues most notably in children.

Lotus/Mexico's solution to these problems is the collection and storage of clean renewable rain water (water harvesting) in large above-ground beehive-like cisterns.

In 2013-14 Lotus/Mexico and Rotary Club partners built 21 cisterns - at a cost to Lotus of \$8,000. In 2014-15 Lotus/Mexico provided \$15,000, and after partnering with Rotary and doubling our contribution, together we built 111 cisterns in many poor rural communities-many without any potable water at all!

This year, 2015-16, Lotus/Mexico will contribute \$10,000. After "matches" from 11 different Rotary Clubs from the United States, Canada, South Korea, Japan, the Grand Caymans, CEDESA (winter 2013 newsletter) and several private donors, The Rotary Foundation will double these contributions for a total project expenditure of \$199,431. In other words every dollar contributed by Lotus/Mexico and others will be matched by IRF at \$3.50. Included with this good news is that our material suppliers, CEMEX and Hierro Commercial, will provide a 15% to 30% discount on all materials used in the construction process.

This year's goal is to: 1) Build 314 cisterns. 2) New this year is a 8 class mandatory education program on water conservation and sanitation. 3) a complete GPS mapping, and visual inspection of all 800 cisterns built in the past 7 years.