

Village Update

San José, Nicaragua



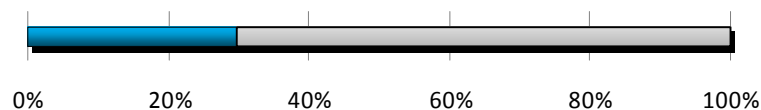
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, to restore hope to the world's poor. The eight indicators below are measured on an annual basis and are now included in each quarterly Village Update.

ANNUAL INDICATORS OF VILLAGE PROGRESS (June 2009)

Founded: 2007

Development Level: Progress through the Agros Development Model (100% reached when community has paid off their land loans)



Economic Indicators:

Diversification of income-generating crops:

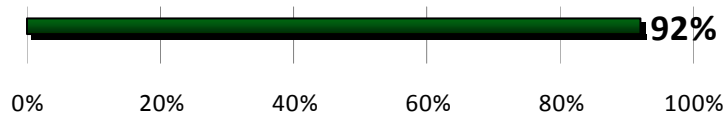
5 types of crops sold to provide income

86% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

100% of people commercialize their products

Enterprise loan repayment rates:



Community Indicators:

Access to water for domestic use:

100% of families have water at 101-200 meters from home

Presence of health promoters in community:

Yes

School-aged children attending school:

75%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

40%

Donald and Migdalia are an inspiring couple that moved to the Agros Nicaragua community San José just three months ago. Before, Donald worked on a cattle ranch and had no land to plant basic grains or other crops for his family. When they joined the rest of the families of San José, they heard the work was hard, but wanted to join anyway. "This is good project because there is a lot of work. Now I can freely plant enough beans to feed my family." Migdalia and Donald express that before coming to San José, they did not really understand the meaning of community. Now the couple shares, "We hope that we can watch our children grow and spend the rest of our lives here."

Community Organization

The leadership in San José received training this quarter on the importance of bylaws to ensure the community runs smoothly and maintains legal recognition from the local government as a self-

governing community. The families and leaders have been revising their bylaws which will be approved in the coming months.

The men, women and children of San José are everyday leaders as much as the formally elected positions in the community. For this reason, all of the members participated in a leadership development workshop this quarter to discuss participants' personal potential, virtues, and strengths that can be put into action in the community.

In assembly meetings, the families discuss their values regularly, and hope through their daily actions they can be examples to their children and neighbors, sharing their values of love towards one's neighbor, respect, and mutual help.

Land Ownership

The negative effects of the global economic crisis are being felt more strongly by the community now as prices for farming inputs sky rocket and their products sell for less in the market. In addition, the climactic effects of El Niño including drought-like conditions caused great loss in crops. The families are doing their best to seek alternatives. However, due to the external factors, they were not able to make their enterprise or land loan payments. Agros staff is working with the families to establish creative and strategic plans to improve the situation.

Families are replanting beans due to the loss that was experienced due to El Niño. The families hope that with this crop they can recuperate a small portion of what was lost.

Housing & Infrastructure

The families began construction on a water reservoir in the community that will connect to each family's home. They hope to finish work on the system by next quarter so that everyone has access to water for consumption in their home.

With great pride, the community is happy to have completed all twenty-nine composting latrines, providing improved sanitation and health to San José.

The community center continues to receive weekly maintenance and cleaning from the families to ensure its upkeep. The families are also working together to provide regular maintenance of the access road, filling in potholes and removing large rocks. The road from the town of Tuma also needs repair, but the community must wait on the Municipality of Tuma to complete this project.

Sustainable Economic Development

The farmers in the community are very pleased to have completed a training series with partnering organization PROMIPAC. As a result of the trainings and field trips to other farms, the families have a strong grasp on crop diversification, pest management and use of various products to improve the quality of their crops without hurting the environment.

As mentioned above, due to external factors, earning a profit from agricultural projects has been difficult this quarter. Families took coffee, tomatoes and cattle to the market to sell, but prices have fallen. The farmers experienced a net loss with their tomato harvest due to the low price.

Community Education & Training

Thanks to a partnering health organization, two members of the community have been selected to receive four months of training to become local health promoters in San José. With this training, the promoters will be able to administer medicine from the community's supply and give workshops on preventative health. Leaders have also received training in first aid and emergency response to know what to do in the case of an injury.

A local health center sent two nurses to the community this quarter to test the families for malaria and provide information about family planning options.



The preschool children continue attending classes and are supported with school supplies. The adult literacy class also is receiving classroom supplies and the nine students enrolled will continue next school year.

Communication is an important component of healthy relationships, especially among families that live and work together such as in San José. The community has been participating in workshops to improve communication and express themselves. Families are also strengthening relationships by practicing their spiritual values. Devotions are shared before any community activity to give thanks for their blessings, pray and express the changes the families have experienced in their lives.

