

# La Programa de Semillas

Sharing time, hard work, stories and food  
in two villages of Peten

October-November 2022

# La Esmeralda

- Seven days, 15 families
- Reviewing successes, struggles
- Double-digging new beds, adding compost
- Adjusting methods to meet their needs; water, soil, sun.
- Planting seeds: radish, carrot, cilantro, red onion, green beans  
ILAG Seed Program provided each family with 5 packs of seeds

Pastor Julio is the ILAG leader for the villages we stayed.  
He organized all our visits and took care of us



DOMINGO	LUNES	MARTES	MIÉRCOLES
MISA MARIA ISABEL 6am	JUANA GIMENEZ 6am	CARMEN GIMENEZ 7am 2	ERLINDA PEREZ 7am
- ALMUERZO	ALMUERZO	TALLER 10am ALMUERZO	ALMUERZO
- ELENA ORTIZ	- OTILIA RAMIREZ	- GUADALUPE TOC	- TALLER 2PM
JUEVES	VIERNES		
- PE. FABIAN GASPARE 7am	- GLORIA CHAI 7am		
- ALMUERZO	- ALMUERZO		
- ROSA ORDOÑEZ 2	- LUCIA FELIPE		



**Pastor Julio and  
his daughter  
Juanita.**





**We stayed at  
Maria Isabela & Domingo's home  
in La Esmeralda**





# Elena and Miguel's garden

The stream is dry the months of March, April and May







## Otilla, her spouse and sons

A fence to keep out chickens and dogs.

They had huge tree roots to remove and told me the logs helped prevent erosion when there were heavy rains. We sculpted a path to slow the water and we double-dug the beds. They will experiment to see if this solves their erosion and keeps the beds moist when there is no rain.







## Carmen and her daughter Suzanne

The village health  
clinic is in their  
home.  
Stitching-up cuts,  
pulling teeth,  
infections and  
respiratory illness







Some soils rich and loose,  
some like clay,  
some rocky.

Tools are important:

Azadón, pioche, pala and rastrillo

**Pedro and his  
wife and daughter  
Guadalupe**





Quisquil,  
yerba mora,  
café,  
banana,  
mango,  
pineapple,  
and more







**Erlindo and  
son Miguel**

Wet and  
rich soil

Side  
boards  
were  
common  
in places  
where  
flooding  
occurs







Miguel  
shows us  
how to  
harvest  
“hearts  
of  
Palm”







## **Candela and her spouse**

They were cheerful and hopeful even in the presence of the hard work of very hard and rocky soil



# Pastor Fabian's family

loose soil, deep beds, and readily available compost, water and drainage.







# Farming Fish











## **Rosa and her sister's family**

The family making, the family garden.

Adding depth from 3-6 cm to to 20-30 cm and adding soil nutrients

Directing water to maintain moisture through dry seasons and prevent flooding in the wet season.





# Santa Amelia

- Seven days, 8 families, and one group of 12 women
- Mujeres de Sembradoras,  
*a large parcel of land they work together to grow vegetables for sale and for their families. Their garden plot has a well, pump and irrigation system that the ILAG Seed Program helped them to write a grant.*
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# Santa Amelia Lutheran Church and dormitory





