

Thanks To You, Arnulfo's Yields Are Higher Despite Climate Challenges

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Arnulfo and his family are overjoyed with the progress of his crops after using CEPAD techniques that preserve precious water during drought. Your support means they are growing fruit trees for the first time!

Nicaragua's rainy season is getting shorter, summers are hotter, and long-trustworthy climate cycles are less consistent.

So times are especially hard in San Francisco Libre, a region of the country where soil quality and lack of water has always caused challenges for farmers. CEPAD trains farmers to help them learn to overcome the environmental pressures they face.

"CEPAD taught me how to make banks and ditches with the soil to trap water and protect the plant roots," said Arnulfo Jose Espinoza Gonzalez, who has been a farmer in the region for 13

years. *"CEPAD helped me buy barrels to collect water, too. I've seen a big change in my plants."*

Since incorporating what he learned from CEPAD, Arnulfo said he is able to grow some crops for the first time, and his corn and plantain yields are rising. **Support from CEPAD donors has meant more income for Arnulfo and his wife and five kids. He said he's less worried about how they will care for their new baby.**

In a meeting with farmers from around the region, CEPAD and representatives from ACT Alliance led a workshop with farmers to identify the

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Harsh Climate, Lack of Resources Propels Yearly Southern Migration

The rain came a month late to Mesa Sur this year and never arrived with the vigor farmers there rely on because of climate change and El Niño. Still, they're working the land, and they're happy to be with their families — for now.

They're already planning for October, when they will prepare for their next journey to Costa Rica, where they can earn \$60 to \$100 per week — more than three times what they earn at home.

Of the 150 community members who will travel to Costa Rica later this year to work on coffee farms and in other jobs, 80 percent will go without documents.

"We don't have a choice," said Jose James Tercero Aguilar. "We can't make enough money here to survive."

In Costa Rica, the pay is good — usually. But there are risks. In 2012, Jose and his children Mangel and Yaqueline were detained at the border for 15 days and then sent back. A few weeks later, they made a second, successful attempt.

"I was really scared because we were separated, Mangel was in the facility for minors because he was only 16," said Yaqueline, who is part of the



Short-term immigration feels like the only solution to Jose and Patrona's family. With your help, communities like Mesa Sur can achieve local sustainability.

CEPAD Community Development Committee in Mesa Sur. "But everything turned out ok.

Their family has used the money from Costa Rica and resources from CEPAD to improve their home, pay off loans, and invest in their farm. But the people of Mesa Sur worry about the future.

Visit cepadnica.org/articles to read more about Mesa Sur and how you can help!



Mesa Sur's usually lush mountains are dry and brown. Nicaragua is facing record drought levels, and farmers worry about how it will affect coming growing seasons.

We're Dreaming For The Next Five Years. Will You Join Us Under the Mango Tree?

*A note from Damaris Albuquerque,
CEPAD's Executive Director*

CEPAD began as a dream under a mango tree. After 42 years and thousands of lives changed, we keep dreaming. We dream of serving more communities each year. We dream of sharing our proven techniques with other organizations. We dream of upgrading our offices and delegation accommodations.

We are in the process of strategic planning for the next five years, and as we reflect on the past and implement our vision for the future, I want to thank you for all you have done over the years to make so many dreams come true. **We are able to do this work because of you, the churches, organizations and individuals who**



walk with us in partnership. Without your donations, visits and prayers in these many years CEPAD would not be here today. We hope you remain committed to CEPAD so we can continue to provide the services, resources and support that propels communities forward.

During strategic planning, we will evaluate our impact in the 43 communities we partnered with since 2009 and choose new communities for the next five years. These processes are critical for the communities and the staff. **Community leaders lead the way on evaluation and reflect on their achievements, challenges, and goals for the future.** They evaluate CEPAD's staff performance, from

agricultural trainings to the value of meetings. Even though leaders in some communities wish CEPAD could continue there, they are excited that we will be able to work in nearby communities so they too can grow their economies and strengthen their infrastructure.

As we renew our mission and refine our programs, we are examining how CEPAD, Nicaragua and the world are changing. **We have learned to adapt to war and peace, to the**

emergencies and day-to-day struggles of Nicaraguans. We're also mindful of the funding challenges that may limit our ability to achieve as much as we hope. In the last five years, we have seen a steep drop in funding from international organizations that have pulled out of Central America.

We also recognize that many of our partner churches and organizations were

impacted by the international economic crisis.

I hope we can count on your support as we implement our new strategic plan. **Your gift to CEPAD will mean someone receives materials and training from CEPAD who might not have otherwise.** Every gift expands our ability to reach men, women and children throughout Nicaragua to give them a better chance of economic security, family stability and a more hopeful tomorrow. Consider giving today, whether to renew your support or give for the first time.

Thank you for making dreams come true.

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Your monthly commitment of at least \$10 will make all the difference for women like Oneida and her son Wilton. Visit cepadnica.org/donate to set up your recurring gift. Please contact Development Director Emily Hewes at emily@cepadusa.org for more info.



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risks they faced and possible solutions. Farmers were excited to learn about opportunities to seek funds from CEPAD and from local governments to install irrigation systems.

Farmers in San Francisco Libre are committed to working with a changing climate to ensure they can continue farm work to provide food and income. CEPAD will be there with training to give farmers in harsh regions a shot at success.

In the future, Arnulfo hopes he can quit his other job at a roof tile manufacturing plant and farm full time to earn enough to feed his children and pay for their school.

“I am a farmer in my heart,” he said. “I’m learning how to work with the climate to plant crops that will grow well, and my income from the farm is increasing a little bit. With God’s help, I will keep fighting.”

Arnulfo’s pride in his new plants reminds us why we keep fighting, too. Thank you for your continued support of CEPAD’s work! **You make a difference in the lives of rural Nicaraguan families every day.**