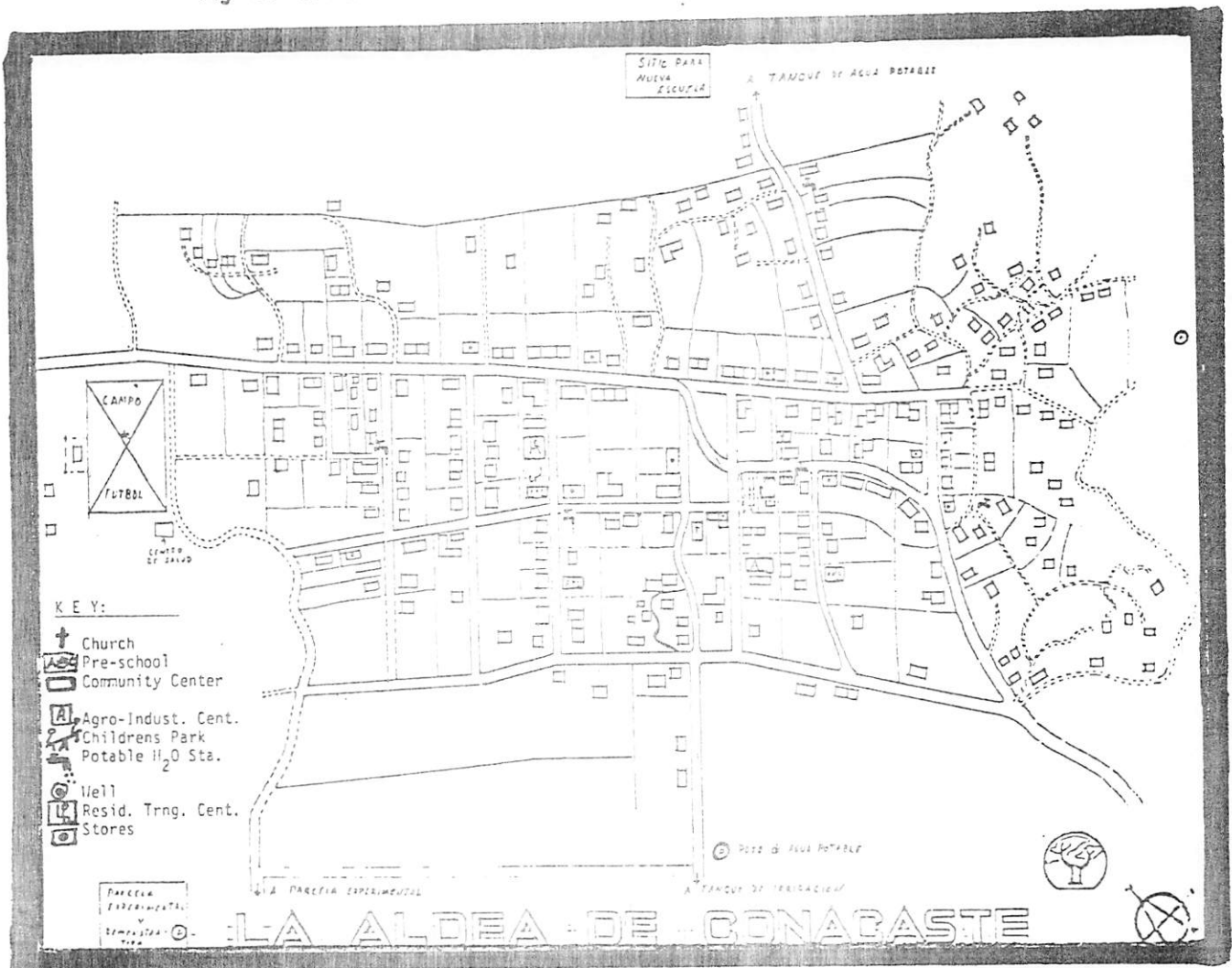


## CONACASTE

January to December, 1982

The Human Development Project-Conacaste is a pilot experiment of integrated development in a rural community, northeast of Guatemala City, 3 km. from the Atlantic Highway at km. 53. The Project was initiated June 25, 1978 with a two-week consult, and the initial phases of the four-year plan have been completed. Currently, the emphasis moves from the social to the economic structures, plus the possibility of extension to other villages in the area.



PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF I.C.A. GUATEMALA  
January to December, 1982

The work of ICA-Guatemala for the 1982 has focused in the following arenas:

The construction of the central irrigation water delivery system includes a network of pipes in the village, the two kilometers of pipes from the Plátanos River, and the pumping stations. Since the signing of the contracts with TECNICA HIDRAULICA and DAHO POZOS, S.A. in May and June 1982, respectively, the ICA has been busy with fulfillment of formalities and corresponding follow-up for disbursements from our financing institution, permissions to cross private and public lands, topographical surveys, and the supervision of the construction itself. Execution of the construction program began upon receipt of the first disbursement on August 23, 1982 and is currently in process. This is to be completed in May 1983.

IRRIGATION  
CONSTRUCTION

The formation of the agricultural cooperative that will eventually own and manage the irrigation system culminated in the constitution of the cooperative in May, and completion of legalization with INACOP the end of October. During this period the cooperative members were busy forming their statutes, learning how to operate as a cooperative, thru training schools and regular meetings of the cooperative. The official swearing-in of the new Board of Directors will occur on Feb. 1983. The regular rhythm of training and meetings will continue, under professional direction.

THE  
AGRICULTURAL  
CO-OP

The agricultural promoters are six members of the cooperative, selected for special training in operating the drip irrigation systems, general agricultural practices, and basic administrative processes. These "master farmers" will assist the cooperative members when they take their loans and begin the drip-irrigation intensive farming. The promoters have been engaged in "on the job" training in irrigation technology in the experimental parcela and in classroom instruction, five days a week. The first of January, this program will be intensified with two promoters being trained in loan administration and co-op marketing, and four promoters being trained in total farm management.

AGRICULTURAL  
TRAINING

The six acre experimental parcela has been the training ground for the promoters, under the supervision of an agronomer. The parcela has continued as a crucial testing ground for possible new crops that have market potential locally or abroad. In this period we have been testing broccoli, onions, three types of tomatoes, peanuts, redbeans, chile peppers, okra, cashew nuts, and lemon trees. The parcela's role of demonstrating possibility, providing general instruction, and maintaining morale has been critical to the farmers in this period of co-op formulation and construction work.

THE  
PARCELA

The market research efforts have been a major concern for us since we believe the saturated local market to be the major block to the success of the irrigation project. In our study of local markets we have confirmed what others said, that the only predictable pattern is the unpredictable fluctuation. We have talked to major exporters of foods in Guatemala, and have researched more than 100 exportable crops, to see which are suitable to our altitude and climate and irrigation system. We are continuing to test some of these crops in our parcela. Our best hopes lie with the newly emerging interest in food processing, which emphasizes local and export markets with fresh and frozen shipping. We have established relations with Gato Gordo, Convoit, and other companies in this arena. The freezing process makes possible standard marketing prices.

MARKET  
RESEARCH



REPRESENTATIVE VICTORIES FROM COUACASTE

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ELECTRICITY                             | INTERNATIONAL TRAINING EXCHANGE          |
| POTABLE WATER                           | COMMITTEE FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION    |
| FOUR PRE-SCHOOLS                        | AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE LEGAL/OPERATING |
| ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM                  | STREETS NAMED--SIGNS UP                  |
| NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH BLDG.               | DEMONSTRATION MINI-FARM                  |
| NEW PROTESTANT CHURCH BLDG.             | REGULAR COMMUNITY PLANNING               |
| NEW HEALTH POST BLDG.                   | COMMUNITY GARDENS                        |
| Q500,000. LOAN FOR IRRIGATION           | ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM WITH GOV. AGENCIES |
| TWO LEGALIZED PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEES | COMMUNITY MEETING HALL                   |
| REGULAR LEADERSHIP TRAINING             | IMPROVED SPORTS FIELD                    |
| SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM                | CHILDRENS PARK (WITH PLAY EQUIPMENT)     |
| EXTENSIVE NEW CONSTRUCTION              | EXTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL EDUC. PROGRAM     |