Santa Amelia church dormitory,  
shower and out house





Family invites for  
every meal

Elodia makes tayuyos

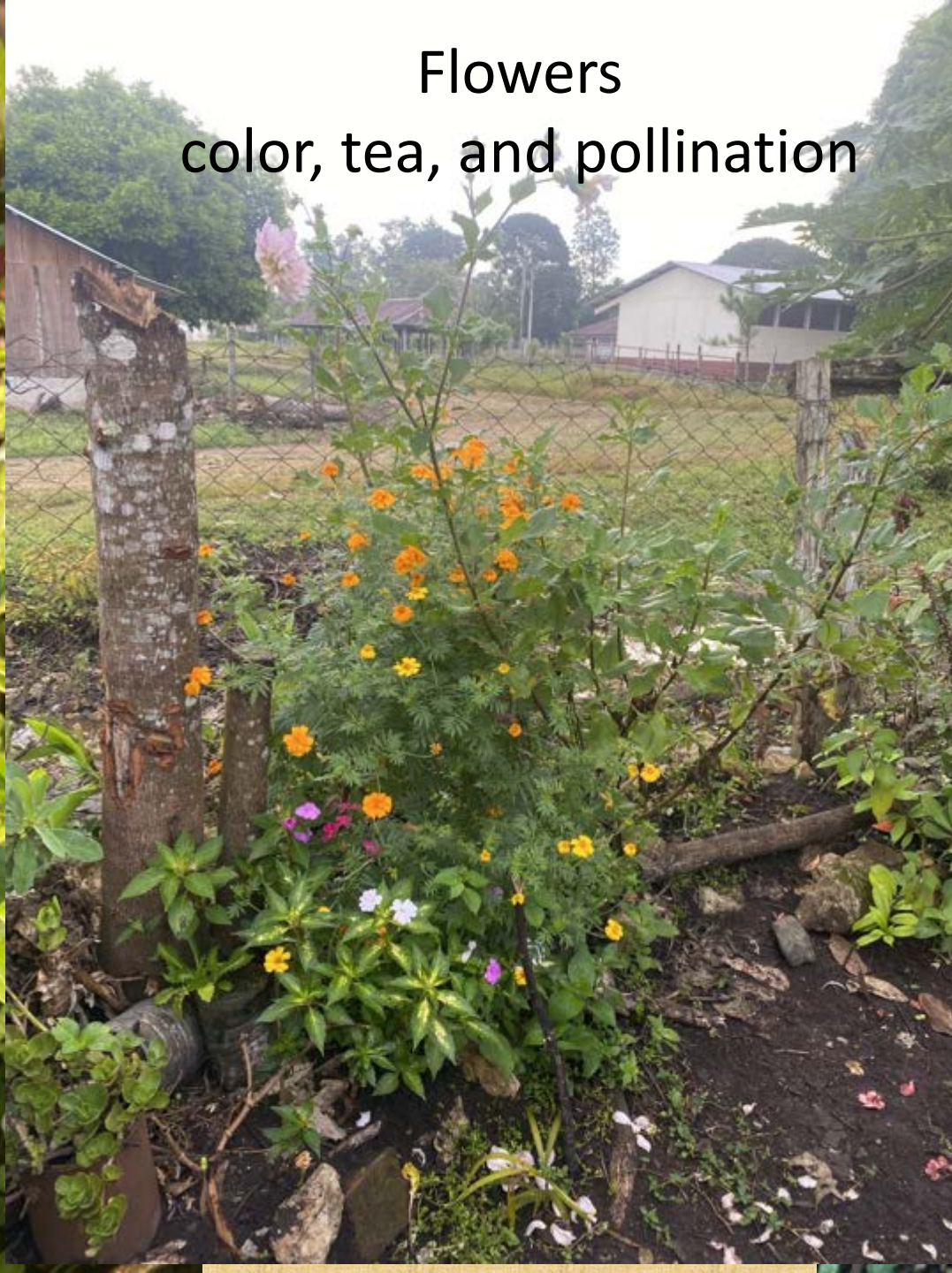


Simona make tamales





Flowers  
color, tea, and pollination







**Elodia's  
Garden**



**Harvesting  
carrots in rich  
loose soil**





Angelina's daughter

Sandra and her partner

Gallinaza  
(Chicken manure)  
was the most  
common compost





Leonardo and Simona's hard clay soil was a challenge







## Patrocinia and her son

Beautiful soil,  
plenty of  
compost and  
carbon to add  
nutrients, and...  
then, we hit the  
water pipe!





Cristina and  
her nephew



Zig-zag seed spacing  
creating shade



Five seed types for  
each family







## **Marta Ax's Garden**

Her son Carlos worked closely with Elias to make each day go smoothly for our us. Elias and Carlos often translated for their parents and others whose 1<sup>st</sup> language is not español.





Roman, his spouse and son Joseph  
close to the river for water





Auroda and  
daughter Valeria







bananas and  
tangerines!





# Mujeres Sembradoras

15 women work hard together to provide for their families and the community







Making new garden beds, horizontal to the hill.

To Reduce erosion

To Capture and retain more water for the plants.











## Howler Monkeys

serenaded us  
every night  
and Spider  
monkeys gave  
us a climbing  
show!





# PermaGardens

They're not just for kitchens anymore

**For Further Information**

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**Healthy Soils = Healthy Plants =  
Healthy People = Strong  
Communities**