

## Village Update

*Futuro de Mañana, Nicaragua*



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Señora Lidia María Pérez of Futuro del Mañana serves as an inspirational role model to her community. At thirty-five, Lidia is wife, mother and farmer. Lidia provides food for her husband and three children cultivating her field of beans and getting income for their household marketing the products of her plantain field. With training in various agricultural technology and crop management, Lidia has applied her knowledge to her work and is now earning approximately \$10 every two weeks just from the plantains she sells, which helps her provide for household needs.

### Community Organization

During the present quarter there have been five organizational meetings with the goal of coordinating the different areas of work and of listening and overseeing the proposals made for crop selection. Members of the community showed much interest, listened to one another attentively and stepped forward to assume responsibility. These meetings provided needed discussions on how to plan for the best use of the land in terms of which crops will be planted and where.

### Land Ownership

This quarter celebrates the receipt of the annual payment of the land loan by the family of José Antonio Gómez. Through their various economic activities, they successfully succeeded in paying their payment of \$100. Other families of Futuro del Mañana are meeting to discuss restructuring their land loans and agreements to make larger payments with the income obtained from the harvest of the second crop of the year.

### Housing & Infrastructure

The community's infrastructural growth continues to progress. Building on their foundation of potable water and electricity, work on the homes, access road, community center and irrigation system continue on. Regarding the progress of the irrigation system, there are presently thirteen families using an irrigation system for the plantain crop. Irrigation has enabled high-quality production of this profitable crop. The families also are equipped with some irrigation materials to provide water for other crops growing on part of their communal land.

### Sustainable Economic Growth

Four families have established 6.8 acres of plantains during an experimental planning of 1,200 plantain seeds. Through this crop, the families of Futuro del Mañana will gain the opportunity to increase their knowledge of crop management, seed selection, harvesting and marketing their product.

An income planning workshop was held for two families looking to diversify their income sources. With this training, these families took out loans for the purchase of milk cows and their calves and now have more ensured means of generating income to make timely payments on their land.

This quarter has offered training in several areas to the members of Futuro del Mañana. For example, community participants have learned about the profitability and cost effectiveness of sheep raising,

management of nontraditional crops, the importance of good farm management for a continuous income flow throughout the year and combating frequent plagues on tomato, corn and other crops.

Two groups of four women have organized to form a plantain project in their community. The women have initiated the market of their crop and have already achieved in making a payment of \$152 towards the loan borrowed for the project.

Activities from the livestock project of nine members continue to grow. In a time period of twenty days, the producers have been able to make a payment of \$129 with the milk they have sold.

Four families of Futuro have established two demonstrative parcels on 0.43 acres to experiment with producing a quequisque (local vegetable) crop planted from 1,200 seeds. Two families are working on another 0.86 acres demonstrative plot of a non-traditional crop, the granadilla (local fruit). Additionally, a nursery for the cultivation of the noni plant was also launched. Other activities experimenting with non-traditional crops include two families' 1.72 acres of pineapple and pitaya (local fruit) and another family's 0.86 acres of papaya. Four families completed their harvest of corn and beans, a yield that will only be sufficient for household consumption due to low profitability of the crops.

### **Community Education and Training**

Twenty-two families of Futuro del Mañana have strengthened their understanding of the importance of community hygiene and environmental health through a community training. The content of the training put an emphasis on the acquisition of parasites and the permanence of their effects in the human body. In order to facilitate the learning of this topic, staff demonstrated good methods of personal hygiene and food handling that prevents microbial contamination. This training serves as a part of a continuous process of educating households

and children in order to reach an acceptable level of health within the community.

Twenty participants addressed the topic of abuse and interfamilial violence, and what the rights of women are in this area in relation to a new law that was recently passed.

The youth of the community are gaining knowledge of the theories and concepts surrounding the issues of the rights of the child. Eighteen youth studied several country documents that reflect a high value of the wellbeing of the child. This education will serve to raise the consciousness of their rights and legal means of ensuring these rights.

This quarter saw the selection of one Futuro del Mañana member, Juan Pablo Hernández, to attend a training in Rancho Ebenzer regarding agriculture, forestry and cattle-raising. This will serve as an excellent opportunity for the community to increase their knowledge of these topics and improve their application of these tools to the betterment of their economy.

The resolution of conflicts, when there has been reason to do so, has been conducted through dialogue, mutual understanding and logical reasoning. The community is committed to relationships exuding respect and solidarity.