

Village Update

Villa Linda, Guatemala



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Vitalino, an active and enterprising member of Villa Linda, is a participant of the hen project in his community. Currently he has fifty hens, forty-nine of which are laying on a regular basis. Due to his hard work, his family has fresh eggs in their diet and is benefitting from increased income as Vitalino sells 360 eggs every week in Barillas, where the demand for eggs is very high. To protect and care for his hens, Vitalino, he has built a fence around his the henhouse, as well as water pipes and feeders that distribute the food equally to the birds.

Community Organization

This quarter the women's group received training and is now successfully organized and established as Villa Linda's Women's Committee. Seven members have committed to this group and they are looking forward to the various activities they will carry out together in the community and in coordination with the Women's Committee in Nueva Primavera. Training was also provided for the Youth Committee in hopes to refine their role and vision for themselves in Villa Linda. The seven participating youth are always looking to broaden their skills to better serve the community.

Sustainable Economic Growth

The four families involved in the greenhouse project are using techniques to improve plant growth. This quarter participants attended a training session on how to avoid worms and prevent tomatoes from falling and rotting. The onions were spaced further apart to improve growth. Additionally, the community members also applied fertilizer to their citrus trees, peppers and jalapeño plants.



The coffee fields are being monitored continuously, and of the sixteen acres of coffee, 95% is in perfect condition, and none is worm-infested. Families are applying fertilizer to the mature plants as well as the seedlings growing in the nursery. An educational workshop was provided for the farmers covering fungi, worms, and fertilizer, as well as how to care for the soil when growing coffee or avocados. Lastly, two individual production loans were given this quarter to support coffee projects.

To start the pig project, thirteen families were each given one sow this quarter, on the condition that each family gives one offspring to another family. This way, all twenty families in Villa Linda will soon be able to raise their own pigs. Each animal was vaccinated and given vitamins to ensure their health. The ten sheep in the community were also vaccinated this quarter. Additionally, a livestock workshop was also provided in which sixteen families attended and learned about the care and feeding of fish, chickens, and sheep.



Three families involved in the tilapia project are thrilled that after pooling their own resources and working together six months, they have already begun to see significant results. In the coming months, the group will begin harvesting the fish from one of the three ponds to bring to the Barillas market. They are expecting about \$2.60/pound after expenses and are encouraged that three more people are interested in joining their fish farm.

Eleven women participating in the Community Bank received training and accompaniment this quarter in various business administration skills and tasks. The group, which saved \$34.97 this quarter, was proud to share their experiences in the Community Bank with twenty-seven women from Agros community La Providencia who are interested in forming their own bank.

Community Education & Training

The two members responsible for the community first aid and medicine kit received training in management of the medicines and the name, ingredients, use, dosage and classification of each medicine. Inventory is taken on a weekly basis to check that sales are recorded and the kit is kept stocked.

By partnering with ADIVES, the two community health promoters and two midwives have received training on how to prevent dengue fever and how to access the resources available in the local health centers.

The community partnered with CONALFA to receive materials and facilitator training for the adult education program in Villa Linda. Agros provides support and accompaniment for the class

of sixteen students. The facilitator led three meetings this quarter to help participants improve in reading and writing before moving on to the second session which includes math.

The community also coordinated with the school in Monterrico to bring information about pre-enrollment to the parents of the children that will attend school for the 2008 school year. Enrollment began the first week of October for the school in Monte Rico Yula San Juan.

Older youth in 9th grade explored several different vocational facilities that provide courses in bread-making, hairstyling, and others, and parents and elementary school children are getting ready for a similar tour of two schools in Quetzaltenango. The goal of these tours is to increase awareness among the families of the educational possibilities available to the students.