

# 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:



### Economic Indicators:

#### Diversification of income-generating crops:

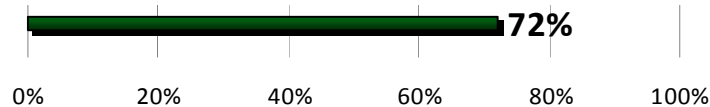
*5 types of crops sold to provide income*

*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%

Sayda and Miguel Angel stand out in their community Futuro del Mañana due to their perseverance and hard work. Supporting three children and one grandchild makes paying land loans a challenge for them, but one they are grateful to have. "It has taken a lot of sacrifice for us to pay our loans," says Sayda, "but even though it is hard, we are right on schedule. In my household we may not always buy new dresses or shoes or decorations, but we are always paying our loans on time. We really want to be the next family to fully pay off and get our land title and we are really close to being done!"

## **Community Organization**

The elected leadership continues to fulfill their roles, ensuring community participation every step of the way. Through assemblies and home visits they have been emphasizing village values, commitment and rules. The leadership works closely with the community's annual plan and works to see that the goals of the plan are carried out.

The committee members also attended workshops on their roles and responsibilities as community leaders in order to better meet the needs of their community.

This quarter, workshops on reconciliation, unity and solidarity took place. The group discussed values that are important but not always reflected in daily life, opening the door for participants to bring unresolved issues to the table to be worked through as a group. The families observed their common ties that unite them together and that they have learned to deeply care for one another.

## **Land Ownership**

Despite the economic crisis, the community is excited to see that by the end of the year, two families will be able to obtain their land titles. It has been a hard year for many in Futuro del Mañana, but through mutual encouragement, they are working towards the day they will all own their land.

Food security has been a priority this quarter as families take advantage of the dry season to plant basic grains and save money instead of purchasing basic staples in the local market.

All of the families are involved in reforestation initiatives, planting and maintaining a variety of trees on their land to protect against soil erosion and provide a cool, bio-diverse ecosystem.

Futuro del Mañana, Summer 2009 Update

## **Housing & Infrastructure**

Each family in Futuro del Mañana has shown dedication in the upkeep of their homes and community spaces. The Women's Committee has worked to plant ornamental trees in their yards to beautify the land as well as prevent soil erosion. Additionally, the families have worked on improving the community center by cleaning and maintaining the surrounding area.

Leadership partnered with the local municipal offices to repair the main access road to Futuro by compacting the ground and digging ditches alongside of the road for drainage. They also have ensured that the water system used for domestic use is cleaned monthly, including the main system as well as the pipes leading to each home.

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

Beyond just basic grains, technical assistance has been provided to encourage crop diversification. This quarter, the families have planted a variety of nontraditional crops, including peppers, passion fruit and plantains. Crop diversification not only provides healthier diets for families, but also allows income from a variety of sources. As previously mentioned, many of the families are close to paying off their land loans due to projects such as these.

## **Community Education & Training**

A cleanliness campaign was a priority this quarter in light of the flu epidemic that has had a global effect. Informative discussions were held on personal hygiene and keeping homes and communal areas clean. Hands, clothes, dishes and latrines were all thoroughly washed and garbage was disposed safely.

Talks were also given on women's reproductive health while other workshops focused on first aid in different emergency situations. The community partnered with the government in a vaccination clinic to protect children from chickenpox and tetanus. The health promoter has provided much support in these activities and also that have proven helpful to the families as they learn how to take better care of themselves and their neighbors.

As school is out for the year, children are using the community center to access games and books, spending many afternoons playing and reading together. Individual visits will be made to each home with children to encourage parents to keep sending children to school in the coming year.

The community of Futuro del Mañana has learned the importance of providing opportunities for its members to speak openly about their feelings in different situations. If needed, community leadership intervenes during conflict to facilitate solutions. Due to the community's values of mutual respect and strong relationships, the families continue to nourish an atmosphere of peace in their village.