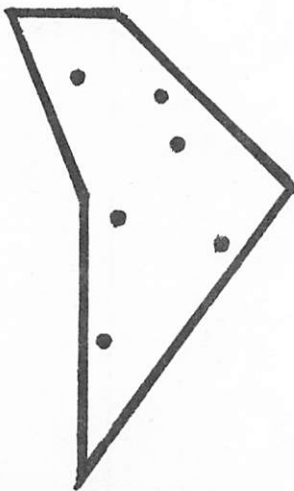


Second  
ANNUAL REPORT



Village of Conacaste

Pilot Project  
for  
Central America



The Conacaste H.D.P. is a pilot experiment in integrated development in a rural community, north east of Guatemala City, 3 km. off the Atlantic highway at km. 53. Launched on June 25, 1978 with a two week consult, the Project has completed it's initial phase of a 4-year plan. During this phase, the 11 actualizing programs have been launched and are in various stages of development toward self-sufficiency. During the past year the program has placed strong emphasis on leadership and management skills training. This is to stimulate the villagers into assuming greater responsibility in developing the programs to plan and shape their own future. The following paragraphs are reports from the six guilds responsible for actualizing the 11 programs. These guilds work and meet weekly to plan together to realize their hopes and dreams. Many of the same people work weekly in the five geographical sectors that divide the village into neighborhood "care" units.

### THE AGRICULTURAL GUILD

A one acre plot demonstrating drip irrigation revealed the possibility of increasing quantities to eight times the national average in some crops, and no less than five times the national average in all crops.

The introduction of crops new to Conacaste produced impressive harvests.

Most important is that the local farmer directed this sophisticated irrigation system completely by himself for 9 months, following training during the first crop. This success was helpful in winning approval from I.A.D.B. for a long term loan of \$500,000. exclusively designated for a community-wide drip irrigation system.

In addition, the agriculture guild sponsored other programs such as planting 2200 trees in the village.

### THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUILD

The Industrial Park Building which was begun last year, was brought to completion, and was inaugurated with an open house for the village and friends.

A new oven was constructed and the bakery was installed in the new industrial building.

The wicker industry responded to markets, intensified it's production and began training new personnel.

Two new industrial possibilities that are on the drawing board tie in to the new irrigation program.

### THE HEALTH GUILD

Five hundred teeth were pulled in a two week intensive health campaign. The campaign also included hundreds of general medical examinations and treatment, and medical visits to each home.

The services of a resident doctor (secured last year) have been sustained, and expanded this year to include education and training.

A new, 4 room Health Center nears completion in Conacaste.

Nutritional snacks are provided daily for both the public school and pre-school children.

### THE PUBLIC SERVICES GUILD

The inauguration of electricity in the homes occasioned an all-night celebration. Later, when the public lights were installed, a mood of awe swept the community. Electricity has expanded development possibilities of the community.

The recovery of the 15 year old well in the plaza, thru cleaning and installation of a submersible electric pump, has made potable water available and economically feasible.

A water reservoir of 1,560 cubicfeet was carved out of mountain rock, lined with cement and weather proofing and then roofed with lamina. This was done by villagers working in conjunction with a group of DePauw University students who volunteered for two weeks.

Following that, the villagers installed 9,000 ft. of distribution pipeline under the village streets. As soon as the promised donation of valves and pipes arrive from the U.S.A., distribution centers will be installed in each sector.

A community-owned T.V. now provides nightly entertainment and knowledge access to the outside world.

### THE EDUCATION GUILD

The pre-school expanded to a daily double session (morning and afternoon) to accomodate 80 children. Four village "teachers" run the school with ICA consultation.

The adult literacy program continues in 3 different forms, as increasing numbers of villagers are realizing the importance of education.

An intensive 2-week Adult Leadership Training Module was given for 25 village leaders, and potential leaders.

Ten weeks of technical training was given by specialized agencies, in the fields of agriculture and home economics.

### THE SYMBOL GUILD

The Conacaste Symbol that appears on the front of this report was created out of the community to express their developing sense of pride and corporateness.

Every house in the village has a poster with the picture of the Conacaste tree and the words "people of good wood", to remind themselves to be the greatness they really are.

A 4x6 ft. slab of Conacaste wood was polished and carved with the symbol, ready to be placed in a re-newed plaza. Construction of the new church continues under direction of a community committee.

## THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The people of Conacaste assumed responsibility for sharing their learnings with others, by going to 21 villages across Guatemala to lead Community Forums. This enabled other Guatemalans to see new possibilities for their village and country.

The Project has continued to receive the welcome support of the public and private sectors of the society and the church. We have especially benefited by the encouragement of the governor of El Progreso and the mayor of Sanarate.

Most of the funding for the Project has come from the business community of Guatemala, with the exception of sizable contributions from two Embassies. Many companies and individuals contributed to the Project for a second year, demonstrating a continuing concern and support.

The local Guatemalans who volunteer time and service, who we call "guardians", have expanded and strengthened.

The ICA conducted four forums for women in Guatemala, which gave the women methods to evaluate their situations and discern their role in creating the future of civilization.

## THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT

All the programs of this year were funded thru monies developed locally, with the exception of some small individual donations from the U.S.A.

The ICA auxiliary staff assisting the Project, supported itself by one member teaching in the American School.

More administrative responsibility for the continuing development of the village was placed in the hands of local man by the formation of a Project Council, which is moving toward becoming a legal entity representing the community.

In the midst of all we do, our main goal is human development which is hard to report, sometimes difficult to discern, and has it's two forward and one backward dynamic. We believe there is a significant shift of the consciousness of the community, of awareness of possibility, of increased leadership prowess, of willingness to assume responsibility, and general sense of being a community together.

## THE ICA OF GUATEMALA

Conacaste HDP is one of over 300 pilot demonstrations of integrated socio-economic development on the local level. The ICA is private, voluntary, not for profit, and international in it's organization. Concerned with the human factor in world development, over the past 25 years it has engaged in research,

training and demonstration focused on development of local community potential. The methods of the ICA are designed to catalyze and co-ordinate locally initiated development. The continual adaptation of the methods, training events and planning formats have established their effectiveness in releasing human creativity.

The I.C.A. works in 32 nations through co-ordinated efforts of locally registered groups and international staff. Co-ordinating centers are in Hong Kong, Singapore, Bombay, Nairobi, Brussels and Chicago. The work is supported by a wide range of funding sources. Generally, foundations and corporations account for 40%, individuals 50% and churches and governments make up the remaining 10%. Base funding sources within each nation are sought to insure the stability of programs on the local level. International monies are sought as needed.

The programs of the ICA include a wide range of seminars, work shops, problem solving and program designing consultations, as well as the Human Development Projects. All programs are offered on the basis of cost or mutual benefit to interested people. The ICA staff, national and extra-national, are voluntary, self-supporting, work on a residential basis in pilot projects, and hold in common a concern for the well-being of the future world.

