

Sustainable Harvest International Nell Newman Foundation FY14 Final Report

Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) is very grateful for the \$16,000 grant that the Nell Newman Foundation gave during fiscal year 2014. This support helped SHI accomplish our five areas of impact in support of our 600 participant families (3,632 people) in 68 communities. This year there were 9,320 indirect beneficiaries.

- **Agroforestry:**
 - Converted 413 new acres to sustainable farms
 - Belize: Converted 85 acres of land to slash and mulch with incorporated green manures
 - Nicaragua: Participants produced: 61,180 pounds of organic compost (chicken manure) 2,926 liters of foliar compost (Funco-Biol and Biofertilizer), 10,052 pounds (worm fertilizer). The families have easily implemented the use of worm fertilizer and compost because it has produced improved results on their land and it improves the soil and plant quality.
- **Environment:**
 - Reforested 278 new acres
 - Built 70 new wood conserving stoves that reduced the firewood consumption by 70%, eliminated respiratory diseases from smoke inhalation. The families say they no longer have respiratory problems from the smoke.
 - Planted 252,874 trees
 - Built 19 composting latrines
 - Dug 198 compost pits
 - Established 174 nurseries
- **Food Sovereignty and Nutrition**
 - 200 new vegetable gardens have been established and existing ones maintained.
 - Seed saving - SHI is improving the corn storage containers but need more metal silos to assure the seeds are not contaminated or rot. Made 22 grain silos.
 - Built 56 chicken coops
 - Installed 42 irrigation systems
 - Vegetable projects and trainings on diet and nutrition have overcome child malnutrition and improved family nutrition. Families in San Francisco Campo, Honduras didn't eat vegetables because they had to buy them, but now they grow them and can even sell them.
- **Livelihood:**
 - Participants were trained in entrepreneurship and bookkeeping. In Yoro, Honduras, participants were trained in fundraising and administration and writing funding proposals. The families in Concepcion del Norte, Honduras were trained in applying for proposals from the Northern Horizons Program.
 - Participants increased their organic production of produce and sold it in their community and at fairs, thus improving their quality of life.

- 156 active rural bank loans
- 55 families with a new small business
- Learning Capacity:
 - Participants offer services or knowledge to 9,320 neighbors or non-participants. SHI identified the families with leadership characteristics and the willingness to transfer their knowledge to their neighbors. Maria de Jesus Cortes from Laguna Verde, Honduras trained other women in neighboring communities in the transformation of plantain preparation, making it a value added product. The families in La Majada, Chinda, Honduras in San Pablo trained families in techniques for planting coffee crops that are resistance to fungus and planted on leveled curves. Farmers in San Pablo, Belize are sharing corn seed and row planting techniques, which increase yields with family and friends in their village and other villages.
 - Participants have improved self-esteem, respect, mutual support, and solidarity, which as contributed to family integration and valuing the roles of women and children. It is very satisfying to hear a wife, husband and children talk about the changes in their lives thanks to SHI. They say their quality of life has improved
 - Field trainers have given workshops on appropriate technology (improved stoves, chicken coops, cement tanks, irrigation systems), the application of CAPs, making fertilizer, baking, field plantains and more.
 - The families have improved the environment around their homes, reforested and protected their water sources.

Testimonial:

Erasmus Garcia and his wife are raising three children in the mountains of Honduras. With SHI's assistance, they have planted 3,500 coffee plants together with bananas and other crops in the shade of big trees including 300 hardwoods. They are producing tilapia in two fishponds, using a wood conserving stove and growing vegetables in an organic garden that produces year-round with drip irrigation. The 37,500 pounds of compost they produced, together with other organic fertilizers and organic pesticides support their increased farm production. Last but not least, they are protecting a 7.5-acre forest reserve on their land.

Erasmus says that he "feels good using environmental practices and likes protecting the forest." He also tells us that he is teaching other farmers to "avoid the bad practices inherited from our parents of burning the land, buying chemical fertilizers and using poisons on the land." Lastly, Erasmus wanted us to know that he "is very grateful to the SHI donors and field trainer for giving me new ideas and motivation." He says, "you are doing good for us and our community."

Photos

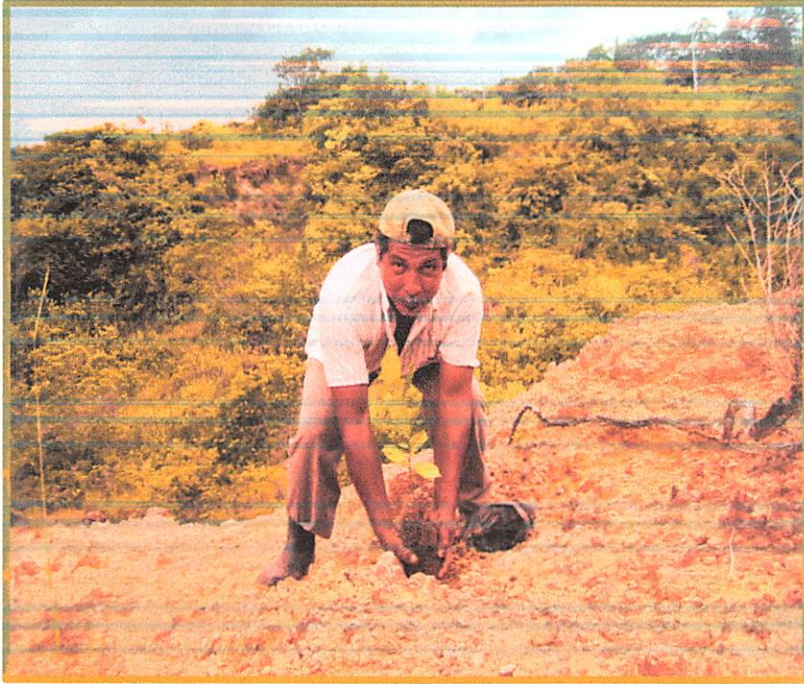
1. *Tranquilla School students preparing to plant trees in degraded soil.*



2. *Miguel Lorenzo & his pineapples.*



3. *José Rodríguez planting cashew seedling in degraded soil.*



4. *Josefa Araúz & her daughter show the Amaranth they planted near their home to improve their families diet.*



5. *Griselda Araúz shows her field of corn.*



6. *Erick Rodriquez planted different plants such as squash, yams, taro, cassava, banana & plum around his compost pile.*

