

Village Update

Trapichitos, Guatemala



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Domingo Cedillo Solís began work as an Agros promoter in July 2006 and is currently sharing his expertise as a support to the sowing of coffee and forestry trees for the families of Trapichitos. Domingo is involved in many community activities and is especially passionate about being a part of the praise and worship team in the community. In this new position, Domingo is now able to earn a salary and have a more dignified life with his wife and two children.

Community Organization

Those involved in the Leadership Board, including the land committee, women's committee, local development committee, community development board and the education committee, were trained in the elaboration of invoices and receipts.

The Agros process of evaluating impact in the community was completed and presented to the Agros Guatemala staff and the community, attended by 75% of the members.

The list of the board members of each of the committees has been updated. All of these groups are now legalized, each member having obtained their credential and legal status.

Land Ownership

The land from the farm purchased by Agros is in process of being distributed among the sixty-one families with legal paperwork, including three sections on which to sow coffee. Each of the families received 0.36 acres for coffee and 0.15 acres to plant trees. The repartition of the land will continue once the coffee and forest trees have been planted.

Housing and Infrastructure

These months have seen the continuation of various construction projects, including the construction of houses, composting latrines and efficient cook stoves. Progress has been temporarily delayed due to debris that has fallen into the access road and prevented the transport of needed materials. Despite this hold up, the people of the community are working together to clean the road and continue the construction activities.

Five houses of the ten scheduled for this year have been completed. The houses were built in the design used in many other Agros communities, a reliable and adequate living space constructed with an iron frame, concrete walls and a laminated frame. After completing this project, the Agros team came to the conclusion that although working full-time through October

would have been ideal, the families have other obligations to their community that they must also attend to in addition to the construction projects.

As far as the composting latrines, the project is slightly behind schedule but still in progress. Community member Francisco Raymundo has dedicated himself to the completion of these thirty latrines by mid-November.

Of the thirty efficient cook stoves planned for Trapichitos, twenty-three have been completed. Once a stove is built, one must wait twenty-eight days before its initial use for it to completely dry and then just use newspaper and cardboard before the stove is ready to burn firewood. The stove must warm up slowly in order to prevent cracking. These procedures were explained throughout and after the stoves were built, but some still do not wait the full length of time needed.

Sustainable Economic Growth

In association with Agros staff, community members are being supported in their artisan activities involving textiles and wood, by a team of marketing and design specialists. This team has begun to meet together with the Institute of Design of the University of Rafael Landivar in order to arrange for senior design students to begin working with the communities. The team hopes that this partnership and the accompanying study conducted will result in a line of the artisan products promoted and sold in local, national and international markets.

Textile workshops have taught many of the women of Trapichitos primary and secondary colors and given the weavers of the community the opportunity to hear from a dyeing specialist from the city of Salcaja. Josefa Ceto de Paz and Lorenza

de Paz were selected to help continue the training of their peers as they know how to read and write.

The harvest of the community's greenhouse is in its early stages. Planted in the end of June, of the crops of these 400 plants, 50% tomato and 50% chili peppers will be sold within the community and used for family consumption by the four participating families.

Sixty-one families are preparing for the coffee harvest with an expected yield of over 32 acres of coffee to be exported with Atlas Coffee.

Community Education and Training

Two trainings for the twenty women making up the Community Bank in Trapichitos were held to review organizational and administrative strengthening, loan administration and the application of the system that will be used to register and manage the interest payments and savings of every loan holder. On these same lines, all of the women of the Community Bank committee have made their loan repayments for the sixth cycle on time and are witnessing the growth of their corresponding savings and their small businesses.

A full day was recently dedicated to the health of the animals of Trapichitos. As a measure of decreasing animal mortalities, 279 chickens, 47 chicks, 4 cows and 4 pigs were vaccinated, de-parasited and administered vitamins.

The community enjoyed for the first time, from the fruits of many hours of rehearsing and work, the puppet dramatization by the youth-based group called El Grupo Giradondo. Six youth, three women and three men participated in the workshops that

focus values, leadership, enterprise and development. Once having learned the basics of dramatization and theatre, the participants presented a work entitled, “No to Alcoholism in the Community.” The community responded very enthusiastically and many more have been recruited to participate in the next production.



broccoli and lettuces. There are four teachers and fifty students participating in the project, and they are sharing the vegetables with the families of the students who participate.

With the support of community leaders and teachers, the children and youth that have passed the sixth grade and are moving on to the next level of education have been identified. The community is working to learn more about these students and to provide them with the encouragement to continue their education.

There is continued support for the school garden, where they are currently growing carrots, radishes, beets, cabbage, cauliflower,