

DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

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Visit Dos Corrientes at www.doscorrientes.com

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Welcome to the Dos Corrientes Journal

Dos Corrientes is very excited to introduce a new format to chronicle its monthly activities and happenings as the journey to creating a model that can be used worldwide to alleviate poverty and transform communities is being realized.

There is much to tell that is informative, exciting and at times, heart-warming. The Dos Corrientes Journal will show you the good use to which your donations are being put. It will outline changing lives, changing food systems and changing communities. There are exciting developments that frequently occur and the "Journal" will let you know about them as well as the work of the staff, students and villagers as we all work together, facilitating growth and development. Research is an evermore increasing activity and the "Journal" will tell you all about its findings. Partnerships with academia are growing both in Ecuador and Canada. Students, faculty and administrations are all joining together to work on the Dos Corrientes model. We'll let you know all about that, as well.

"As a humble tribute to the two currents above which we stand and from which so much grows, we dedicate the name "Dos Corrientes" "

-Heather and Don

We hope you enjoy "Issue 1 of the "Dos Corrientes Journal."



Liguiqui, Manta, Ecuador.

What is Poverty?

One of the key aspects of the Dos Corrientes model that contributes to the overall uniqueness of the project is the ever-growing attention to research and then more research. We have had a huge breakthrough in the understanding of poverty and how it is defined by the people that feel impoverished.

It's a "trap of the north" and we were falling into it as the founders of Dos Corrientes. It's because we're from the north and give meaning to things because of our past culture. Well-meaning people in the north define poverty in material terms. They consider someone poor if they live in a home with a dirt floor or only have a plastic table and a couple of plastic chairs as furniture. People in the north want to provide structures, computers, backpacks clothes...to "give them a better life".

We discovered that after WW2, the World bank gave vast amounts of money to defeated nations for rebuilding programs. And it worked! Nations were rebuilt effectively and efficiently. The World Bank then, did the same thing to impoverished nations in the Southern Hemisphere. But throwing money at their problems had no effect whatsoever. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund other institutions and governments have done the same thing year after year to little or no effect. 40% of the planet still lives on less than \$5.50 a day per person. Almost 10% of the global population receives less than \$1.90 per day although there has been some progress here.

The system clearly doesn't work and international leaders like Nana Akufo-Addo President of Ghana spoke about that at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021.



Dos Corrientes is ramping up its research. We found that impoverished people in the South don't feel the lack of material possessions in the same way. They feel shame, inferior, helpless, that they have no voice and the system is set up against them.

This variance between the thinking of materially well-off individuals who have a genuine desire to make the world a better place and that of people who feel poor in a completely different context is a very exciting breakthrough for us and now informs our thinking around creating a model that can be used worldwide. Start to solve those problems and individuals can have dreams about their lives that can be realized and communities can be transformed.



We have found that very extensive research is required in each demographic – what is causing their despair – not what we think they materially need. Then, with the community facilitate their desired solutions.



“Even before the pandemic many had concluded that the current structure of global cooperation designed some 77 years ago has proven inadequate to finance infrastructure and economic transformation of developing countries... we need a constructive review”

Nana Akufo-Addo

Agriculture Update

Part of the mission of Dos Corrientes is to strengthen communities through food production and in past newsletters, we have reported on the highly successful “Backyard Food Production Systems” course. Village elders told us of the importance of access to good, healthy, natural and organic food. Prior to backyard gardens, there has been no access whatsoever. Climate change, semi arid weather conditions and soil degradation has made it impossible for them to grow their own food in traditional ways. While a truck with fruit and vegetables passes through the village of Liguiki once a week, the produce is old and expensive. No one buys it except if there is a family celebratory meal.



We were thrilled with the results of the “Online Backyard Garden Food Production” course. For the first time local villagers found out how to create good, regenerative soil, grow abundant crops and harvest seeds for more food in the future.



We are now moving to the next phase and that is to plant with the people here, a large community garden. Villagers will be able to grow even more food than at home and they can share what they grow with each other for variety and with the excess, Dos Corrientes will assist them in creating a cooperative distribution system for food sales and income.



