Dear friends,

I am grateful and heartened by the unwavering support from so many of you, from loyal donors + volunteers, to our illustrious advisors, and committed staff. Your belief in positive change, in creating deep impacts and lasting solutions for people and the planet, is what makes SHI unique and each aspect of our work possible. This is especially evident during these uncertain and unsettling times, enveloped by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Yet we push forward, more committed than ever and with exciting ambitions on the horizon.

At the beginning of our year, we could never have imagined how it would end. Our efforts were more focused on building depth in key staff positions, attending conferences like the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), and visiting with participant farmers. Prior to the pandemic, we were sharing farm plans over cups of coffee in Honduras, discussing face-to-face the benefits of cover crops in Belize, and attending family graduations in Panama, always working hard to deepen our impacts while furthering SHI as a leader in the regenerative agriculture movement.

In March 2020, the pandemic hit and everything seemed to change overnight. By the end of the month, we had suspended our program operations, canceled all travel and visits, and were checking in daily about the health and well-being of each other and our loved ones. It was jolting... and new to all of us. However, as we took steps forward amidst the uncertainties of what the next day would bring, we were reminded of the importance of our work here at SHI: building resilient communities together.

Early on, SHI farmers and family members - from lockdown in their communities - eagerly shared photos and videos of their green gardens, stocked fish ponds, and healthy, nourishing soils, to let us know they were doing just fine. For them and us, it was clearer than day — SHI’s mission to create a sustainable + just food system is a necessary remedy for an ailing world. Although the pandemic forced us to pivot in many ways, it not once demanded we depart from our core mission. In fact, it underlined just how vital our work is, for communities in Central America and around the globe.

These are exciting and important times for SHI. Our sense of urgency to scale our work to partner with more of the world’s estimated 500 million smallholder farmers is only heightened by the current pandemic. We look to continue developing these plans in the coming year, backed by our incredible supporters, board members, advisors, and staff. I am confident we are headed in the right direction and I am so glad to know we can count on your continued, generous support.

Onward,

Elliott Powell
Executive Director

www.sustainableharvest.org
SHI field trainers continued to support program participants throughout FY20 while taking proper safety precautions. In the above photo, SHI field trainers Abel and Indira constructed a composting toilet and vegetable nursery for the community health worker of San Luis and SHI participant, Flor Tzul. Flor and her son David are pictured below alongside their SHI stove, a model that significantly reduces respiratory illness and wood consumption.
Over the course of 23 years, Sustainable Harvest International has partnered with 3,031 farming families to improve their health and well-being. Despite interruptions in fieldwork due to Covid-19, SHI field trainers continued to provide support and training to farmer participants across our programs in FY20 in new and innovative ways.
Now that I am using organic practices, I have improved my income, I have managed to improve the conditions of the soil, and we consume food that we know is healthy.”

Ángel “Lito” Vivas
El Escobal, Panama
In FY2020, SHI received over $1.4 million in revenue.

Our work is only possible through the generosity of our supporters. Individual donors generously supported our work through the global pandemic and economic recession in FY20. Their support represented 86% of our entire budget. We are beyond grateful.
2020 was a year that tested Iris’ resilience like no other when the global pandemic and two destructive hurricanes affected her community. But even when the pandemic closed markets, Iris and her two young children had plenty of food to eat from their farm. As a small baked goods business owner, Iris also continued to provide food for her local community. Looking ahead, Iris says she’s excited to share her knowledge from SHI with friends, neighbors, and other community members so they can improve their nutrition and income, building resiliency for times when it is needed most.
SHI’s program expenditures made up 80% of all expenses.

Full audited financials are available at www.sustainableharvest.org.
PLANS FOR SCALE

With over 20 years of experience partnering with smallholder farmers in the Global South, SHI is ready to scale up its impact to transform our global food systems.

In June 2020, SHI’s Board of Directors approved an ambitious and actionable plan for scale.

The board-approved plan maps out how SHI will transform a million farms by 2030 through replicating partnerships and the expansion of its core programs.

In FY20, SHI’s Board of Directors also approved a memorandum of understanding to explore SHI’s first potential replicating partnership with Jungle Project, a for-profit company that specializes in establishing fair markets for breadfruit, an under-utilized agroforestry crop.

Keep up to date on SHI’s scale initiative by visiting our website!

www.sustainableharvest.org