

Sustainability

How Agros Ensures Sustainability



Economic sustainability begins with improved production of basic grains. With food security established, families can explore innovative agricultural techniques — often through microenterprise loans financed by Agros — to produce crops that generate income. When the families begin generating a stable income, they begin paying back their loans. When their loans have been repaid and they own

the land, they will have the resources necessary to generate an ongoing, stable income and to create an environment in which they can thrive. Furthermore, as the loans are repaid, Agros rotates these funds to start a new community and help other families achieve sustainability and break free of poverty.

Environmental sustainability begins by providing families with land. People take better care of the resources that they own. Agros provides training and technical assistance for land use and stewardship, including education about soil conservation, organic composting, agro-forestry techniques, protection of watersheds, land reforestation and the maintenance of clean water sources. Agros also promotes the construction of composting latrines and improved stoves which use less firewood.

Organizational sustainability is a crucial component of the Agros model. Agros partners with rural, poor families to develop a local community government that looks to the entire community for participation and decision-making. This becomes the backbone for civic responsibility and participation so that the communities continue to thrive long after Agros has departed.

Social sustainability takes form as villages grow. Adjacent villages see the powerful impact that local organization, leadership, planning, and technical training can have on economic and social development. Agros both encourages and equips its communities to pass on the blessing they have received. The work of Agros is thus continued through the local village leaders as they work with their neighbors to improve their quality of life, sustaining the Agros mission.



What is sustainability?

The World Bank defines sustainability as: "Development that meets the needs of the people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

*Sustainable development provides a framework in which communities are capable of maintaining their productivity indefinitely. Sustainable communities are **resourceful**, socially supportive, commercially competitive, and environmentally sound.*

*A sustainable community is achieved by a **long-term** and integrated approach that addresses economic, environmental, spiritual and social issues.*