

## Village Update

*Futuro del Mañana, Nicaragua*



José and Ileana, parents to two daughters, have completely paid off their land loan and are the proud owners of their own land. Though the couple suffered a great deal, they are relieved to have found Agros and hold the title to their land. “Today we feel calm because although we’ve gone through many difficult times, needs and challenges, today all of this is behind us.” Currently, José and Ileana are busy planting beans for the second growing cycle, happy and content on their land with their family.

### Community Organization

The families know their community vision and express their dreams for the future through concrete actions, teaching their children values to be passed on to the next generation. One discussion was held on the value of love and provided new ways for families to cultivate affection, good treatment and consideration towards each other.

The community has been strategizing responses to various types of natural disasters, as well as ways to prevent such crises when possible. Together, the families are making plans to be intentional about preparation and response in order to keep every member safe during fires, earthquakes and floods.



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### Land Ownership

Commitment to repaying land loans continues to be the highest priority for the families in Futuro del Mañana. Families are continuously seeking new ways to increase their incomes and contribute to their loan payments. Additionally, the families are focusing on food security, selecting the corn and beans recently harvested for storage and for sale. The second cycle of basic grains, however, is in danger of being damaged by the heavy rains this season.

## **Housing & Infrastructure**

The heavy precipitation during the rainy season has prevented access to and from the community due to washed out roads. However, once the rain subsides, the community will organize to make repairs to the road.

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

Technical assistance and training offered to each producer has allowed the families in Futuro del Mañana to receive practical tips and advice in improving their productions. This quarter, families are maintaining their plantain, banana and passion fruit crops. One producer planted 1.7 acres of passion fruit that is being sold through intermediate buyers. The families are also planting the second cycle of basic grains. In order to earn a higher market price for their corn, families are experimenting with selling the corn grinded.

## **Community Education & Training**

This quarter the families focused on preventative health practices, especially those that contribute to less frequent cases of diarrhea among the children in the community. Families did self-evaluations to determine how they could better implement hygiene habits in their daily lives. The children also participated in a clinic to weigh and measure heights in order to determine nutrition indexes. Following the activity, parents were instructed on how to prepare multi-grain cereals for their children using soy and other nutritious ingredients.

The students in Futuro del Mañana are excited to participate in classroom evaluations that measure satisfaction with the curriculum and instruction they received this school year. Many are also actively involved in elaborating embroidered textiles for their families' homes.

The community is demonstrating a heightened ability to use critical analysis in daily conversations, meetings and trainings, as well as express themselves freely in groups. This skill has been enriching community activities. Additionally, the families are participating in gatherings meant to strengthen spiritual development through sharing experiences and studying stories from the Bible. In Futuro del Mañana, Catholic and Evangelical families alike share together in a harmonious way that contributes to overall community growth.