

BY THE
NUMBERS
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PROJECT HARVEST - Guatemala

They Have Started Knocking On Doors!

Nineteen women have been elected to speak on behalf of the 3,800 beneficiaries of **Project Harvest**. They have chosen the name "Women Who Work the Land" and their greatest dream is to improve the situation in their communities so more people can live a dignified life where their rights are realized.

In May, 2022, these community leaders, accompanied by members of the **Project Harvest** team, began knocking on doors of governmental and non-governmental institutions. To date, they have contacted 25 public and private entities.



Ten organizations agreed to meet with them, allowing the women an opportunity to articulate with clarity and conviction the situation in their communities and the work they do. They requested support for food and agricultural inputs. The reaction of

- **85 women from 13 communities met in 5 inter-community assemblies**

their audience was applause and admiration for their effective presentation and the high level of organization they showed.

What Has Been Achieved So Far?

A delegation of leaders met with representatives from the **Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA)**. After learning about how MAGA works, the community of **Cuesta del Aire** was able to obtain seeds and arrange a visit by an agricultural outreach worker who shared his knowledge about improving productivity.

- **100's of formation sessions held – the sparks which have led to actions!**

Representatives of the **Western Cooperation Association for Rural Development (CDRO)** discussed the possibility of coordinating a project in the future. Meanwhile, two members of the **Vasquez** community were able to enroll in one of CDRO's tailoring course. In addition, in **Vasquez**, twenty families obtained six varieties of seedlings from the **Municipal Government of Totonicapán** to plant in their gardens.

- **19 women are elected to represent an organization of 540 members with 3,800 beneficiaries**



After several meetings, the **Women's Committees of the Casa Blanca/Xecaja** and **Chiyat** communities were invited to sign a letter of intent with the NGO **HELVETAS** (a Swiss association for international cooperation) to participate in a project called **Ixoquib' Juyub' (Women of the Mountain)**. This project will focus on climate change adaptation actions including the sustainable use of natural resources such as forest and water conservation and agricultural production. As well, the project will continue to promote the voice of women when it comes to developing municipal policies.



Many of the ten meetings with NGOs, government agencies and foundations have the possibility of bearing fruit. As women, the new rural leaders understand that building bridges of support requires time, persistence and a clear vision. They know that continued struggle at many levels is required to assure that their communities live with dignity.

- **New Rural Leaders identify 25 entities and begin the process of soliciting support for community needs**