Want to get more involved?

Give

Harvest Partners: Join our most committed, generous, and faithful supporters by making a monthly gift. Your steady support will walk alongside families every day of the year as they journey toward prosperity. Sign up at agros.org/donate.

Legacy Giving: With only one lifetime to walk this earth, what legacy will you leave? Leaving a planned gift in your will or estate is a simple and powerful way to extend your impact beyond your lifetime. Making a planned gift may even offer tax benefits for you and your children. Contact us to start a conversation.

Learn

Direct from the Field: Drop in on our quarterly webinar series to hear directly from Agros families in Central America as well as from development experts. Look for invitations in your email and our website.

Facebook & Blog: Don’t miss the latest stories, photos, and updates from the field. Like Agros International on Facebook and follow our blog at agros.org/blog.

Gather

Engage Together: What causes poverty? Can we change it? The Engage Together program helps you connect your daily life with the reality of families living in poverty through discussion, learning, travel, and giving. Contact Kelly McDonald, Donor Engagement Manager, at kmcdonald@agros.org or 206.528.1066 x216 to learn more.

Share Your Passion: Your words and experiences are a powerful tool to spread the movement for opportunity for Central American families. Host an introduction to Agros for your friends, colleagues, or faith community. Contact us to learn how.

Tell us about yourself and how you’d like to help:

EMAIL: donor.services@agros.org
CALL: 206.528.1066
VISIT: 2225 4th Ave, 2nd Floor, Seattle, WA 98121

“In San Pedro Sula, we lived without any future. Since we are here [in Bella Vista], my husband learned to love me. There he came home from work only to change his clothes, then bought alcohol and played cards. Now, we are working together, the whole family. Our dream is to pay off the land and see our children graduate.”

– Gloria, Bella Vista, Honduras

2015 GRATITUDE REPORT

Seeds of Change

Photos: Latte Productions and MAZAGRAN Photography     Design: DavidOwenHastings.com
Dear Friends,

2015 was a courageous year at Agros. You have done so much to materialize our mission. Through your generosity this year Agros supported 755 families in Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Guatemala on their path toward hope and opportunity. In El Salvador we have accelerated our efforts to realize our dream of providing land titles to families in four villages—a process we are close to finalizing. This year you invited 50 impoverished families to build new homes in Tiktik Nicasa with your provisioned tools. Engineers Without Borders helped improve coffee profits in Tierra Nueva with a new mill, helped chicle farmers in Peña de Oro organize an LLC so cooperatively buy and sell their fish, and achieved remarkably low child malnutrition and high school attendance rates in many of our communities.

To celebrate this year, I asked my team to gather their favorite photos, scrapbook-style, to share our gratitude with you here. They highlight your achievements, because we couldn’t help a single family without your partnership. There’s also a map and financial report to give you the big picture overview of your impact in 2015.

Before I go, I wanted to share a peek into what the next year holds. We’ve been talking a lot lately about the idea of prosperity: what it looks like for farmers, how we get there, and how we measure it. Prosperity is multi-faceted—you see it in our families’ clean homes with running water, excellent school attendance, and chubby, well-nourished babies. But prosperity is also fundamentally economic. Once families’ basic needs are met, we need to equip them to generate consistent income on their own. In 2016, we will continue building a road to economic prosperity for our families by partnering with private agricultural companies and local businesses. These partners build on the stability that your investments are establishing to turn our families’ farms into profitable businesses.

Not only will this market-driven approach maximize land returns, it will also leverage your contributions by expanding some of our investments into the next project. Our luminous plan for rich returns on your investment is poised to yield even more in active communities every year. While we can’t answer every letter here, please, check out our annual report. We look forward to showing you the transformational success of your investment.

With gratitude for your partnership & excitement for a great year ahead,

Alberto Solano
Executive Director
AGROS

Have you heard? Skip Li, Agros founder, has rejoined our board. We’re thrilled to have his wisdom and visionary commitment to ending rural poverty back on our leadership team.

Helping landless farmers develop thriving communities

How does my investment transform families’ lives with Agros?

Our work with families is uniquely holistic and participatory, helping them sustainably change their trajectory from poverty to prosperity and build home futures for generations to come.

LAND

Land is the foundation of our approach to ending poverty. We help the beneficiaries of our work to acquire and develop agriculturally-based businesses, empowering families to take productive assets and generate income.

MARKET-LED AGRICULTURE

Highly skilled agripreneurs provide technical expertise to small farmers to launch and scale local and export businesses that are forecasted to provide large-scale economic value and generate local wealth.

MARKET-REACH

Healthy and vibrant agro-companies provide structural support and technical expertise to business development, and market support to successfully cultivate, harvest and market high-value crops. These enable families to generate consistent, year-round income.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Credit officers customize financial products to meet the cash flow and seasonal needs of the families to ensure business success and to build basic healthcare.

EDUCATION

Our educational and adult learning programs help catalyze an entire family of poverty through knowledge. Education for children reduces poverty, stored intellectual capital, and creates a pathway for civic participation, and social change for the next generation.

RECOVER

We stabilize families’ existing assets and help them recover their shelter, nutrition, and hygiene.

PROSPER

At the culmination of 5-7 years of marketable sustainable and profitable partnerships with strong business development capacity, we can provide families the resources they need to lead fulfilling lives within a self-governing community.

GROW

In this stage our families provide entrepreneurial development in families grow a viable business to generate income and generate a predictable crop surplus to sell within established market connections.

MARKET-LED

At the scale of 5-10 years of marketable findings, we can provide a predictably renewable market for our families’ high-value crops.

MARKET-REACH

At this stage we provide technical expertise, economic development, and market support while catalyzing community-centered preventative healthcare, good nutrition and proper sanitation.

