



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

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SCHOOL PROJECT – WHAT THE STUDENTS THINK!

The school project started at the beginning of this year, with funds raised by the Leicester Masaya Link Group, is now well-advanced. Students were recently asked by the local organisation, ADIC, to describe their feelings. Of course, none of them were likely to be rude about the project, but even so the comments are encouraging.

Teachers Janet, Rafael and Theresa are in discussion with Fatima, from ADIC, who has been working with them to improve their presentation techniques. One comment is:

The difference now is the training we have had, which we are sharing with the students... We are working together better because of the different activities.



Cristian said:

Before we just thought plants grew by themselves, that you just had to come along and pick the fruit. We would cut trees down, not protect them.

Now we are more conscious of having to look after the plants – we know we depend on them because that's where our food comes from.

Griselda said:

We thought children didn't sow plants, now we realise we can.

We feel good because the school's starting to look nicer and we're glad about the project as it's taught us how to look after plants and trees.





Kevin said:

This has helped the school and it's also helped us. Now we understand how important plants and trees are.

Paola (standing near the tree, with the new swings in the background):

Before we just thought plants were there, and that was it. Now we know it's more than that.

Without the swings, school was boring, now we're much happier to come!



Maria said:

We've realised that it's good to plant things, to make our house look nicer – and the school and the village.

And we're organising ourselves into groups to take turns on the swings!

The 'sixth form' group concluded:

We want the smaller ones to carry on caring for the plants. We'll be happy if the project carries on... we'd like to be here to carry on looking after it.

But we'll come back to see how it's doing.



Agrovivienda is a project supported by the Chartered Institute of Housing and the Leicester Masaya Link Group, to improve housing and living conditions amongst subsistence farmers in the region of Masaya, Nicaragua. For more information, visit www.cih.org/nicaragua or contact John Perry, project co-ordinator (johnperry@satelinet.net). For information on how to make a financial contribution, contact Claire Plumb at 0116 223 2272 or email (leicester@masaya.fsworld.co.uk).