

# Supporting the Agricultural School “Rainha dos Apostolos” in the Achievement of Its Economic Autonomy

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## Abstract

*The objectives of the project are to help the Rainha dos Apostolos agricultural school to increase agricultural products, improve organic agriculture techniques, and improve their financial autonomy.*

*Together with the Rainha dos Apostolos agricultural school and the Centro de Solidariedade Sao José in Manaus, we believe that the development of the human being as a citizen and as a whole should be achieved through the development of professional competencies and the insertion into the job market, which in turn means social inclusion of the students. We also strongly believe that keeping people in the forest, working on sustainable activities, is the best way to prevent the rainforest from being destroyed.*

*Amazzonia Sviluppo's project is to help the school to host and to give an educational opportunity to native children of tribes from the entire Amazon state. They are mainly sons and daughters of native Brazilians (called Índios) from several tribes, small farmers, and residents of the neighborhoods around the school.*

*At the end of the five-year course, these young natives are sent back to their communities, where the acquired knowledge should be transmitted to their peers. The preparation period in school represents an extremely valuable asset for the rainforest population. It allows them to stay in the rainforest instead of migrating to big cities in search of a better life. As a result, the natives are no longer part of the slum inhabitants in the big cities' peripheries. Besides the notorious humanitarian achievements, the work developed at school also helps preserving the environment.*

*Our common objective is that the school reaches financial autonomy.*

*The school is managed by the Centro de Solidariedade Sao José in Manaus, and has been working for over 20 years providing free education to young Brazilian Amazon natives. The school counts 350 students in a boarding school, but is not financed by any local government or non-governmental institution. Currently, the available financial resources come from revenues generated from the sales of agricultural goods, which is part of the school activities to covers part of the operational costs, and from donations from Italian sponsor families, part of a “distance adoption” program.*

*Such resources, unfortunately, do not cover all the costs of running the school, which must constantly search for other sources in order to pay its bills. The fact that the school is still working without any local financial support is nearly a miracle.*

## Main activities

*Amazzonia Sviluppo provides knowledge on organic agriculture issues, agricultural materials, and financial donations in order to increase the area where fruits and vegetables are cultivated, the pasture area, egg production, the number of cows, sheep, chicken, pork, the production of medicinal herbs, and to purchase equipment in order to increase productivity.*

## Main results and sustainability of the project

*At the end of the project, precisely because we choose to sustain and increase the production of organic products, the school will have more agricultural goods to sell at the market, which consequently will improve its financial autonomy and will give it more long-term financial resources.*

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