

Village Update

Futuro de Mañana, Nicaragua



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Seneida Gutierrez, a member of Futuro with three children in school, is setting an example in the community by overcoming difficulties to secure a better life. She has a positive attitude, is always optimistic, and always willing to participate in the community's work. She has a sense of responsibility towards her family and towards the community's agreement with Agros. She is a business-minded woman with a vision for the future that motivates the rest of the women to participate in selling the products that they make at home. She is a strong Christian person who demonstrates her faith through her actions.

Community Organization

The Board of Directors has been implementing activities that will help meet the needs of the community, such as the construction of foot bridges that connect the road to the community, which will mainly help the children get to and from school. They also recently purchased tables for the entire community that a group of 16 women will be able to use to make food for income and for their families.

The community leadership is well-organized enough to keep all of the members of the community informed. They recently held a meeting with the Agros International staff to go over what

tasks the community still has to complete and the progress they have made in the projects they are currently working on.

Sustainable Economic Growth

One farmer in Futuro has established a test parcel of green peppers, which he plans to sell as a source of income. They also planted a test parcel of watermelon, which is currently not ready to harvest. They have been caring for the plants and used fertilizer and insecticides to ensure they grow properly. The plants will be ready to harvest this August.

The plantain project, which is being directed by two groups of women and two groups of men, is a source of two incomes for the participants. They earn money selling the plantains in the local market, and they have been able to sell the plantain seeds to other farmers in the community to earn even more. They have also begun selling the papayas that they have been growing.

The livestock project is going very well, thanks to the technical assistance the farmers received and the application of veterinary medicines (vitamins and medication to get rid of parasites).

During the rainy season, the families have been able to dedicate themselves to agricultural activities. Because of this, it has not been an obstacle for the families to repay their loans. They have repaid \$738.96 so far, which has contributed to lowering the total they have been working towards during the last few years. The families continue to be motivated to catch up on their loans and strengthen their relationship with Agros.

The women of the community of Futuro are very business-minded. There is currently a group of four women that want to become involved in a bread-making project through a small loan.

The member of the community that took out a loan start a carpentry shop recently made his first payment on the interest he had accumulated. In this way, he was able to get up to date on his loan repayment agreement.

The families recently planted another plantain crop in the communal area. Growing the plantains is a community project, and is being run by a group of women.

Community Education and Training

Twenty members of the community were recently trained in the national law regarding Children's Rights. During the training, they had the opportunity to think about how to react in situations involving their children.

Fifteen members of the community received training in personal hygiene and sanitary food preparation. With the arrival of the rainy season, many children of the community have been experiencing illnesses such as diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and loss of appetite. The families held meetings to learn about how to clean their houses and prepare food and water in a way that will prevent future illness. It was recommended that the families empty out any water containers that they had in their houses, since they facilitate the growth of mosquitoes.

The members of the community went over the Agros manual, where they reflected on the vision, mission, values, and components of Agros International. The families expressed that they understood the organization better after the workshop, and that they would work on putting their knowledge into practice.