

# Village Update

*Futuro del Mañana, Nicaragua*



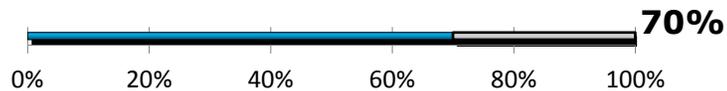
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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 (100% reached when community has paid off their land loans)



## Economic Indicators:

### Diversification of income-generating crops:

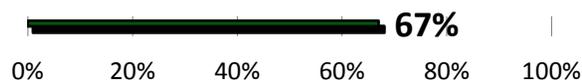
*6 types of crops sold to provide income*

*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%**

Feliz and his wife Martha have two children, nine-year old Maria and four-year old Ulisis. Together, their family is proud to have fully repaid their land loan. "It's hard to believe that it's true—that we've accomplished our goal of owning our own land," explains Martha. "It's such a blessing." She is thrilled that they own land and a house, her children are able to go to school and they no longer have to move from place to place looking for work. Feliz laughs and says, "It wasn't easy—our whole family had to make sacrifices. At times it was overwhelming and difficult, but not impossible. We worked, we learned how to save, and we paid for our land. I am so thankful to Agros for the opportunity they provide families, and to God for the strength he gave us to continue in this opportunity. My name means 'happiness,' and now I am truly happy."

## **Community Organization**

Leadership in Futuro del Mañana received training on municipal law and their roles and responsibilities as leaders. Leadership and families in the community meet monthly and this quarter reviewed their vision for Futuro and worked out a disagreement on how to manage the park. The families have a plan to remain united and organized and meet their goals once the partnership with Agros has ended.

## **Housing and Infrastructure**

This quarter, three families painted their houses with income they received from various projects.

Futuro's fields have an irrigation system with an electric pump to provide crops with water. Two more basins were built this quarter to store and provide water to more land.

Also this quarter, partnering with the local municipality, the families were able to make improvements to the main access road to the community.

## **Land Ownership**

As part of the ongoing reforestation project in Futuro to ensure environmental sustainability, the families took good care of the fruit and forest trees planted last year.

A majority of the families, thirteen to date, have paid off their land loans, encouraging remaining families in their efforts.

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

The families in Futuro worked to diversify the crops they are growing for consumption and commercialization. This

quarter they planted papaya, plantains, passion fruit, corn, beans and sorghum. Agros provided support as the families prepared and planted their fields. Some families applied for and received agricultural loans to plant red beans and other crops to increase their income and pay off their land loans.

A group of three women that participated in a baking training have joined together to bake bread and sweets. They are selling their goods to increase their families' incomes.

## **Community Education and Training**

Families have shown a great amount of joy, hope and faith through celebrations held for those that paid their land loans last quarter. A local pastor has helped to organize these events and planned seminars on improving relationships and respect.

At the start of rainy season, many families caught the flu going around last quarter and received medical attention. The community health promoter administered the medicine supply and followed up with anyone who needed medication, as well as facilitated health-related activities for the community.

The families participated in training seminars on nutrition and adopting healthy habits this quarter. Additionally, participants learned about vitamins and how to prevent malnutrition.

Children attending school received school supplies to encourage them and their families as they continue their studies.