



PROMOTING PEACE
HUMAN RIGHTS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ECUMENICAL PROJECT FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Annual Report July 2010-June 2011

Sharing the knowledge base

This has been a particularly active year for successful exchanges and cross-pollination among EPIC programs. Program partners have visited one another to learn and to share experiences - visits that generated new ideas and renewed enthusiasm. For example, in February 2011 a five day course at La Semilla Training Center in Honduras brought together 5 Guatemalans and 11 Hondurans.



The participants represented 4 sustainable agricultural programs. These types of gathering are frequently called South/South exchanges, emphasizing local expertise.

Mapping Workshops for Intensive Production

Gabino López, the talented director of COSECHA, a Honduran sustainable agriculture program, gave 2 workshops in Guatemala where FUNDAMARCOS works in a very remote indigenous area. Here farms are only 2 to 10 acres, and the land must be cultivated intensively in order to feed farm families. Gabino taught simple mapping to analyze how best to use the limited land increase

and maximize production by simultaneously planting several crops.



The course at La Semilla included several field trips. Here agriculture teachers from 3 different programs collect the seeds of a fast growing nitrogen producing tree used in Honduras to shade organic coffee.



Mobile School of Soil and Water Conservation

The purpose of the Mobile School of Soil and Water Conservation is to share with other organizations the very effective practices of sustainable organic farming that have been developed in EPIC agricultural projects. In the photo below Felipe Tomás, director of the Mobile School, gives an introductory presentation on increasing harvests to a group of farmers in a new region. These people are both economic refugees and refugees of civil war.



Mayan workshop participants show their maps and explain how they have decided to plant their land for the most productivity.



Maya Cultural Center, Guatemala

An event at the Maya Cultural Center on April 16, 2011, enabled 45 leaders of Guatemalan sustainable agricultural programs to dialogue about the problems they face in common and to share ideas with each other from their own varied experiences. Maya agronomist, Gabino



López, presented his two recent books, Agroecología Práctica and Experiencias Familiares Campesinos. His presentations enabled the Guatemalan agriculturalists to learn from COSECHA's very creative and successful work in Sabanagrande, an extremely dry area of Honduras.

EPIC's Board and Members Have Also Been Sharing Knowledge And Experience With Programs



Paul Robinson works to install back-up in the office of Mujeres en Acción, a Guatemalan micro-finance program for women.

Board Members, Dick and Gretchen Williams, spent 3 weeks in Guatemala this spring. Visiting FUNDAMARCOS Gretchen picks organic green beans.



Dick Williams, EPIC Treasurer, and Paul McKay review financial records with Elizabeth Lopez, accountant for 4 programs EPIC supports in Guatemala. Board Members contribute their time and expenses.

Board Members, Tony Brun and Christie McKay with daughter Julia, get acquainted with the directors of Mujeres Siempre Vivas in San Lucas, Guatemala.



Tony was also animateur for projects in

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Laura Robinson, Colorado dental hygienist, taught dental care to 612 persons, 2/3 of whom were enthusiastic children.



Dana DeLoca, EPIC President, is spending fall 2011 in Central America sharing her media technology skills. Here she is working with the Maya Cultural Center helping a university student doing oral histories .