



Cal Bombay Ministries

# YOU ASKED ?



## Have you encountered Fraud or Corruption in the SFC Farms?

Yes! Ninety– five percent of the world’s corruption is reported to be practiced within Continental Africa. (This was stated by the Speaker of the Central Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), The Hon James Wani Iga, in a speech to the leadership of southern Sudan in January 2005). Sudan is not immune. Although the much larger percentage of corruption, fraud, theft and deception is found in northern Sudan, the New Sudan (southern) is still not guiltless.

Southern Sudan is considered to be predominantly

some order out of the chaos, and all this in a culture totally foreign to him. He laid the ground-work for its future success, and showed how records could and should be kept. Tim was followed by another Canadian volunteer farmer, Vince Macachek who demonstrated the proper use of modern agricultural machinery under very trying circumstances.

Since that time the Board of Directors has adopted a “Zero Tolerance” policy for fraud, theft and corruption. We have also engaged a full-time General Manager, as well as a full time Book-keeper and Accountant who have been added to management staff to serve and manage all the SFC farms. Proper records and book-keeping are now becoming standard on all SFC farms, and training courses are being given. We feel we have conquered most of the mountain of corruption.

We must understand that much of this problem is a quite natural result in a people who have been harassed and beaten into extreme poverty by their rulers from the north of Sudan. “When anything is available, ‘my family’ is my first concern” in Sudan.

It should be added, this one farm was our *only* bad experience of fraud, corruption, deception and theft. The Zero Tolerance policy has now been imposed, though we expect there might be more small problems as time goes on. We are trying to create a model farming system for others to emulate.

*“The Righteous considers the cause of the poor, but the wicked does not understand such knowledge.”*

*Solomon - Proverbs 29:7*

PLEASE HELP  
CAL BOMBAY  
MINISTRIES

We will Appreciate your prayerful support. Please Fill in this form as you feel led of the Lord. (Please PRINT)

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\$25.00  \$50.00  \$100.00 Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Christian. So are Canada and the United States, yet corruption and fraud are certainly not unknown in 'Christian' circles in North America from the highest levels of government or business to the everyday man-in-the-pew. Not every 'Christian' has the depth of commitment to live a truly Christian life style.

When the Savannah Farmers Cooperative (SFC) started its first farm, a very capable 'Christian' businessman, was asked to oversee/manage its operation. He immediately had excellent journals for accountancy, receipts, shipping manifests, purchase requisitions and salary recording books (in duplicate) printed. But he was an absentee manager. He was also running a large business of his own in another country.

In his absence a local committee ran the affairs of the farm. Many of them were family relations. At first a field manager was appointed, but then dismissed in a letter by one person on this illegitimate committee who had no authority to do so. When the first accounting was called for, there was no response to the donor agency. This was followed by several years of very confused reporting. Yet food was being grown.

There were several reasons for this: (a) No one was available or trained with ability to properly keep records; (b) It was during the days of war, and great confusion was a distracting factor; (c) Culturally, "the businessman", as leader was considered by employees of the farm as the "owner" (read dictator) of the farm, and he went so far as to try to register the farm in his own name; (d) In much of Africa, using what is available when you need it is traditionally not considered stealing as we in the West would define stealing but assumed as 'sharing', or simply fulfilling a present need. This applies to money, equipment, clothes and produce. It should be added that 'sharing what you have' is a more highly developed social re-

flex in Africa than in our materialistic Western society. The hungry will share their food.

When more specific reports were requested by the donor agency, reports were submitted only for the actual amounts handed to the farm for operations. No accounting was given for the sales of produce. This set up considerable strain between the donor agency, and the businessman, since the farm was expected to begin covering its own expenses by then. When periodic visits were made to the farm by Cal Bombay, The manager was almost always on hand, but the "treasurer" was always somewhere else and had the 'books' with him. Meanwhile, encouragingly large quantities of produce were seen, illustrating that the farm was producing well.

That first farm should have been self-sufficient within three years with the acreage it had. The money simply vanished. The Board of Directors of Savannah Farmers Cooperative dismissed him from his post and appointed a 'caretaker' until a new manager was to be found. The caretaker took it upon himself to plunder goods shipped from Canada which were in containers, to use the farm truck for his own purposes, and to grow small crops for which no money was reported as received by the farm. Employees complained about not receiving their rightful wages. He too was also relieved of his duties.

The original Manager was re-appointed by the Board of Directors of the SFC, and growing food began again. Yet he had no skills available to keep accounts, and scarcely were any records kept.

A Canadian Farmer, Mr. Tim Van der Kooi, went to that farm as a volunteer and found it in an unexpectedly run-down condition Tim has to be credited with facing almost impossible odds and bringing

## CONTACT US

### Mailing Address

Cal Bombay Ministries  
P. O. Box 22021.  
794 Colborne Street East  
Brantford, Ontario,  
N3S 7V1 Canada

### Office Location

Cal Bombay Ministries Inc.  
446 Grey Street,  
Suite 201 – (Second Floor)  
Brantford, Ontario,  
N3S 7L6 Canada

### Web Sites

[www.calbombayministres.org](http://www.calbombayministres.org)

[www.harvestsudan.com](http://www.harvestsudan.com)

**Telephone – 1-519-753-7380**

**Fax – 1-519-753-7380**

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“IF MY LIVING FOR JESUS DOES NOT INVOLVE SOME INCONVENIENCE, SOME DISCOMFORT, SOME SACRIFICE, OR SOME RISK, THEN I SHOULD EXAMINE VERY CLOSELY THE MEASURE OF MY OBEDIENCE TO GOD”

*Cal Bombay*

PLEASE HELP