

## Village Update

*Nuevo San Pedrito, México*



**Agros**  
INTERNATIONAL

4528 8th Ave. NE Suite 1A, Seattle, WA 98105  
[p] 206.528.1066 | [www.agros.org](http://www.agros.org)

In this quarter the story of Domingo Méndez López is in the forefront of many of the minds of San Pedrito. Domingo is a husband and the father of two young children. When he was recently elected by his community to be their representative for the different governmental organizations he said, “When the Agros field staff came to my community we listened to them but we didn’t believe them because others had come before and did not fulfill their promises. Now we see that Agros does in fact accomplish what it promises and so we can believe them. We worked very hard to get our water tank and now we are excited to continue working. We appreciate Agros for coming to show us how to improve our work and we ask God’s blessings upon their lives for all the sacrifices they are making for us.”

### Housing & Infrastructure

The possibility of having irrigation from the water supply system continues. Precipitation this year has been low and thus the water hole has captured very little water. They hope to have continued rain through December, and the solidifying of the water hole itself should contribute to an increased capturing of water during next year’s rainy season.

In August the installation of the water chlorination and filter system was completed. The families collaborated to make a cement base and a small covering to protect the system from the elements. This system is capable of filtering 2500 liters of water for human consumption at a time, an advancement which will greatly reduce the spread of sickness related to water contamination. Already many families use the filtered water for all of their households’ meal preparation.



Water filter system being explained by Agros staff to community

### Sustainable Economic Growth

The water hole is in the process of stabilizing its sloping edges as the sediment level gradually increases. The members of the community are planting pasture in these slopes in order to decrease the risk of erosion. The hole is experiencing water loss due to evaporation, low precipitation and underground draining.

The community and technical staff have been collaborating in reforestation initiatives. The conservation area as well as the land bordering the stream has been planted with 500 cedar trees, 300 native trees and 100 annatto trees (the seeds of this species are also used as a spice).

During the last few months, the families of San Pedrito have planted 120 papaya, 23 orange, 23 lemon, 23 mango and 27 chicozapote (a

local variety) trees. These plantings have brought about an increase in botanical diversity in the community and the family gardens as they are able to use the irrigation systems already in place near their homes.

With the beginning of the colder season, many members of the community will soon be vaccinating and removing parasites from their birds.

While the members of San Pedrito applied for help from Agros to have corn and beans to eat at the beginning of the partnership, the community is now mature enough to apply for their own loans in order to produce beans. The harvest of beans resulted with each family harvesting 440 pounds for consumption and 997 pounds for sale. Regarding the loans granted in May for this crop, through requiring much hard work and commitment, the borrowers have already repaid all of the capital and interest of the loans before the scheduled date of payment.

The hand-made textile project is being directed during its first stage of sewing the garments and creating the design for the garment. The most popular item, some produced by special order, is a garment adorned with traditional embroidery designs. The artisan women continue to improve their hand-made textiles and have also paid the entire amount of capital plus interest that they borrowed ahead of schedule, despite the fact that much of their income from textile production must be used for other purposes. Continuous training is allowing the artisans to search for a market sector more demanding in quality and with higher prices.



Participants in the black bean project

The cultivation of vegetables continues although the rainy season is coming to an end. Activity with these crops is also decreasing as a result of the attention needed to produce the corn and beans for family consumption. The families have grown cabbage, squash, cilantro and radish with modest yet encouraging results; fourteen families have produced a total of 62 pounds of vegetables.

The next growing cycle for the vegetables is being planned by the families. This cycle is during the dry season and so will prepare one square kilometer of vegetables for consumption using a traditional “drip” irrigation method.