

Village Update

Nuevo San Pedrito, México



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Domingo Pérez Gómez and his wife Rosa Jiménez Vásquez and their eight children moved to San Pedrito in 1998 after looking for a place of their own to farm. With hopes to generate their own income, they began planting and now almost 10 years later, are a thriving example to the newer members of the community in participation, persistence and hard work. Domingo has used loans from Agros to learn how to embroider clothing to sell in the market, as well as to increase productivity of his basic grain crops. “Thank God for Agros who has come to San Pedrito and helped us to do great things. I’m proud of having learned how to embroider, and with these loans, I’ve been able to move forward in the textile project, with my crops and even my own home. I thank God for this opportunity and the hope that I now have.”

The families of San Miguel were very happy to receive the Service Team visit from Cross Sound this July, during which the community and visitors exchanged stories, worked on four houses, built two improved cook stoves, worked in the vegetable garden and walked through the fields of beans and corn. These visits mutually benefit both the villagers and the Service Team groups as cultural exchange activities broaden worldwide perspectives and build relationships.

Community Organization

The leadership of the community continues to coordinate activities of the Annual Village Plan with Agros staff. The plan

continues to be an essential tool in monthly monitoring of community activities and progress, allowing the families to take an active and primary role in planning and setting their own goals to reach throughout the year.

Land Ownership

Purchasing additional land for the community is planned for the present fiscal year to expand the area of arable land for the families’ productive activities. The community is looking forward to this next step as they project a good harvest of basic grains that will assist the first payment of the loan.

Housing & Infrastructure

Due to the intense time of the season requiring concentrated effort from the farmers in the fields, labor contributions to the community center were postponed until after harvest. However, with the recent donation of a significant \$4,650 from a local Mexican church specified for the building, the families and Agros team are greatly encouraged and plan to resume work in October and finish within 4-5 weeks.

Other significant advances in infrastructure have included improvements on eight homes. Together, the families reinforced the homes’ walls and roofs with materials to offer wind and rain protection.

Sustainable Economic Growth

During this quarter the families have been working very hard to reap a productive harvest in corn and beans, a harvest that will contribute to their nutrition and income for most of the year. Though the community projected a harvest from 1,545 to 1,765 pounds, the unprecedented drought during the growing season followed by heavy rains days before harvest may cause a loss in crops up to 50%.

Families continue to diversify their crops to stabilize their incomes, improve their diets and protect the environment. Areas are reforested with fruit trees, demonstration plots of flowers and various non-traditional vegetables are implemented, loans and training have been invested in projects for small sustainable businesses.



Five women and one man are involved in a sewing project and participated in a workshop to further their skills. With this

training, the group will be able to improve the quality of their products and generate higher profits in the local market.

Community Education & Training

Classes resumed for the 32 school-aged boys and girls in San Pedrito this August. Two new teachers have been hired this year and will be following lesson plans from the National Board of Formational Education (CONAFE). Local Mexican churches continue to contribute to the teachers' meals and Agros together with San Pedrito's community organization committee overseeing coordination of school books and materials for the students from the sector's governmental institutions.

A key component of human development within a community is health. With support from Agros field staff, families are learning new ways to improve environmental health and personal hygiene to prevent disease among themselves and their families. Workshops include information regarding healthy and clean water, management of human waste and trash and responsible use and disposal of farming chemicals.