

Village Update

San Diego de Tenango, El Salvador



4528 8th Ave. NE Suite 1A, Seattle, WA 98105
[p] 206.528.1066 | www.agros.org

Calixto Rodas is a born farmer- his love for the land and firm vision for his future is admirable to the entire community. He currently has a little over an acre of cucumbers, most of which he planted with the help of a productive loan from Agros and the rest of which he paid himself. Furthermore, Calixto is active in growing tomatoes, a project that generates work for three others in the community. As far as livestock, Calixto has accumulated ten head of cattle, allowing him to sell milk and other products in the market. When speaking of his future, Calixto expresses that he dreams for more land to carry out all the projects he wants to develop. This dedication and determination toward his goals has served as an example and motivation for the other members of the community.

Community Organization

Self-direction and planning based on the community's values is very important to Agros and the sustainability of Agros communities. This year the entire community will work together to define their values-based community plan. The families have worked together on their plan in the past, but will further strengthen and redefine the plan with the participation of all the families.

Community Education & Training

The health committee recently reconvened and was joined by two members of the Board of Directors for a workshop on first aid.

Sustainable Economic Growth

As part of the crop diversification initiative, the farmers of San Diego recently planted a demonstration parcel of various vegetables. Due to the lack of water, however, they were unable to obtain the results they had hoped for. Even so, ten farmers are presently taking advantage of the current rainy season to grow cucumbers and tomatoes, two non-traditional crops that bring higher prices in today's market.

To confront the community's water challenge, the families of San Diego planned to dig a well, but due to the high cost of construction, were unable to carry the project to completion. As an alternative, the community decided to negotiate with the community of Papaturro's Water Board in Suchitoto to secure water rights for irrigation purposes. If the proposal is accepted, the farmers will be able to cultivate throughout the summer.

José Calixto Rodas, an active member of San Diego, was given a \$365 dollar loan to grow cucumbers. Other families considered similar loan-based projects, but until they receive training in growing vegetables like tomatoes, chilies and radishes, they have been hesitant. The success of José's project, which yielded about 18,000 pounds of vegetables per month and an estimated \$950,

also diminished doubts and encouraged the rest of the community. José's vegetable crop will increase his income and help him repay other productive loans, in addition to being the first to demonstrate the positive results of crop diversification to the rest of the community.