



“YACHUYAJ WO” GARDEN PROJECT, SEPTEMBER 2014



Left:

Pascual and wife with their harvest of tomatoes . Right: Antonio and family team.

Time flies and we´re starting a new summer sowing season!! We have to thank God for a good year. 60 families from the Pilcomayo area (from La Puntana to San Luis) and 40 families from the Bermejo zone have sown maize, pumpkins, watermelons and beans. We have started work in the lower Pilcomayo (Potrillo zone) with 15 families having a harvest in their irrigated plot and now Antonio, the wichi extension worker, has set up 25 new irrigation “kits” that will be producing in the next 60 days. Images below are from the Misión Chaqueña area where harvest is in full swing.

17 families are now harvesting tomatoes and peppers under plastic to protect from frosts. Here left, Antonio with his produce.





Bottle trees in winter at Hickmann's abandoned train station. The white is the "wool" that covers the seed.



Naldo and Pantaleón with fruit of their first harvest.

This community has taken serious interest in agriculture and more families are getting involved.

These two are part of the new group.



Alec with Fernando, who is now in his second year of this type of agriculture. Very happy with the project.

Pastor Nestor Perez from La Paloma in Hickmann.

His son, Donaldo, has taken the lead in pushing the tomato production.



Here Pantaleón with a box of tomatoes he's giving me as a gift. I never say no to a move like this. In the link below you can see Panaleón's plot of tomatoes under plastic and then the well we have dug but did not succeed in pumping water. The filter broke 21 meters under and we have to re do it.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580587672066990&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>



This is San Ignacio community. First year producing and doing well. It seems Mrs is not very happy...

The fruit is eaten or sold. As harvest in the wichi culture is shared many more families are benefitted from this work because the fruits are given away to whoever asks. The work is done by the gardener but the harvest is shared. Something to learn.

You can see the real thing clicking here:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580556198736804&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>

They´re in need for a water pump. That tap you see there has to do for 9 families.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580526678739756&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>



Landito produces with solar energy. Here left his grandson. Showered by tomatoes.



Elsa

comes from a family of craftsmen that have chosen to mix the woodwork with agriculture. See both at:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=581672138625210&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580733645385726&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>



These are Regino's grandchildren.

He explains in wichi language that the work he does with the garden is mainly for his family and not for money. I suppose it shows the difference between how their culture thinks and our's...

See the harvest: <https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580624822063275&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>



Ana

Lia above left didn't have materials to tie the plants so she undid a sweater

and scarf and was able to do the job. A good example for all to make use of what is available. <https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580602852065472&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>



The pastor's

Macio (above right) is deaf since a baby but always good care of my truck and things. Scarecrow that moves with the wind in another craftman's family garden.

son takes





Water is still a problem and we're attacking it by digging hand wells that produce 6000lts/hour. We can solve the water problem in these villages if we have support.



But roses on the left not all is as this well for Hickmann community failed. The filter broke at 21 mts below and sand filled the bottom. We will try and use it as a hand pump. We are starting another one this week. What is interesting is that the government has copied our system and are digging this way. Since the start of this project that is what we wanted. Lay the example for others.



Two new pumps at work. This one on the left goes for the craftsmen's area of the village.



Hand made filter and just finished pump. A NGO from the south of the country sent a pump (Balducho is holding it) but it was too "fat" so it never could fit into the pipe. Also it was too small and would pump very little water. We provided the materials and the correct pump for this well.

I have to say that some NGOs advertize their work to generate funds but don't comply with quality materials for the wichi. The same goes for the government.



Here another finished pump with the tank in the background.

Some pumps we provided still have not got the structure for the tanks. We are insisting they make the structure on their own and we then give them the tank.



If we have water it affects health and also we can produce good food and income as Antonio shows at right. See his tomato factory!:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=556258104499947&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>



In November 2013 report I mentioned:

I'm using my own personal vehicle and this is 10 years old. We need to look for donors as although it takes me and brings me back it's not sustainable on the long run. I will be pushing the government to take this responsibility.

In February 2014 report I wrote:

- Once again I mention that I'm using my own personal vehicle and this is over **10 years old**. We need to look for donors as although it takes me and brings me back it's not sustainable on the long run. I have to whip the horse to pass trucks!!

Then in June 2014:

- As said before, the job depends much on my personal 10 year old vehicle. This is not sustainable on the long run. We are looking for donors...

Well, my brother John (who lives in OHIO) accepted the challenge and with his family and friends has **rounded up the money for a new vehicle!!!** We are very grateful for this generous initiative. We could not do the job with my old Toyota much longer. Muchas gracias hermano!!



Last but not least I have to mention that the crafts we promote and are sold in the UK by www.siwok.org.uk have been quite affected by new rules here. We will have to send them a more expensive way if we were to continue. We are not throwing in the towel and hope these regulations can be modified for the benefit of the poorest in the country: the wichi.



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT!!

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