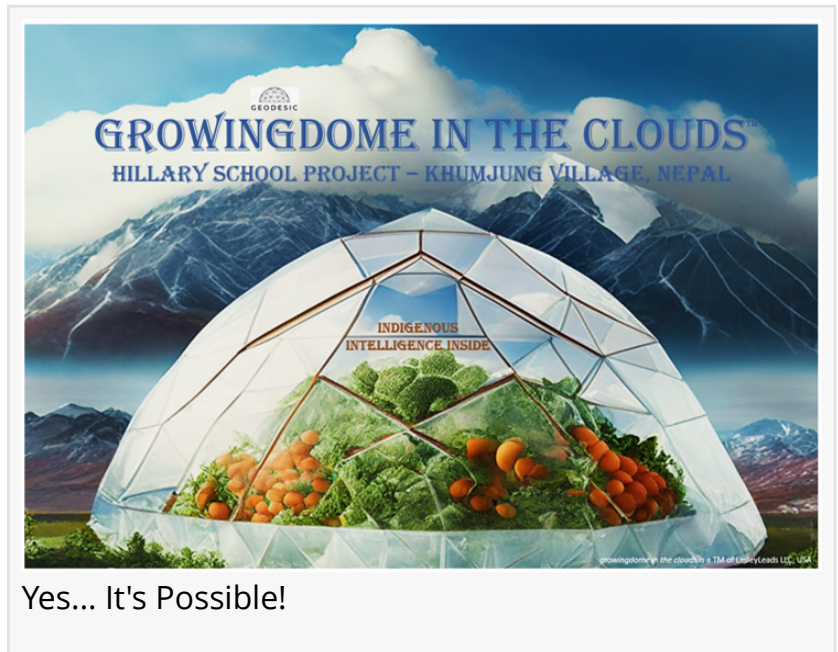


Seeds of Indigenous Intelligence Germinate Within the Sherpa Clouds of Everest

A bold, transformative mission for high-altitude agriculture in the Himalaya is underway. At its heart is a solar-powered, eco-friendly, geodesic growingdome.

MANKATO, MN, UNITED STATES, August 9, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The dome will allow for culturally sensitive, community-directed priorities, involving sustainable-regenerative agriculture, biodiversity, enhanced nutrition, waste-management practices, and entrepreneurial development. The project is tracing a historic pathway, in rarefied air among the Sherpa highlanders and liminal clouds of Sagarmatha. A schoolhouse was built in those same clouds in 1961 by Sir Edmund Hillary, appreciative of the Sherpa people, after he and Tenzing Norgay were the first to summit Mt. Everest in 1953.



“

Mr. Principal, I promised you I would return with the assignment you gave me... and yes, it's possible. And so much more, as a living laboratory for health, nutrition and traditional practices.”

Gary Mark Lesley

Gary Lesley first summited the college of business at Minnesota State University in 1978. In 2021, the former pilot, business owner and entrepreneur was drawn back to his alma mater, to assist with an innovation in agriculture program. While also pursuing graduate studies in anthropology, Lesley’s fascination with the resilience of the Sherpa culture lured him to Nepal and up to the base of Mt. Everest at 18,000 feet. Visiting the storied Hillary School on his second trek through the Khumbu, he drew an unexpected assignment while sitting with the principal who opined if only he might have a special greenhouse, that he could grow produce through the snowy winter

months. One year later, as promised, Lesley returned to share research presenting the latest off-grid, growing dome technology and how it could make the principal’s dream possible; harvesting

new life, harmonious with deeply rooted traditions, for the good of all.

“Such a dome will bring many benefits,” said N.D. Rai, former student, and current principal of the Hillary School. “Healthier, less-expensive variety of vegetables in the wintertime for my staff and hostel students will be a wonderful thing. A new curriculum will be able to use the growingdome to teach about our Indigenous, sustainable practices and provide career education for opportunities in agribusiness.” he added.

Pema Chhosang is a lodge owner in Khumjung, schoolboard member and Sherpa community leader. “The village is filled with excitement about such a growingdome,” he said. “We will build it together with the school and see it as a great tool to mix our traditional knowledge of the land with new methods of food production. It will show us how to expand what is possible!” Chhosang is a highly respected expedition leader with three successful Everest summits and credentialed in construction. He will be the project lead for coordinating procurement of local materials and labor used in building the growingdome. The team places a high value on his inputs and wise counsel.

About the Sir Edmund Hillary School; Khumjung Village, Nepal

Located 12 miles from the base of Mt. Everest, the highest point on earth, the Hillary School of Khumjung Village in Nepal was built in June 1961 as a gift of appreciation by Sir Edmund Hillary and his team for the Sherpa Community he loved and respected. Today, current Principal N.D. Rai directs over 250 students, six days a week, from surrounding villages, for pre-school through 10th grades. The original, 2-room "Schoolhouse in the clouds" has been re-purposed into a museum and a series of buildings now makes up the school campus. Elevation of Khumjung is 12,400' and the nearest roadway is an arduous, five-day trek on foot. [For more visit: himalayantrust.org](https://himalayantrust.org)

About Growingdome in the Clouds Foundation, Inc. (GDITCF)

The Growingdome in the clouds Project is committed to making the vision a reality for the Sir Edmund Hillary School and communities of Khumjung and Khunde in Nepal. A grassroots crowdfunding campaign by the new foundation has been launched to finance and support the two-year, \$250,000 mission. Formed in July 2023 as a nonprofit, 501(C)(3) organization, for the purpose of fundraising and over-seeing the procurement, GDITCF has initiated its public relations campaign. [For more visit: growingdomeinthecLOUDS.org](https://growingdomeinthecLOUDS.org). Foundation President Gary Lesley, who resides in Mankato and Treasurer Susan Michaletz, of Minneapolis, are both MNSU alums and remain active with their university, in addition to a variety of business pursuits. Secretary of the organization; Lem Tingley, is the owner of Growing Spaces, based in Pagosa Springs, CO, and is the manufacturer of the growingdome. [For more, visit: growingspaces.com](https://growingspaces.com)

Gary M Lesley

Growingdome in the Clouds Foundation, Inc.

+1 704-860-2367

gmlesley@gmail.com

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/648992962>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2023 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.