

Village Update

Agros Uno, Honduras



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The community of Agros Uno has recently faced significant challenges as four of the families have made the decision to leave the community by the end of December 2006. A variety of factors led the families to make this decision, which in the end is a difficult thing for Agros and the remaining families to fully understand. The Agros Honduras staff continues to work with these families as they make their plans to leave the community, in order to make it a smooth transition for everyone.

Community Organization

Agros Uno continues the process of selecting additional families to join in the work of the Agros Development Model and make the decision to take part in the holistic journey out of poverty. With the help of other Honduran institutions, such as Plan Honduras and Educadores, Agros Uno has visited and located fifteen families that have expressed great interest in the Agros Model and are considering joining the community in February 2007.

The governing framework of the community is making steps forward as it has recently restructured its leadership board and continues to work out the passage of the community's statutes and norms. However, as there are presently only three families

actively participating in the Agros community, further discussion will be postponed until more families move to Agros Uno in February. The Committee of Basic Grains has recently succeeded in confirming their group's regulations and rules.

Land Ownership

Follow-up on the cultivation of corn and the demonstrative planting has taken place in recent months. The demonstration introduced the farmers to new technology that will increase their production of basic grains on a smaller parcel of land. The farmers will observe the results and decide if they see fit to adopt the new technique during the next planting in May and June of 2007. The families will also receive higher-quality seeds for future crops.

Housing and Infrastructure

The process of installing a potable water system has begun and eight connections have already been completed. The community will put the project on hold until additional families move to the property. The home of Antonia and Armando has recently been finished, including their latrine and they have already moved in. The families were trained in the advantages, construction and use

of efficient cookstoves during a workshop given by Global Village. These workshops will continue to be available as more families move onto the land.

The families of Agros Uno have proven themselves resilient as they recuperate from a serious mosquito plague. Using program resources, the families decided to build screened doors and windows for their homes and obtain mosquito netting for their sleeping areas. These activities were planned and carried to completion by the women of the community. Following the plague, the families received training on how to control future plagues through preventative actions such as removing the stagnant water that serves as breeding grounds for the mosquitoes.

Sustainable Economic Growth

The families are promoting both environmental and economic sustainability in their reforestation project. As they improve the health of the environment, the families will also benefit in the high market value harvesting these wood-producing trees. Training and technical assistance to improve production techniques continue to contribute to the livelihood of the community. Agros staff is also assisting to diversify the production activities in Agros Uno.

Community Education and Training

The cleaning campaign to improve “The Household Environment”, which was initiated and conducted by the women’s group of Agros Uno, included the participation of the children in learning about the importance of cleanliness. A useful

training was given about food handling and preparation and general nutrition.

Education is very important to the families of the community as shown in their initiation of a performance-monitoring process for school-aged children. The process involves regular visits to the school and open dialogue with the teachers about the children who attend school less frequently or who have left the community.

Contact with the pastor of the Hospital Evangélico was established in order to lend spiritual assistance to the families; however the execution of these modules will wait for the integration of the new families with the existing families of Agros Uno.