International Workers' Day

Social compromise

Work is a human right. It gives us the opportunity to realize ourselves as people and allows us to earn our daily bread and our families.

WFP staff is part of the team of humanitarian workers around the world. Their mission is to accompany governments to ensure the human right to food for all people, no matter who they are, where they are, or what social or religious group they belong.

Congratulations to all workers!

See photo gallery here

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Opinion editorial of WFP Regional Director, Miguel Barreto

Farmers from Pantasma cultivate native seeds

Rich and nutritious beans

The women from the Wale organization who recently joined P4P, have a wide variety of native bean seeds.

Members of the Multisectoral Women Organization of Wale select bean seeds for the upcoming planting season.

For four years the women farmers have been working together and cultivating native seeds for planting.

To learn more about their experience read the full story here.

Watch the video on the Youtube account PMA Latin America.
Nicaragua in alert due to earthquakes

Nicaragua lives an intense seismic activity that keeps the country and its population in alert. Two earthquakes with magnitude of 6.2 and 6.7 on the Richter scale occurred on 10 and 13 April north of Managua, followed by more than 1,000 aftershocks left two deaths from heart attacks and considerable damage.

The authorities declared a state of "red alert" in towns of León and Managua, to be prepared in the event of more earthquakes.

See photo gallery

Producing more efficiently and more clean

Smallholders in the northern region of Nueva Segovia participating in WFP’s Purchase for Progress (P4P), an initiative that is implemented with the assistance of the Nicaraguan Government, are changing their production techniques.

Through new tools for production, grow maize and beans without disrupting the soil and erode it. They also avoid chemicals that pollute the environment.

See photo gallery

A Vaccinne Against Hunger

*By Miguel Barreto, UN World Food Programme Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The world is changing and so is the face of hunger. Due to the persistent social inequalities in society, this new face affects every country regardless of their level of development. In middle-income countries large pockets of poverty (or "islands of wealth") coexist in the midst of economic progress and the populations that lack access to nutritious food and basic services, become more vulnerable.

This new face of hunger is not only rural, but peri-urban. It is a phenomenon that can be clearly perceived in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the most impoverished families precariously establish themselves on hills and streams near urban areas. This situation increases their vulnerability to landslides and natural disasters, while lacking basic services. Read more
Improving storage

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Relief (SINAPRED), Nicaragua’s Civil Defence, have joined forces to build a warehouse to store food and other essential inputs as a precautionary measure to be ready to assist in the event of an emergency.

The 316 square meter building is currently being constructed at km 7 on the Pan-American Highway. It has the capacity to store 500 metric tons and includes an office for the personal in charge of the supervision and management of the facility.

The construction of the warehouse has a total value of $95,000, of which WFP contributed $80,000.

This warehouse is being built to meet all the quality standards to ensure proper food storage.

“WFP Works jointly with the Government of Nicaragua, to respond effectively and immediately to disaster affected populations by storing food in a strategic location and safe conditions”, said WFP Representative to Nicaragua, Helmut W. Rauch.

WFP will continue to strengthen its partnership with SINAPRED. Read more

Managing risk

The National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Relief (SINAPRED) and WFP taught a Risk Management Course to better instruct 94 technicians from the government municipalities of Madriz, Esteli, Nueva Segovia and Boaco, Río San Juan, and the Caribbean Coast.

This course is held in Managua, where technicians travel every week to participate in the theoretical and practical sessions.

The objective of the course is to strengthen their knowledge of the risk and systematize the available information on the municipalities to improve the response to emergency situations.

“The subjects are very useful for our work,” said Zoraida Hurtado from the Municipality of Teustepe in Boaco. This municipality is regularly affected by flooding and landslides. “I am taking advantage of them and will then share the information with my community and put it in practice when necessary” said.

The governments of Spain and Australia are providing financial resources for the Risk Management Course that will conclude in August.

Municipal technicians also acquired knowledge about Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) and Emergency Storage and Product Handling sessions.

Subject area:

Characterization of Threats: geological and hydrometeorological

Threats of climate change

Damage and needs assessment

Risk reduction in the low income housing construction

Zoraida Hurtado from Teustepe, actively participate in the Risk Management Course.