MARKET-REACH

Families become titled land-owners and are self-governing businesses.

EMPOWERMENT

Credit officers customize financial products to meet the cash flow and seasonal needs of the families to ensure business success and to build basic healthcare.

EDUCATION

Our educational and adult learning programs help catalyze an entire family of poverty through knowledge. Education for children reduces poverty, stored intellectual capital, and creates a pathway for civic participation, and social change for the next generation.
La Bendición launches 50 new families on the path out of poverty

The master plan for La Bendición incorporates 30 years of learning into a model that tackles past challenges, like lack of water and family attrition. This spring The Global Studio, our design partner, helped us select fertile, well-positioned land and engage families in a participatory design process. Families helped make key decisions around lot size and housing placement in one of the final community layouts, shown here. They’ve nearly completed housing, water, and community infrastructure construction, laying the foundation to build the community of their dreams.

NICARAGUA REGIONAL PROJECT BECOMES LA BENDICIÓN

After weighing our resources and commitments, we have curtailed our work with regional families to focus on the families in La Bendición. Rather than overreach, we’re committed in 2016 to delivering quantifiable results to you and our families. By focusing this next year on agricultural market development, we can help our six current villages develop sustainable farming businesses and develop a more sustainable funding model by treating crop cycles as investments.

We partnered with Engineers Without Borders this year to build a beneficio so families can efficiently depulp, ferment, wash, and dry their own coffee. The more farmers process their coffee, the higher a price they can command in the market for their crop. Plus dried coffee beans can be sorted by quality and size, allowing farmers to sell their best beans for a premium. Advances in technology like this beneficio leverage community resources to help farmers move up the value chain from survival subsistence farming to profitable and dignified agribusiness ownership.

"I'm so happy to be here," says Walter, one of the founding partners of La Bendición. "This is a fertile land... We know that if we plant corn we will harvest corn and if we plant beans we will harvest beans. It is a blessing. I feel happy and at peace here."

Victor’s wife Candida worked in the coffee fields from age 14. For his three children, Tierra Nueva offers a different life: village school, playtime with neighbors, and the promise of inheriting land and a thriving agricultural business.

Beneficio means “benefit” in Spanish. Thanks to you, that’s just what this new beneficio – a coffee wet mill – will do for Tierra Nueva’s 150 coffee-growing families.

"This is a fertile land... We know that if we plant corn we will harvest corn and if we plant beans we will harvest beans. It is a blessing. I feel happy and at peace here."
Fishy business in Piedra de Horeb

Five years ago, farmers in Piedra de Horeb like Germán were forced to work for giant haciendas, without any control over their futures. Now, well-organized, they’ve created their own sustainable, registered and profitable business. They consistently supply in-demand tilapia to markets that guarantee a steady income. That stable income, combined with safe housing, healthcare access, and education for their children, has changed the trajectory of these families’ lives.

Wielding the success of Piedra’s small scale business operation is an encouraging and promising glimpse at what the future can look like for all of our communities if we implement this market-driven strategy on a much larger scale in 2016.

Healthy babies in Nueva Esperanza

When Carlos was born, his mother Yaris knew breastfeeding was crucial to ensure healthy development. But her milk made him sick. Agros staff helped Yaris identify that Carlos was allergic to breast milk and taught her how to use a powder to make soy milk instead. It worked. Carlos’ chubby cheeks are evidence of Nueva Esperanza’s low rate of child malnutrition – the result of a holistic program of maternity support, child weighings, nutrition training, and help accessing resources like powdered soy milk for Carlos.

“Land isn’t just a seed from an economic point of view. It is also a seed of hope. I believe that hope is the first thing that must be planted in people so that we can have a better future.” – Jaime Arauz, Mayor of El Tuma-La Dalia, Nicaragua, where Tierra Nueva, Nueva Esperanza, San José and La Bendición are located

Where are Agros communities?

This year you partnered with 755 families in 11 communities and supported the transition of four villages from direct Agros support to full self-governance.

Nicaragua:
- Nueva Esperanza, 33 families
- San José, 29 families
- Tierra Nueva, 153 families
- San Marcos, 15 families
- Luz del Miskana, 25 families
- La Benediction, 90 families
- Nicargauras Regional, 20 families

Honduras:
- Piedra de Horeb, 24 families
- Bella Vista, 32 families
- Nuevo Amanecer, 30 families

Guatemala:
- La Providencia, 150 families

Mexico:
- Nueva Ilusión, 19 families

* Transformed from direct support in 2015.
** Transformed from full support in 2014.

A family living outside of Nueva Esperanza is 4x more likely to experience domestic violence than a family within the village.

The average corn harvest in Nicaraguan Agros communities was 4x the national average this year.

From 2007 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Source: FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Agros provided technical agricultural assistance through 2015.

A family living outside of Nueva Esperanza is 4x more likely to experience domestic violence than a family within the village.
Agros Fiscal Year 2015 Financials

OPERATING REVENUES

Unrestricted Gifts $ 3,517,013
Gifts released from restrictions $ 2,028,547
In-kind contributions $ 38,689
Other income $ 48,607

Total Operating Revenues $ 3,632,746

OPERATING EXPENSES

Total Program Expenses $ 2,319,471
Resource Development $ 870,392

In-Kind contributions $ 38,689
Other income $ 48,607

NET ASSETS AT JUNE 30, 2015*

Individuals 63% Businesses 6%
Churches 8% Other 20%

Individuals 63% Businesses 6%
Churches 8%

* Includes cash, cash equivalents, temporary and permanently restricted assets.

Thank you.

Agora is deeply grateful for the generous support of our individual, corporate, and foundation donors. In addition, our families benefit from partnerships with local governments, hospitals, and businesses in Central America.