

# INVEST

## INVEST IN OPPORTUNITY NICARAGUA

Opportunity International's community-focused programs in Nicaragua are growing sustainable economic opportunities and empowering families to work together to tackle chronic issues in their communities. Together, we can help Nicaraguans leave poverty behind—forever.

### AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Yucca is one of the main crops grown by small farmers in Nicaragua. However, without training in good agricultural practices and access to profitable markets, most small farmers sell yucca at local markets at low prices and struggle to earn a profit. Opportunity supports small Nicaraguan farmers through:

- Loans and technical assistance, helping farmers grow higher-quality and more drought-resistant crops.
- A yucca processing plant, which Opportunity built (final construction is still ongoing) to buy raw yucca from farmers and process it into waxed yucca or yucca flour, significantly improving the value of the crop and farmers' profits.



### EMPREDEDORA TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Founded by Opportunity Nicaragua in 2012, the Emprededora ("Entrepreneurship") Technical School empowers nearly 300 rural youth with relevant education preparing them for careers in hospitality or agriculture, the country's two high-growth industries. Students learn skills through hands-on experiences, which include:

- Operating the school's organic agricultural businesses, which include a vegetable farm, egg hatchery and butterfly farm. These businesses now offset 50% of the school's expenses.
- Hospitality internships with a local luxury resort, Pacaya Lodge & Spa, which also sources produce from the student's agricultural businesses.



### COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS

Opportunity works alongside local leaders to address chronic, community-wide issues that limit quality of life and the ability for families to break the cycle of poverty. To date, Opportunity has partnered with leaders in more than 20 villages, empowering them with financing and tools they need to mobilize community-led solutions such as:

- Building wells and aqueducts, which now provide clean, accessible water to more than 2,500 individuals. Ana (pictured right) led a project to build a new well and piping for her community, significantly improving access to clean water.
- Creating a community loan program to repair roofs among the poorest neighbors.
- Partnering with local medical clinics and professionals to train women in 17 communities on issues such as reproductive health, domestic violence and stopping child labor exploitation.

