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**Editorial: Indianapolis Star Newspaper:: Submitted 3/04/2004**

## **CHRONIC POVERTY CAN BE ELIMINATED IN OUR LIFETIME**

As the world's military and economic super power America faces international terrorism and organized crime drug trafficking. Its domestic crime and minority poverty problems are embarrassing. America seems oblivious to the opportunities to prevent domestic and international terrorism and crime through *sustainable economic development* targeting the reduction of *chronic poverty*.

**Yet the United Nations "Johannesburg Sustainable Economic Development 2002 Summit" Central and South Asia Regional Roundtable Policy Statement #15 states:**

**"Peace and security are fundamental for achieving the objectives of *sustainable (economic) development* so that people can live under conditions where their personal safety is not compromised and the natural resource base and infrastructure can provide for sustainable livelihoods. The complex relationships between political conflicts and unrest and *sustainable (economic) development* are often underestimated and are not properly addressed, both at the local, as well as the regional and international levels."**

**"Not only are economic development, social progress and protection of environment impossible during times of conflict, but a lack of natural resources, such as land or water, along with poverty and social marginalization often represent the true underlying causes of conflicts. At the same time poverty and social hardships could lead to involvement of some local people in terrorist activities, organized crime and drug trafficking..... Addressing the underlying economic, social and environmental causes of conflicts is the best possible way of preventing them. Thus, (*sustainable economic*) *development* and security are inalienable (human rights) concepts."**

The 1998 Nobel Prize for Economics was awarded to Trinity College in Great Britain and Harvard University in America Professor Amartya Sen, PhD; whose "welfare economics" research identifies *chronic poverty* as an unnatural, artificial political economic construct of society. The 150 year old dogma that *chronic poverty* is natural and thus intractable is exposed.

This false *chronic poverty* rationale is based on 19 th century Great Britain scientists; i.e. economist Thomas Malthus' "earth over-population" and "earth scarcity mentality" theories, and biologist Charles Darwin's "natural selection" and "survival of the fittest" axioms. I was taught this false *chronic poverty* rationale as a 1967 undergraduate at the University of Chicago but never really could fully believe it.

**CHRONIC POVERTY CAN BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED IN OUR LIFETIME**

Thus after graduation I began to explore the history of and ancient solutions to *chronic poverty* on earth. It was discovered using “experimental anthropology” applied to historical horticultural relics of ancient Egypt, Israel, Peru, Mexico and the ancient Miami Indians of the now American states of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin; that these classic societies at their height experienced no *chronic poverty* because they all used *Sustainable Agro-Forestry*.

Consequently, a **12 element Sustainable Agro-Forestry Model** developed using USDA/Forest Service Grant # 92-LA-5 was presented to the *State of the World Forum/Sustainable Agricultural Roundtable*. Certified eligible for USDOL Welfare to Work Competitive Grant Funding in 1999 in AZ., CA., CT., NY. and TN.; it is capable annually of producing on 1 acre of suitable land 150,000 pounds of food and generating 4 full time jobs at twice the average minimal wage.

In responding to the call by the United Nations “Johannesburg Sustainable Economic Development 2002 Summit” for measurable *sustainable economic development* strategies we are assembling an American based holistic community coalition to demonstrate the **12 element Sustainable Agro-Forestry Model**. It is envisioned that an eventual initial establishment of *Sustainable Agro-Forests* worldwide covering just 1,600 square miles or 4 times the size of Marion County, IN. would self-fund their own expansion replications and over 25 years eliminate *chronic poverty* during our lifetimes.

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