

## Village Update

San Diego, El Salvador



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Ernesto, an older member of San Diego, has been working hard building a fish pond. Due to his age and various health problems, Ernesto has not been able to participate in the more physically-demanding farming projects. However, he has found a way to add extra income to his household that allows him to stay closer to home and is gentler on his body. After much hard work and some help from Agros, Ernesto now has a small pond containing 300 tilapia fish for sale and consumption, and he hopes to continue to grow this project in the future.

### Community Organization

Recent Agros workshops on teamwork and roles of community leaders in San Diego have prompted greater participation and initiative among the Leadership Committee. The community Health Committee is off to a great start with three members committed.

### Housing and Infrastructure

The community has been working together to negotiate with the local government on reparations of a section of damaged road that leads to the community. To date, 100 meters of the section have already been repaired.

### Sustainable Economic Growth

The nine women of the Artisans' Committee have received training in *repujado*, an art form that covers surfaces with designs painted on embossed metal, and had a successful experience bringing their creations to market for the first-ever regional arts and crafts fair of Suchitoto. They are excited and motivated by this new opportunity to convert their skills into extra income for their families. Agros staff continues to work with the women to connect them to profitable local markets to sell their goods.



Eleven farmers have joined together to begin raising cattle for beef. The men are starting off with 11 head of cattle, for which they have prepared, fenced, and planted 1.72 acres of pasture and constructed a small barn for care and feeding of the cattle. Additionally, 5,000 pineapple plants were recently planted, as well as 600 plants of *nance*, a local fruit. Both crops are expected to yield good prices at the market next season.



With the goal of diversifying diets within the community, families have prepared and planted tomatoes and peppers. Agros staff continues to encourage families to diversify their production activities, and are currently providing trainings in new activities such as cattle, goats and tilapia.

Congratulations to José Calixto and his cattle project! He was able to pay off his first cattle loan before it was due, and he has already applied for and received 2 additional loans with which to expand this project. Overall, the community is showing a higher level of commitment to repaying loans, and already two families have completely repaid their land loans.

### **Community Education and Training**

Three women of the Health Committee recently attended trainings on community health and habits for good hygiene. They were also presented with a first aid kit and instructed in response to basic community health needs.