

Lucas Wolf Memorial Project – Montecillos, Honduras

September-October 2019 update

Report Date: November 4, 2019

We are pleased to share with you the progress with the Honduras Project in the last 2 months, since the last update.

Our partner CEASO in Honduras has installed fourteen tree nurseries with around 100,000 plants in twelve communities adjacent to the Montecillos Reserve: Corralitos (2), San José de Pane, San José de Comayagua, La Danta (2), La Tigra, La Laguna, Balibrea, Potrerillos 1, Potrerillos 2, Planes del Hormiguero, Matasano, and La Nueva Esperanza. The Fort Collins Breakfast **Rotary Club funded two of these tree nurseries!**

We intended to expand our tree nursery program in two new communities (3 de Septiembre and San Isidro), but we have not been successful as the Project Coordinator, Gerardo Santos, shared that he finds some apathy in the community and are not committed to the process. He has also observed some activities in the protected area such as hunting wildlife that is not allowed. We are still in touch with these communities, but as you all know, TWP and CEASO promote bottom-up processes, encourage the communities to decision-making and their autonomy; therefore, we put our efforts in communities that embrace the close relationship and regeneration processes we are trying to build in the area.

Forest, fruit and Musaceae trees have been installed in all the tree nurseries, and soon they will deliver forage trees. The grafting training is completed in the communities that had citrus trees (La Tigra, La Laguna, La Danta, Potrerillos, Corralitos).

The community and family gardens are pretty advanced and new crops are being planted (beans, radishes, mustards, carrots, beets, squash, cucumber and coriander, sweet potato, chayote squash). We also finished a small community survey to explore some elements about diet and health conditions of the families working for the community gardens. This is the first step to conduct a small project about food and nutrition security through practical workshops.

- San José de Comayagua: community garden with 8 families
- Corralitos: community garden with 12 families
- Matasano: community garden with 6 families
- Family gardens: La Laguna (9) and Corralitos (4), planes del Hormiguero (6), La Tigra (5), Potrerillos (5), San José de Pane (5)

Due the heavy rains common of this season, Planes del Hormiguero and Potrerillos have struggled to keep the crops safe; sadly, in one of the communities all the gardens were lost because of the flooding. We are already taking action to address this problem and re-install the gardens.

The construction of 120 ferrocement household cisterns was completed of which the Fort Collins **Rotary Club funded 20 cisterns for 20 families**, and CEASO finished placing the gutters to leave the rainwater catchment system of each house running. All the household cisterns are GPS referenced.

Finally, CEASO is getting ready to start the phase of “Justa” cookstoves. They are preparing to deliver the materials this week and start the training in Pane y Corralitos by the second week of November. The goal is 500, but they will start with 85 cookstoves in two communities: Corralitos (30) and San José de Pane (55). Thanks to **funding from Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary, 20 Justa cookstoves will be constructed!**



Don Juan de Dios in the community of La Laguna with the first pataste harvest of the season. Photo taken October 2019 by Gerardo Santos, CEASO.



Obed from the community of Corralitos waters the community tree nursery of 30,000 trees. Photo taken October 2019 by Gerardo Santos, CEASO.



Olvin (middle) and Tania (right) from the community of San Jose de Comayagua celebrate their first harvest of the year. Photo taken October 2019 by Gerardo Santos, CEASO.



Project Coordinator, Gerardo Santos (CEASO), leads a fruit tree grafting demonstration. Photo by Ever Lopéz, CEASO August 2019.