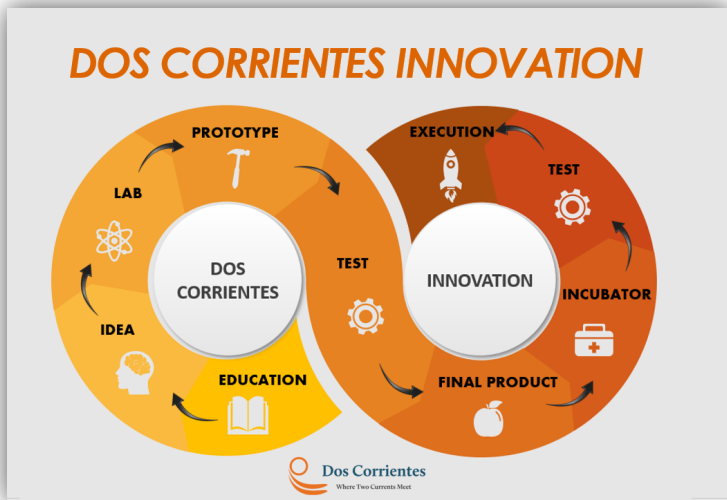
Food Sovereignty

The Right to Food

Research is taking a much more prominent role in the work of Dos Corrientes. Our view is that while a considerable amount of academic time and effort has been spent by others, a solution to food sovereignty may lie in extensive examination of individual communities. It is becoming part of the Dos Corrientes model. “Food sovereignty more fully embodies the right to food because it adds a human dimension to food security, acknowledging that one should have a say in their relationship with food. This modelling of food sovereignty allows for more inclusive rights of others as the community prioritizes the right to cultural life, rights of women, indigenous practices, and environmental rights... Food sovereignty does not diminish food security, but adds it as one factor to achieving a just and sustainable world” (Maria Polzin, Cape Town South Africa). The implementation of home and community gardens as a means of obtaining fresh and local produce, and in some cases, selling the extra produce to obtain money for other needs. These efforts play into food sovereignty for the communities we serve even if the connection is not explicitly made – because community members are increasingly saying: “governments and corporation’s methods are not working to address food security in the ways that communities need, so communities need to take the food system into our own hands”.

AN INNOVATIVE EDUCATION AND INCOME MODEL

The intention of Dos Corrientes is to be innovative and to walk side by side those whom we are serving.



After food, there is a need for income. Our model supports skill-based education. The really exciting innovation we are developing right now is a structure that infuses education with entrepreneurship. After skill-based education comes ideas to be worked on in a "lab". From the lab comes a prototype with research and testing. After that, the prototype is "incubated" and then more research and testing before the final product is released. It's in the incubation stage where more and extensive research is carried out on market demographics, where financial projections and business plans are written and how financing will be obtained.

We are testing skills-based education by sending a young woman to nursing school at ULEAM about 30 miles away.

LAB WORK

The Dos Corrientes process can be used for things such as natural organic healing creams. Or, tomato sauce infused with a local fruit like maracuya or pitahaya.



Dos Corrientes is picking up the cost of transportation and the tuition monthly cost for 10 months, plus the uniform. This is an esteem builder – The student is single mom from her teenage years and her formal education was truncated. Her only income is assisting in a kitchen on Sundays at a beach food stand. Once she graduates, she will put an idea from what she has learned into the "lab".

And we will work with her until she has a business. There are no medical facilities of any kind in the village. So, this then, would be another huge esteem builder but it would be our Dos Corrientes friend that does all the work. We simply walk beside her.



Universities & Dos Corrientes

One of the unique aspects of our model building, is the creation of partnerships with universities. So far, we have 4 and they all provide different benefits to the project.

ULEAM (Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí)– is providing student and faculty engagement in research and project development.

The University of the Fraser Valley – is providing a funding portal for Canadian charitable receipts as well as faculty engagement with university students in Ecuador through Dos Corrientes.

Yachay Tech – will soon test a nano-material on the farm which should produce as much as 500 liters of water per day through the condensation of water from the air.

Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral – is conducting a class in “Design Thinking” which will use Dos Corrientes as one of their research projects thus providing fact based information an process design for women and as well as skill-based education.

The cost of an education in nursing at ULEAM is shown in the following table.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Fees | 750 |
| Transportation | 750 |
| Computer Repair | 125 |
| Uniform | 75 |
| Miscellaneous | 300 |
| Total | 2,000 |

We are asking the international community to help make the Dos Corrientes project a model that can be used worldwide and in the early years, we need the assistance those willing to share some of their resources. To facilitate this, the University of the Fraser Valley will accept your donation and will provide a tax receipt. Upon receiving receipts form Dos Corrientes, the university will release your gift without any administration

CURRENT DOS CORRIENTES PROJECTS

The next stage of food production at Dos Corrientes is a community garden. This will provide food variance for families as well as income through a Dos Corrientes cooperative distribution system. In addition, other demographics through social media and other means will be accessed. This will for the first time, provide a non-traditional market to the community.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Wages to clear the land and to assist | 6,360 |
| Seeds, plants, trees | 500 |
| Garden Buildout | 5,850 |
| Alternative Energy | 15,000 |
| Equipment | 3,625 |
| Greenhouse | 5,300 |
| Storage Shed | 5,500 |
| Water | 480 |
| Farm Truck Gas and Repair | 1,200 |
| Office Expenses | 1,200 |
| Research and Development Expenses | 1,000 |
| Legal | 5,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 5,000 |
| Total | 56,015 |

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Here is how you can donate and receive a tax receipt.

<https://connect.ufv.ca/South-America-Growth-Project-Foundation-Dos-Corrientes>

If you use this link, please let Don Wilson know (don@doscorrientes.com) so that your gift can be tracked.

Many prefer to donate using the Dos Corrientes link (click the button).

DONATE