

Village Update

San Diego, El Salvador



Agros
INTERNATIONAL

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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, to restore hope to the world's poor. The eight indicators below are measured on an annual basis and are now included in each quarterly Village Update.

ANNUAL INDICATORS OF VILLAGE PROGRESS (June 2009)

Founded: 2000

Development Level: Progress through the Agros Development Model
(100% reached when community has paid off their land loans)



Economic Indicators:

Diversification of income-generating crops:

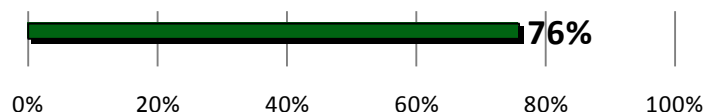
3 types of crops sold to provide income

50% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

60% of people commercialize their products

Enterprise loan repayment rates:



Community Indicators:

Access to water for domestic use:

100% of families have water at 0-100 meters from home

Presence of health promoters in community:

A trained Health Committee is active in the community.

School-aged children attending school:

80%

Women in leadership:

29%

The story of Arturo's journey in the last several years is one of sickness, sacrifice, recovery and resilience. Once a very active member of his community, in 2002 Arturo became very sick and had to go to the hospital for treatment. Overtime, he accrued a great deal of medical debt and could not participate in community activities. It was a difficult time for him and his faithful wife Carmen. This year, however, Arturo has made great progress with his health and elected to be one of three to experiment growing a new crop in San Diego—bell peppers. The project was so successful, the trio sold 200 sacks of peppers from their small parcel of less than 0.2 acres and earned \$1,426! Arturo took home \$563 with which he was able to repay the investment in the pepper project, cancel all of his medical debt, get caught up with his land loan payment and still have some left over for household expenses! It's no surprise that his example has motivated nine other farmers to participate in the second cycle of peppers alongside Arturo.

San Diego de Tenango, Autumn 2009



Community Organization

In a general assembly with all of the families present, San Diego elected community member Jesús as their President. Jesús will continue to work with the rest of the leadership to be legally recognized by the municipal government as a self-governing entity. The leadership is also revising the community's bylaws to ensure that they are up-to-date and in line with the families' current reality.

The leadership in San Diego is working with Agros staff to begin organizing small fundraising activities to make repairs to the community center.

Housing and Infrastructure

The families have completed construction on a communal sink for the community center with support from the last Service Team

visit. Additionally, the community has coordinated with the local government and the bus service to provide maintenance work to the access road.

Sustainable Economic Growth

Several animal husbandry projects are underway in San Diego, providing essential investments for the families, providing a source of secure income and food. Four are involved in the pig project that recently purchased two sows. They hope to reproduce the offspring from the pigs to expand the project and give to other families. The chicken project, managed by six families, is doing well, producing 200 chickens every six weeks to sell. They recently sold their fifth batch of chickens. Six other families are involved in the hen project designated to provide food security to the community through consumption and sale of the eggs and chickens.



As mentioned above, three participants have had a successful experience growing bell peppers. Approximately 1,000 pepper starts were transplanted to the parcel and with training from Fomilenio, the group generated over \$1,400. The second cycle of peppers has expanded to ten participants growing in an area five times as large on one acre of land.

With a high demand and a short maturation cycle, tilapia is a profitable project for the four participating families. Those involved hope to use their income from the fish to repay their land loans. The group involved in the cattle project continues to provide care to the animals, including planting pasture for grazing and to make fodder to last during the dry season. The group has fourteen cattle that were purchased last year with hopes to fatten and sell.

In addition to agricultural projects, small businesses are strengthening in San Diego, including the *repujado* project. Several women have received training in financial administration and basic accounting to boost their business skills. The women involved in the *repujado* project are working with women's enterprise groups in El Salvador to form an association with the women in neighboring Agros community La Esperanza to increase their marketability. Additionally, seven women completed the second course in making *repujado*, a huge achievement considering the class was three days per week for a month. With this training from INSAFOR, the women have greatly increased the quality and presentation of their products. A third order was sent to the United States as well as the local Kasa de Las Ideas for commercialization.

Businesswomen in San Diego are also learning how to start a Community Bank to provide start-up and investment funds for their business initiatives, such as chickens or pupusas. The women also

gather to discuss topics such as gender equity, self-esteem, participation and business management and administration.

Community Education and Training

This month, in partnership with the Youth and Health Committees and Agros staff, the families worked to improve the cleanliness and hygiene in San Diego. Two clean-up campaigns were organized, one at the individual home level, and a second community-wide, to collect, sort and properly dispose of waste. The Youth Committee was heavily involved in putting the trash and recycling in its rightful place. Additionally, the families also scrubbed out and placed a mosquito larvicide in their water basins and inspected and cleaned their composting latrines to ensure proper use and maintenance.

Children in the community are participating in interactive activities to learn about values through bible stories. The children and their parents are also benefitting from a new practice where nutritious snacks are prepared for the children, such as rice pudding, enchiladas, toast and eggs, etc. Everyone is learning how to prepare foods that promote healthy growth. After the snack, the children brush their teeth using a toothbrush and toothpaste that was given to each one of them, facilitating healthy hygiene habits.

Twenty-two adults and youth have enrolled in the basic literacy course in the community. The students will be divided into two groups based on their level and taught by two teachers and with support from Agros staff three times per week. Each student also received school supplies to support their learning.