

MILPA PROJECT

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Psalm 96:11-12

“Let's join together and continue with hope defending and caring for Madre Tierra and the spirits” Berta Caceres

VAMOS A LA MIPA: SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE!

PROJECT SUMMARY

As the food and hunger crisis in Honduras deepens the SHARE Foundation is supporting our Honduran Sisters and Brothers with the launch of, Vamos a la Milpa, a project that aims to achieve food security by resurrecting the indigenous tradition of planting vegetable gardens of corn, beans, squash, and potatoes in small plots of land and /or pots in every home.

The project is co-sponsored by the Jesuit sponsored Radio Progreso/ERIC, the Council of Organizations and Indigenous Peoples of Honduras (COPINH) and many others as they tackle the deepening crisis after Covid 19.

For millennia across Mesoamerica, the planting of communal gardens was a way of life, rooted in a deep respect for the earth and sky and four directions and a spirituality that recognized the interconnectedness of all creation. Yet five hundred years of conquest, the adoption of a neoliberal model and the imposition of industrial agrobusiness have taken a profound toll. The coronavirus pandemic has magnified and exacerbated the crisis leading to even greater famine and disease. The products that predominate in the Honduran Milpas are

In Honduras, the milpa consists of corn, beans and squash. Women plant and tend to home gardens; many are holding down the household while their life partners have migrated north in search of work. But the milpa is more than food.

La Milpa is solidarity: La Milpa fosters unity – the land, the water, and the people are bound together in hope.

La Milpa is political: La Milpa provides daily bread with equity and in harmony with the environment and sovereignty.

La Milpa is life: La Milpa is rooted in creation, nourishing with encouragement and love.

OBJECTIVES

1. to support Honduran families as they seek to achieve food sovereignty by planting sustainable, organic family gardens (at home or on small plots)
2. to strengthen community identity by sharing collective wisdom, conserving natural assets and fostering biodiversity
3. to seek policies that supports ecological integrity of all creation

TEN MILPA ACTIVITIES:

1. Provide Educational workshops, seminars, meetings in different territories & the promotion of regional exchange of women
2. Promote Agro-Ecology experimentation center & sharing knowledge
3. Produce & disseminate educational, audiovisual materials
4. Introduce diversification of crops with creole seed & agro-ecological techniques
5. Support legal initiatives for promotion of land access & land title procurement
6. Purchase and distribute creole seed and other materials necessary for production
7. Promote community fairs for purchase and sale of products
8. Promote national fair.
9. Milpa delegations to Honduras to visit families & celebrate the Milpa model (May 7-17, 2021)
10. Visit from Honduras to the USA to Plant Seeds of Solidarity (September 2021)

A MILPA BASKET

A Milpa Basket includes a Native Bag of Seeds, Tools Kit for planting the Milpa and Ten Activities that will reach 400 families directly and 10,000 families indirectly

A Native Bag of Seeds may include corn, beans, yucca, plantain, chayote, pumpkin, tomato, mustard, radish, chili pepper, potato, pineapple, melon, watermelon, trees of orange, avocado, mango, guanaba, guava, medicinal plants to strengthen the immune system against COVID 19 (epazote, eucalyptus, ginger, chamomile, pepper, cinchona, aloe vera), and flowers.

Tools Kit for planting a Milpa include: machete, cuma, shovel, rake, pick, pruning knife, digging fork, dibber, trowel, wire, rope; comal, metate grinding stone, woven baskets.

- A Milpa Basket for \$450
- A Native Bag of Seeds for \$45 for 1/4 of a Manzana Tools Kit for planting a Milpa for \$30

- Medicinal plants \$10, a fruit tree \$5
- One of the Ten Milpa Activities \$2,500 to \$5,000
- Purchase land for a cooperative/collective of families \$20,000

We invite you to donate to support the Vamos a la Milpa at SHARE-EISalvador.org or make a check to SHARE Foundation/Vamos a la Milpa 2425 College Ave. Berkeley CA 94704

