



Your Generosity at Work

Thank you for bringing land, hope and life to the families of Villa Linda, Guatemala!

Village Update Presented by

Agros International

2225 4th Ave Second Floor

Seattle, WA



"Thanks to Agros for their support of our community bank. I have participated from the beginning, and now we are in the tenth round of loans."

—Rosa

From Agros' President . . .

Thank you for your commitment to the Villa Linda community!

Since this community's founding in 2006, your steadfast encouragement, financial support and service team participation have helped restore dignity and hope for a better future to families stuck in a vicious, generational cycle of poverty.

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Villa Linda, Guatemala

Village Update, Summer 2012



Mercedes (left) raises tilapia for additional food and income. Luís (right) is harvesting his crop of cardamom to sell in the local market.

From Agros' President (cont'd.) . . .

Because of your support, today, Villa Linda's families have food security, their own housing, thriving agriculture-based enterprises, access to clean water and so much more that was only a dream in the past.

In each community Agros helps establish, field staff work alongside families toward the goal of self-sustainability. This past June, after six years of partnership with Agros, Villa Linda graduated from Agros direct support. In this phase of development, the community becomes self-directed, and continues to make progress tapping the knowledge that's been imparted through years of partnership.

Over the next few years, Agros will maintain contact with Villa Linda leadership, providing encouragement, advice and support as appropriate. During this time, families will apply everything they have learned to maintain strong community leadership, annual planning and personal growth, maintaining income-generating projects and working toward the ultimate goal of paying off their land loans.

You are a valued partner in the Agros mission, and I hope that you will consider engaging with another of our communities in Central America, or supporting an Agros initiative, such as sustainable economic development, that meets critical needs of families across all our communities.

Along with you, I look forward to that day when 100% of Villa Linda's families receive their titles and are official landowners. I know that the families, who are so grateful for your faithful commitment, would say, "We couldn't have done it without you!"

—Don Manning

Summer 2012 Village Highlights

Land Ownership

This quarter, four families in Villa Linda finished paying off their land loans. They are eagerly waiting to receive the titles to their land and being officially named "landowners."

The example of these four dedicated, hard-working families is a great inspiration to other families to continue working hard to achieve their dreams.

Sustainable Economic Growth

Also a great encouragement to the families, the community exceeded its annual coffee and cardamom growing goals. These crops provide a tremendous boost in income for each family!

In addition to cardamom and coffee, families are successfully cultivating taro, cassava and sweet potatoes. And their income-generating projects of beekeeping and raising tilapia, pigs and pelibueys (a cross between sheep and goat) are also flourishing.

As a result, the community has consistent food security, and malnutrition is a thing of the past. They are well on the way toward economic sustainability.

This quarter, nine of the families received follow-up and training in

fertilizing their coffee plants. Families involved in animal production vaccinated their pigs and poultry this quarter as well.

Community Education & Training

Eleven community members were trained in elements of small business development, such as entrepreneurship, negotiation and administration.

Also, educational materials and

follow-up were provided to participants in the adult literacy program.

Finally, 25 adults were trained in important health topics including treating illnesses in children aged 0-2, how to prepare an oral hydration solution, nutrition for children aged 6 months-2 years, how to prepare a bottle, how to sterilize water for consumption and the vaccination cycle for children.



Micaela cultivates, dries and sells a variety of medicinal herbs to supplement her family's income.

Making a Difference...

Julian used to work as a ranch hand for another landowner, making about \$5.25 per day to support his wife, Elena and their two children. Today, as a member of the Villa Linda community, Julian is grateful to Agros that he will never again have to work on someone else's land for a meager wage.

On his own land parcel, Julian is cultivating .43 hectares of coffee and .3 hectares of cardamom. From these crops, he currently earns about \$1,447 per year. Combined with his other income-generating pursuits, his earnings are now enough for him to adequately provide for his family.

Julian's dream for his children is that they achieve an education so they will never have to suffer in extreme poverty.

