

SQUASHED TOMATOES CHALLENGE



STEM ACTIVITY

INTRODUCTION:

1

The problem: In Nepal many farmers living on the mountainside grow fruit and vegetables, including tomatoes. To earn a living they need to sell these at the local market. The problem is getting to market involves a long, dangerous walk down the mountain side and over a river, at the end of which the tomatoes may well be a bit squashed

YOUR CHALLENGE!

2

To design, build and test a way of moving tomatoes that won't squash them! Imagine you are a group of engineers working together on SDGs Goal 11. You need to find a way to help farmers in Nepal transport their tomatoes down the mountain to market.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

3

What surprised you about the challenge?
What was frustrating about the challenge?
How does this challenge apply to real life?
What are the similarities between the designs that worked well?
If you were to do this challenge again what would you do differently?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT IT!

4

Where is Nepal? What is the farmers problem?
How would this affect their day-to-day life?
How does this make life hard for them as a farmer who needs to sell their crops at the market at the bottom of the mountain? Think of all the different ways farmers life may be improved if they can move their tomatoes to the market more safely and more quickly. How do you think this change in their life will help achieve the Global Goals?

RULES!

5

- The tomatoes must be transported a minimum of one metre, not touching the ground.
- The tomatoes cannot be touched whilst they are moving, catapulted or 'flown' in any way! They must be moved in a controlled way.

