

# Village Update

*Futuro del Mañana, Nicaragua*



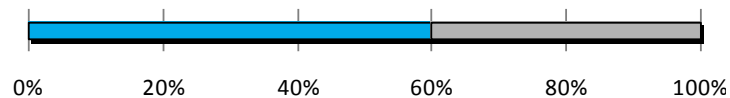
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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 2009)

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:

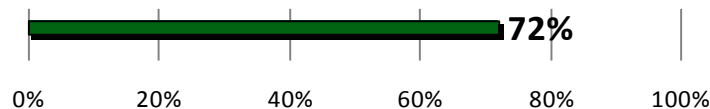
*5 types of crops sold to provide income*

*70% of people have livestock*

### Participation in commercialization of products:

*100% of people commercialize their products*

### Enterprise loan repayment rates:



## Community Indicators:

### Access to water for domestic use:

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

### Presence of health promoters in community:

**Yes**

### School-aged children attending school:

**97%**

### Women in leadership:

**50%**

Known for her faithfulness in repaying loans, Sayda and her family are very proud of the outcomes they are seeing since they joined the community of Futuro del Mañana. "We finally have paid off our land loan and we will now receive the title to our property!" exclaims Sayda. "I can now rest and think about other projects for the children. It is so nice to be free from this type of commitment and even nicer knowing that I have kept my word with Agros." It has taken hard work and motivation for Sayda and her family to reach this accomplishment, more so due to her daughter's health. Sayda looks forward to making the preparations for the title ceremony. "Life shouldn't just be about sadness and affliction," she says, "it is only right that we celebrate with joy when we reach our goals." Sayda and her whole family would also like to thank all the families who have blessed them with their support.

## **Community Organization**

Relationship workshops were offered this quarter in which participating members used biblical principles to learn about accepting and understanding one other. Families are working together peacefully as they support each other and learn together. Leadership is well-respected and trusted and their decisions are supported as they deal with conflicts according to the community's bylaws.

Leadership has partnered with the municipal government to offer workshops on planning and organizational skills. Practical trainings on how to create objectives and budgets were offered and have encouraged villagers to come up with new ideas for their community.

## **Housing and Infrastructure**

Weeding and general upkeep of community buildings was a focus this quarter. Families understand the importance of constant maintenance of the buildings and grounds to help the infrastructure last longer. The water system and composting latrines were also thoroughly cleaned to prevent insects that carry disease.

A challenge that came up this quarter has been maintaining the irrigation system in good condition. One of the pumps broke and finding a replacement has taken time. A specialist was called in to analyze the damage and families are hoping that by the end of the month the problem will be solved.

## **Land Ownership**

Despite the economic crisis, families have been able to move forward as a group, never losing sight of their goal to repay their land loans. Villagers are committed to Agros as they look for different solutions to support their families. Some family members have had to temporarily leave the community to find jobs in other areas, sending their earnings back home. None of the families consider this ideal but a sacrifice they are willing to make to become proud owners of their land. Sayda's story, mentioned above, serves as inspiration to families as they see one of their own repay their land loan in full.

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

Futuro del Mañana members have guaranteed food security this quarter as they continue planting and harvesting basic grains in their individual plots. Due to the effects of the El Niño phenomenon that has caused abnormal climate changes, the corn and bean productions were less than expected, but families are hoping to make it up in future harvests. The unseasonal dry weather has also affected the reforestation project which has been put on hold until rainfall increases.

Farmers continue to receive hands-on technical assistance and training for their crops from Agros staff and outside organizations. Even though many of the families are worried that their crops have been affected by the harsh weather, they are hopeful that with improvements and crop diversification they can maintain steady production. Their main crops are currently beans, rice, corn, plantains, bananas, passion fruit, and Tabasco chili peppers. The 1.72 acres of Tabasco chili peppers was planted using an Agros loan

and the farmers involved in this project are glad to see that the plants are in their reproduction phase and are doing well.

The women's baking activities were cancelled this quarter when their most experienced member who provides a great deal of instruction could not attend. The rest of the group participated in a workshop on resource administration and commercialization where they learned basic and practical concepts on how to run their business.

### **Community Education and Training**

The community's first aid and medicine supply was refurbished with antibiotics, cough medicines, and painkillers to help take care of some respiratory illness that has come up. The community-wide hygiene activity from last quarter has helped families prevent further spread of illness, especially the flu, as the health promoter partnered with the Ministry of Health to make home visits and offer individual attention. Other workshops were also offered including a nutrition seminar to improve diets and a discussion group focusing on preventing parasites.

Thirty-two children have begun a new grading period, each having passed to the next level in their studies. When report cards were handed out last quarter, a meeting with the parents was held to encourage moms and dads to continue supporting their children in their studies. One teacher has also offered to help provide students with extra assistance after school so that no one falls behind.

Relationships continue to strengthen in Futuro del Mañana as families become more comfortable voicing their concerns and opinions. Individual growth can be seen as villagers grow closer to

each other as well. The community church has also encouraged members to be sensitive towards one another.