

Not Just Peanuts

In a community that's far from any town, where only 22 families live, 3 sisters planned to change their community with peanuts.

Sarthia, Piremeka, and Vishaathana explained that it had only rained in their community in India a few times over the last year. A lack of water had affected everyone.

The thought to improve their community began when Piremeka and her husband began dreaming of a better life for their two children. They heard about programs that provided small loans to people like them. The first loan they received, helped them open a little store. The store—the only of its kind for miles—carried groceries and items that you would find in any corner store. They had bread, milk, oil, and even candy and sweets.



However, the store didn't provide Piremeka and her family the kind of life that would give their children better opportunities, and there certainly wasn't enough of a profit to invest in their community. So Piremeka and her sisters came up with a different plan. They got loans to grow peanuts.

As peanut farmers, they were very wise. They held on to their peanuts for just the right time to take them to market. They would then sell and receive the best price for their harvest. They learned that if they would plant peanuts for 2 or 3 harvests and then allow the land to rest, that they would reap a bigger harvest while also protecting their farmland investment and peanut business.

The sisters and their families used peanut farming to raise enough money to ultimately build wells on their property. Where they lived, their gardens, animals and livelihoods were all affected by a water shortage.

By building three wells in their small community, they would change the flow of the water, bringing water into the community where all could benefit.

To you and me, these may look like ordinary peanuts. But to the people in Piremeka's village, the peanuts were an investment in their futures.



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