

Village Update

Nuevo Amanecer, Honduras

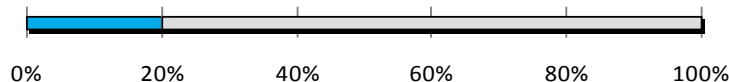


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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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: 2004

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:

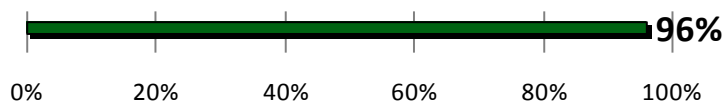
5 types of crops sold to provide income

70% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

70% 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:

53% (*The children from nine families joined the community too late in the year to begin classes; they will enroll next school year.*)

Women in leadership:

14%

Many years ago, Catalino and Maria and their four children moved to San Pedro Sula in search of job opportunities and a better life. After much disappointment living in the slum shantytown called "Los Bordos" and only earning enough money to feed their children, they realized that their hope for a home and land of their own would not be found in San Pedro Sula. When they heard of Agros and the opportunity to purchase land, they decided to move to Nuevo Amanecer in June 2008. Since then, they have a dignified roof over their heads and are happily living and working alongside

the other families in the plantain fields of Nuevo Amanecer, looking forward to the day they are owners of their land.

Community Organization

This quarter the community has faced some organizational difficulties among the families that have lived in Nuevo Amanecer for some time and those who are newer to the community. Leadership was reelected in order to be more representative of both groups, resulting in greater respect from the whole community.



Leadership has been empowered by Agros staff in ways to partner with outside organizations to benefit the community. Other important aspects of positive leadership have been practiced, such as good communication, conflict resolution, roles and responsibilities, and decision-making.

The community bylaws have been modified and shared with the families, ensuring that everyone is on the same page regarding the rules and guidelines that help the community run more smoothly. Families are also practicing their values, contributing to an environment of respect towards others and their belongings, honesty and faith.

Land Ownership

The families continue to maintain the forest areas to ensure a vital forest economy, as well as keeping the irrigation canal that runs water into the community in good condition. Vegetation around water reservoirs is also cared for in order to protect these water sources.

Housing and Infrastructure

This quarter, five composting latrines were constructed for the new incoming families. These latrines improve sanitation and health among the families, decreasing gastrointestinal diseases, and improving quality of life.

Nine families in Nuevo Amanecer have running water in their homes and the other families are using their neighbors' spigots until licenses for more spigots can be secured.

Sustainable Economic Growth

The families are very excited to be gaining new skills and experiences through the profitable plantain project. While the majority of the families had only grown corn and beans before, they now feel that they are farmers. Presently, the group is managing

just under ten acres of plantains, with technical assistance in pest and disease management and commercialization from partnering organizations. The families are hopeful to make payments on their land loans with the income from the plantains, and for this reason are expanding the project, preparing 3,600 seedlings for transplanting. Fifteen producers also took out loans in order to begin their own individual plantain parcels on 0.9 acres each in addition to the group project.



Food security is being ensured with the cultivation of 33.5 acres of corn and 5.2 acres of beans. Enough corn was harvested to have some left over to sell in the market, providing a source of income for the families.

Women in the community continue to strengthen their small businesses, making donuts, bread and tamales to sell for a source of income.

Community Education and Training

This quarter the families participated in several workshops, discussions and trainings in coordination with Agros staff, local doctors, health promoters and local health organizations. The community learned about preventing contagious illnesses such as the flu and diarrhea through hygienic practices both in the home and in the community at large.

A discussion with the men was helpful in shedding light to prostate cancer and how to detect the early stages of this disease.

Moms and dads are also learning about the importance of nutrition for their children, participating in monitoring their children's height and weight and incorporating vitamins and nutritious foods in their diets. Families also received medicine to kill parasites that could be robbing their bodies of vital nutrients. A workshop with the women was held to learn how to use soy to increase protein in their meals.

A medical campaign with local doctors and support from a local pastor provided medical attention to forty people this quarter. The Health Secretary also provided basic health and primary attention to the families. Training continues for a villager who is preparing to be a local health promoter.

The families gather on Tuesdays and Saturdays to worship together and support their spiritual formation. Discipleship for the youth is being offered to encourage spiritual growth among the young men and women as well.