

DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

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In this issue:

- Introduction
- The Dos Corrientes Initiative.
- Agriculture Update
- Universities
- Rotary Club
- The Virtuous Circle
- Donate

Welcome to the Dos Corrientes Journal

The World Bank, located in Washington, DC, is an international development organization owned by 187 countries. Its role is to reduce poverty by lending money to the governments of its poorer members to improve their economies and the standard of living of their people. However, although the Bank has undertaken projects in health, education and food security, it has a mixed record of getting successful results.

All too often, World Bank project failures have been the result of a poor understanding of local cultures and gender norms, insensitivity towards local needs, the imposition of donor projects, structures and values, and a lack of maintenance frameworks to ensure project sustainability.

These failures are just what was needed to give Dos Corrientes the impetus to understand the current paradigm and then make innovative modifications allowing for success in poverty alleviation and community transformation.

We know from our early successful results that we are heading in the right direction. With this in mind, Dos Corrientes is pleased to bring you the second edition of the “Dos Corrientes Journal”. In this issue you will come to know more about the Dos Corrientes Initiative, our progress in the field of food sovereignty, research that is currently in progress in the village we serve and about skill-based education built upon a platform of entrepreneurship.

Welcome to Issue #2



Community Garden on The Dos Corrientes Farm.

The Dos Corrientes Initiative

The Dos Corrientes initiative is founded on the following facts:

Fact #1: Poverty is viewed by people in developed countries in terms of material things. Impoverished people have a divergent view. They see poverty not as a lack of material things so much but as despair, hopelessness, shame and lack of self-esteem. Solve those problems and individuals can have dreams about their lives that can be realized and communities can be transformed.

Fact #2: Since World War II, attempts to bring about economic transformation have been largely unsuccessful. A new model of global cooperation is required.

Fact #3: Macro infrastructure projects can be facilitated by governments and institutions.

Fact #4: Individuals must facilitate community transformation.

On the basis of these facts, Dos Corrientes created its vision.

Dos Corrientes Vision

To create a model that can be used worldwide to alleviate family poverty and transform communities.

Viewed in totality, the model to achieve the vision is innovative and unique.

Components of the Model:

1. Ongoing and extensive research is required for each community to determine what is causing its poverty challenges and providing opportunities for development.



2. Each solution must be based on causes, not symptoms of poverty and facilitated with the community and individuals. Not for them.
3. Food sovereignty “the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems” is the first priority. This is accomplished through the teaching of “Backyard Food Production Systems” and the creation of community gardens that utilize natural, organic and sustainable processes.



4. Skill-based education followed by the “Dos Corrientes Idea to Execution” process.
5. The “Dos Corrientes Virtuous Circle” and the Keynesian Multiplier Effect of Money” to promote community growth.
6. English to be taught to facilitate commerce outside the community.
7. Working with both local and foreign universities for student and faculty research and engagement.



8. Dual corporate structure to enhance revenues and create project sustainability.

Agriculture Update

They say that “you can grow anything in Ecuador...take a broom handle, stick in in the ground and it will grow”. That saying might be true in the Amazon, but it certainly isn't in the semi-arid regions of coastal Ecuador where the Dos Corrientes Farm and the village of Liguiki is situated. Climate change, soil degradation and low rainfall make growing fruit and vegetables a significant challenge. However, thanks to advancement in the knowledge of permaculture techniques, growing abundant crops is not only possible, it's being done!!!

The “Backyard Garden Food Production System” online course was a huge success with gardens and vegetables growing in many homes in the village of Liguiki. This month, crops were harvested from the community garden on the farm. Lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, arugula, beets, carrots, peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes were in large supply. These were harvested, washed, packaged, and distributed by local villagers throughout Liguiki to those who need food. Distribution systems were also tested with a restaurant and a few stores from a large town about 15 miles away. They bought all the natural, organic products that were shown to them. These distribution systems will become important in the future for villagers near the farm to grow and sell their produce.



OUR PRODUCTS

Before distribution, the harvest was washed and packaged. With it, the good name of Dos Corrientes is spreading .



Universities

Rotary Club



A very important component in the work at Dos Corrientes is the relationship and engagement with both faculty and students at universities locally and abroad. In order to be leading edge and useful to others internationally, The Dos Corrientes initiative must be grounded in research and project development. To that end, we are currently partnering with four universities, each offering assistance in mutual areas of interest.

We are very fortunate that ESPOL, a university situated about a three-hour drive from the farm in the city of Guayaquil, is teaching a design thinking course entitled “Analysis and Resolution of Problems”. Professor Sharon Quintanilla held an exploratory meeting with the staff of Dos Corrientes followed by a visit to the farm and nearby village of Liguiqui. They then began their research into two areas:

- (1) “Empowerment of Women in the Liguiqui Community” and
- (2) “Development of Skills that Can Become Produce Income”.



In October, Dos Corrientes was given the privilege of addressing three Rotary Clubs in the Toronto area by Zoom...(The Rotary Club of Waterdown – thanks Jeff Kleven, The Rotary Club of Mississauga – thanks Paul Keul and the Rotary Club of Toronto West – thanks Dave Crack). The presentation documented the “Dos Corrientes Story” and was well received. Videos of “The Story” were shown and an outline of poverty definitions and solutions was given. Questions from each group were far ranging and included...” What has been the impact of Dos Corrientes on the village of Liguiqui”? “Where do you get your water supply”? “Can we come to Dos Corrientes and work on the project”?

The vision of Dos Corrientes aligns with the Rotary Club’s vision, and the values of Dos Corrientes align with many of the Rotary Club’s values.

Rotary is active in Ecuador. A friend of “Dos Corrientes”, Dr. Jorge Gomez-Paredes is the President of his Rotary Club in Ecuador’s capital city, Quito. In addition to teaching at Yachay University, Jorge is the Ecuador representative for the UN Sustainable Development Support Network. Additionally, Jorge introduced us to Minnelly Meza the president of the Rotary Club of Manta, the closest city to the Dos Corrientes farm, about 35 miles away.

We are looking forward to exploring additional opportunities with Rotary.

THE DOS CORRIENTES VIRTUOUS CIRCLE

The Dos Corrientes Virtuous Circle is a chain of events in which one desirable occurrence leads to another which further promotes occurrence and so on ...



“As a humble tribute to the two currents above which we stand and from which so much grows, we dedicate the name "Dos Corrientes" ”

-Heather and Don



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Here is how you can donate and receive a tax receipt.

<https://connect.ufv.ca/South-America-Growth-Project-Foundation-Dos-Corrientes>

If you use this link, please let Don Wilson know (don@doscorientes.com) so that your gift can be tracked.

Many prefer to donate using the Dos Corrientes link (click the button).

DONATE