



# Farming God's Way goes Spanish In Nicaragua

By Brian Smith



## AGRISTEWARDS

While I have travelled to Central and South America a number of times, this was the first trip I wore my agricultural hat while travelling. To my knowledge, this was the first time FGW has been taught in Spanish! I wasn't really sure what to expect, I assumed they would know a little more than the Africans I typically teach. Nicaragua is the second poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere behind Haiti. I was invited down to teach by Nicaragua Resource Network otherwise known as NRN. Paul Schlosser was the missionary I worked with, he is from North Dakota. We had 26 participants, 9 of whom were pastors. They were overwhelmed with



the new information they learned. They did not know they value or importance of using manure. They thought they only had Urea and Completo (15-15-15) available to them. They had no idea what Nitrogen, Phosphorus, or Potassium were and why they were important to the plant. We were able to purchase DAP and demonstrate how and when to apply the different fertilizers. We also taught them the importance of mulch, God's Blanket, in their fields. We also spoke about getting to know God as Creator of the Heavens and Earth as the ultimate farmer. We had an amazing time with the participants and they hugged us and thanked us over and over. We look forward to hearing how the demonstration plots perform and seeing how many begin to implement the new methods on their own farms.



It is always a joy to have others travel with me. This trip I was joined by Charlie Nichols who hopes to move his family to the mission field soon and desires to use Farming God's Way. We had participants from such a wide area during our classroom, we decided to plant three different demonstration gardens. Charlie directed the participants during the second garden and did a fine job.



Paul led the group as we planted the third and final garden. It was the first time I worked with a smoking volcano in the background. Our translator for the week was Roger who was from Guatemala. He was so excited about what he learned he couldn't wait to go back home and share it with others. He plans on translating the FGW Field Guide into Spanish so it can be distributed more easily.

We praise God for his faithfulness and how He continues to open doors. Another connection that was made through this trip was with Billy Loft, a missionary. My home church, The Markle Church of Christ, has supported Billy for years. Billy invited one of his pastors to attend the training. I made a follow-up call with Billy last week and he shared that he knew two agriculture professors who would be interested in learning more about FGW. One is from Nicaragua and the other is from Panama with a hometown connection. It turns out some of the Lambs have stayed in Felix's home in David, Panama. What a small world!

