



Agrovivienda – Housing and Other Projects with Small Farmers in Masaya, Nicaragua

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NEW PROJECTS FOR 2007

Several new projects start this year, with some new sources of sponsorship. This bulletin gives brief details.

Solar Panels – ‘Proyecto Sol’ restarts

Last year, Proyecto Sol set up 20 solar panel kits. This year, we already plan an extension to the project to equip 22 more houses. Donations have come from Midland Heart housing group and from individual donors in England, and we have bids in for further funding from Places for People and from the British Embassy.



The picture shows a demonstration kit set up in a house near Tisma, where 5 kits have now been installed. The objective is to get up to about 150 installations, so that the repayments from the families enable us to carry on installing about 20 new kits per year.

Solar Energy – the Bigger Picture



The Leicester Masaya Link Group and ADIC Masaya are to be partners in a wider study looking at the potential for more extensive use of renewable energy, and particularly solar power, in Central America, with Loughborough University and the University of Lisbon.

Funded under the European Union COOPENER programme, the project is due to start in April and last for two years. Although it will not include funding for new solar kits, it will provide the opportunity to learn from and promote the principles of the project on a wider scale. The aim is to secure policy changes in favour of renewable energy sources and away from the current dependence on imported oil.

A New Project – ‘Agroselva’

LMLG is now collaborating with the link group in Nijmegen, Holland – another European city twinned with Masaya – to work on a new project in El Pochote, a village south of the city. LMLG previously had a successful experience in El Pochote with ‘Project Egg’.

The new project ‘Agroselva’ will build on this to work with 20 families to improve their farming practices on a wider basis, over the next two years. It starts in March.



School garden project enters final year



The school garden project continues with the final phases – depending on fund-raising – being the new kitchen and the hen house (and hens!).

The hope is that the project will be a pilot for further work with rural schools – to complement and widen ADIC’s general programme of promoting sustainable farming methods.

Agrovivienda and other projects are carried out by ADIC Masaya, supported by Leicester Masaya Link Group, the Chartered Institute of Housing, and others. The projects work with low income farming families in Masaya, Nicaragua to improve their housing and living conditions. More information at www.cih.org/nicaragua or www.leicestermasayalink.org.uk - or contact John Perry, project co-ordinator (johnperry@satelinet.net). To make a financial contribution, contact Claire Plumb (0116 223 2272 or leicestermasaya@btconnect.com).