

## Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda

Grupo Ecologico implemented many regenerative practices and educational programs this year—from agricultural land regeneration activities, to quantifying the carbon sequestration of our optimally managed land, to our “National Camp for Ecological Leaders.”

Our agricultural land regeneration activities—including keyline design for planned grazing, organic matter incorporation, and decreased tillage—took place on over 7,754 hectares located in the states of Querétaro, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosí, Chihuahua, and Sonora and involved 137 agricultural sector producers.

We also quantified the carbon and water sequestration on 3,100 hectares that are currently experiencing optimal management, using a method that allows us to identify the carbon distribution in farmlands and subsequently measure their sequestration capacity.

We have trained a total of 641 farmers, ranchers, and housewives in Holistic Management, addressing regenerative agriculture and livestock management, as well as the implementation of bio-intensive gardens. As part of a seminar held in December, a visit to the Ranch Carretas was organized, enabling participants to see positive changes that come with the application of holistic and regenerative management techniques.

We’ve now also trained a total of 30 educators in Holistic Management and we implemented biological monitoring in the established pilot ranches in Sierra Gorda, enables us to evaluate the benefits of the implementation of regenerative practices, focusing on biological diversity, both in the soil and in the pasture.

Currently there are 136 working vegetable gardens located in five municipalities of the Sierra Gorda, with at least 30 selling their surplus. We encourage these farmers to plant native seeds and replenish soils

with minerals. Together with other techniques, these practices guarantee 100% organic production.

In March 2016 a regional meeting was held with gardeners, 56 participants from various communities of the Sierra Gorda and the state of Guanajuato. The objective was to analyze the benefits of healthy diet based on organic products. A second meeting was held with gardeners and farmers in the fall focused on organic pest control and the preparation of organic fertilizers.

We also held three other environmental workshops; 80 women attended the first in the town of Puerto de San Nicolás in Jalpan de Serra from the health sector. The topics addressed included healthy diet, benefits of backyard vegetable gardens, and harmful effects and diseases caused by greasy, over-salted, canned, and fast food, as well as by consumption of sugar and sodas. To emphasize our point, we projected videos that demonstrated different ways one can grow food, including raising chickens that produce organic and chemical-free eggs and planting fruit trees wherever possible. Two additional workshops were held to provide youth with capacity to perform sustainable living practices in their communities.

We held two "National Camp for the Ecological Leaders" events attended by 120 students. Our founder Pati Ruiz Corzo joined us to carry out an exercise that allows us to define and analyze the work each student undertakes in his/her institution and community. During the concluding session students stated their commitment and defined responsibilities and methods that they will use to spread environmental awareness and encourage participation in their community.