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To respond to emergencies

Subject area:

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Saudi date palms in Jalapa

By Sabrina Quezada Ardila

The Municipality of Jalapa is one of the largest producers of staple grains in the country. A statue of Xilomen, the indigenous Goddess of Maize, stands tall and receives visitors in a park within the city centre, which is located 70 kilometres North East of Ocotal, in the Department of Nueva Segovia.

The sweet and nutritious Phoenix dactylifera (Date Palm) is a staple food to many Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt and Iraq. This palm flourishes in dry desert climates. Even though the highly productive agricultural land of Nicaragua is far from a desert, date palms are growing!

Alejandro Aguirre, a participant of the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, holds in his hands two date palm seedlings that he planted in September of last year, after the Maize Festival where he tried dates for the first time at the WFP stand.

“I enjoyed the sweet taste of the dates. The WFP stand told me I could grow the seeds. So when I went home and I planted the seeds of the three dates that I ate in an old rubber tire”, said Aguirre, who is the Manager of the Cooperativa Asociación de Campesinos para el Desarrollo Integral Sostenible (ACADIS, or Farmers Association for Integrated Sustainable Development).

Eight days later date palms sprouted. Since then Aguirre has taken great care of his palms, using organic fertilizer to strengthen them. “I was surprised when I saw the palms, I knew that they were from Saudi Arabia, a very different climate from what we have here,” said Aguirre.

He plans to plant his date palms in a lot near where he is constructing a new home. “They will definitely grow there”, he assures. Aguirre’s dream is to incorporate home grown dates into his household’s routine diet.

To be continued...

In 2013 Nicaragua was the receiver of a 136 Metric Tons contribution of dates from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King of Saudi Arabia, His Majesty Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. The dates were distributed amongst preschool and primary school students as a complement to the Ministry of Education’s School Feeding Programme. The seeds germinated and now are growing in the north region.

WFP Representative, Helmut W. Rauch; the Secretary and Private Advisor for the President of the Republic for International Affairs, Mohamed M. Lashtar; the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Mexico and Nicaragua, Hussein M. Alassiri, with students from “Rigoberto López Pérez” School during the handover ceremony and tasting of this Middle East fruit.
Her friendly face and huge smile greets colleagues, visitors, and vendors alike who come to the WFP Managua Office, where she has worked as a receptionist for the past five years.

Fabiola Chavez, of dark complexion and curly hair, is a provider, head of her household, and mother of three children ages 6, 7, 12. She expressed that her motivation to work in a humanitarian agency was to serve those in need.

"Even my job is at the front desk, I always wanted to know more about working in communities, conversing with the people and learn from them," said Fabiola.

Fabiola seized the opportunity and made a request to join the team of the Government of Nicaragua and WFP that would held an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) on Nicaraguan communities near the Caribbean coast, in order to assess the effects caused by floods and heavy winter rains.

Fabiola did the proper training for carrying out surveys, and was oriented by her colleagues in order to prepare for the 15 days long fieldwork.

"I left my little children with my mom," said Fabiola. "I knew I would miss them during the two weeks of work away from home, but I left with the conviction that they were well cared."

For fifteen days without rest, Fabiola along with a team of experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR), Ministry of Family Affairs and from the WFP visited communities in the municipalities of Desembocadura de Rio Grande and Laguna de Perlas in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS), where families live in impoverished conditions and are vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

It was a very exhausting mission. We walked for hours under the burning sun and crossed rivers, mudflats, and rocky paths”, said.

"It was a challenge for a person like me who is not used to exercise," she said. "I returned with a new perspective about life, aware we have to helping those in need". Read more

Efficiency and stability

In Nicaragua, WFP supports smallholder farmers produce 70% of the country’s staple grains. WFP purchases a portion of these grains to supply country programmes.

WFP has been collaborating with la Cooperativa de Servicios Multiples Campesinos Activos de Jalapa (CCAJ) since 2009 through WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) project.

Small farmers are producing staple grains and increasing productivity and quality.
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