

# Village Update

*Futuro del Mañana, Nicaragua*



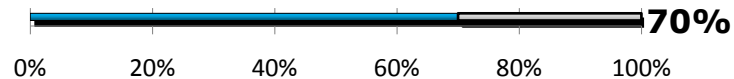
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, to restore hope to the world's poor. The eight indicators below are measured on an annual basis and are now included in each quarterly Village Update.

## ANNUAL INDICATORS OF VILLAGE PROGRESS

(June 2010) Founded: 1999

**Development Level**—Progress through the Agros Development Model. Direct support typically ends at 70% and 100% is reached when land loans are repaid.



## Economic Indicators:

### Diversification of income-generating crops:

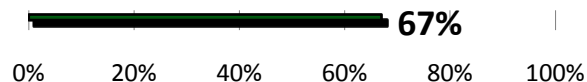
*6 types of crops sold to provide income*

*90% of people have livestock*

### Participation in commercialization of products:

*85% of people commercialize their products*

### Enterprise loan repayment rates:



## Community Indicators:

### Access to water for domestic use:

**100%** of families have water at 0-10 meters from home

*\*This goal has been revised from 0-100 meters to accurately reflect Agros' priority to ensure accessible water closer to the home.*

### Presence of health promoters in community:

**Yes**

### School-aged children attending school:

**100%**

### Leadership Positions Held by Women:

**55%**

Juan, his wife Vanessa, and their four children are a prime example of the meaning of hard work and perseverance. Juan is the President of the Agros Nicaragua community Futuro del Mañana, and alongside his wife is working hard to achieve their dream of owning land to pass on to their children. Juan was disappointed when he lost two bean harvests this year, first to flooding and then to a drought. Even so, his determination is unshakable: "Achieving the goal is hard work but we are going to achieve it, and when we do, we'll celebrate with the whole community!" Currently, they are managing a successful chicken project and they recently sold the first flock of chickens.

## **Community Organization**

The leaders have been meeting with partnering organizations and the families to work towards meeting the goals outlined in their annual village plan. Families participate in community decision-making and everyone is aware of the community bylaws that help the community run smoothly. The families are practicing their values, including unity, respect and harmony and meeting regularly to discuss topics to develop spiritually. The community has been meeting this quarter to discuss plans to build a church in the village.



## **Land Ownership**

Nine families are still working to repay their land loans and despite a difficult farming season, are hopeful to make payments in time for the third land title ceremony planned for the end of February.

## **Housing and Infrastructure**

Families worked together this quarter to make repairs to the access road and provide maintenance work to the community center. The community center was painted and cleaned and the road is in better shape to transport goods to and from the community.

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

Each family receives individualized technical assistance to improve production. Notes and recommendations are recorded in logbooks for farmers' reference. Families are currently growing a variety of crops including beans, corn, granadilla, plantains and vegetables.

The irrigation system was improved this quarter. Families built two additional water basins to store water and irrigate more land.

Families that suffered bean losses due to drought this quarter were provided with additional bean seed by Agros, prioritizing those that have not yet paid off their land loan. Families will replant in order to recuperate what was lost.

Due to the climactic challenges, the last several crop cycles have been difficult and some families have had to migrate to find work. In these cases, eldest children have been put in charge of managing the farm to ensure that the work continues. Despite the challenges, the families are demonstrating a high level of dedication to repaying their land loans.

## **Community Education and Training**

Families have been participating in biblical discussions focused on the theme "A Life with Purpose." The families

also celebrated the Christmas holiday, reflecting on the season and enjoying activities with their children.

This quarter, women in Futuro have been maintaining and administering the community's first aid and medicine supplies, prioritizing those needing anti-parasite medicine and vitamins.

Children attending classes received school supplies this quarter, encouraging students and their families to continue their education.