



HIJOS DEL MAÍZ
CAMPESSINO SPANISH
SCHOOL

Learn Spanish in Nicaragua immersed in nature with peasant-farmer teachers.



Drawing by Maria-Zunilda, killed by contra in 1984

A SCHOOL WITH A DIFFERENCE

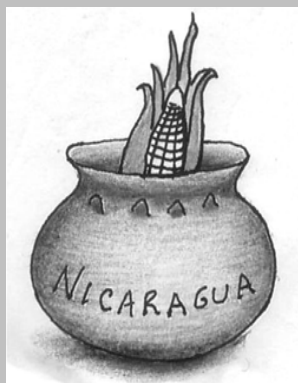
Hijos del Maíz is not just a Spanish school, as far as we know it is the first community-run Spanish school in Central America. It is a way of generating an income for the teachers and the campesino families who welcome students. It is also a way of breaking out of poverty and moving away from a chronic dependency on development aid.

Hijos del Maíz enables the community to fund it's own projects with 20% of income going to a community fund. We aim to help raise social and environmental consciousness in El Lagartillo and in neighbouring villages allowing the youth of El Lagartillo to combine sustainable agriculture and participation in the information age.

Take the plunge - come and share experiences with a community struggling for change.

HIJOS DEL MAÍZ - VISION

The Campesino Spanish School Hijos del Maíz is an alternative creation supporting dreams in the community. It is a permanent state of learning, exchanging with other communities and cultures in a dynamic transformation towards social justice.

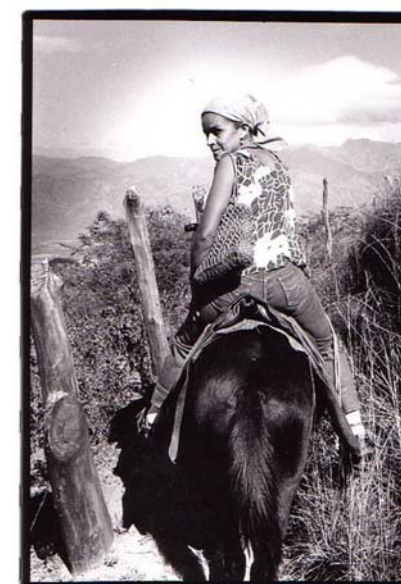


"Quien más conoce Nicaragua, más quiere a Nicaragua"

"Who knows Nicaragua best, Loves Nicaragua most"



ESCUELA DE ESPAÑOL HIJOS DEL MAÍZ



HIJOS DEL MAÍZ
CAMPESSINO SPANISH SCHOOL

El Lagartillo, Achuapa, Leon
Nicaragua

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Office hours: Friday and Saturday 9.00-20.00

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**HIJOS DEL MAÍZ
CAMPESIÑO SPANISH
SCHOOL**



CLASSES: Students are taught by total immersion in the language. They receive 4 hours of one-to-one classes each day with trained teachers from the community using the communities own teaching materials. Flexible time-tables can be arranged. The student may decide each day where to hold the class, in a classroom or in a field under a tree.

ACCOMMODATION is with a family from the community and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. Accommodation is basic but families are welcoming. The food is simple and wholesome and includes local organic coffee. The student can join his/her family working in the fields, going to the forest or to a waterfall.



Edi Helps bake bread

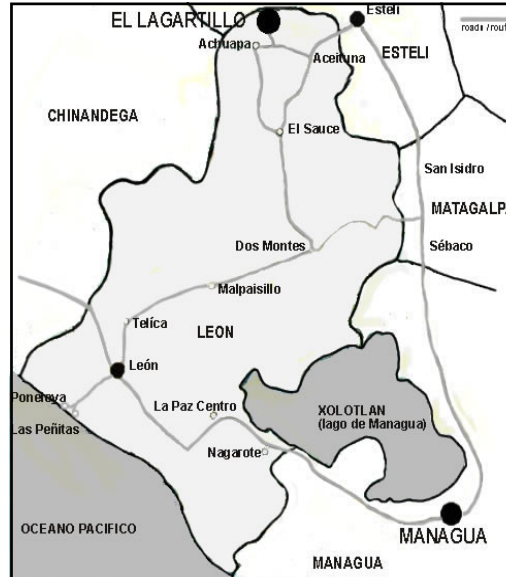
In Hijos del Maíz the student learns Spanish and also learns about our lives as campesinos by sharing with us. The student is also invited to share his/her own knowledge whether it is practical, artistic, intellectual or spiritual. There are opportunities for students to work as volunteers on community projects.

COST

One week including 20 hours of one-to-one tuition, accommodation and 3 meals a day costs US\$120.00.

HOW TO GET TO EL LAGARTILLO

The campesino Spanish school Hijos del Maíz is located in El Lagartillo, a rural community in the northeast of Nicaragua.



From Estelí there are two buses a day for Achuapa, one at 7.00 from the Cotran Sur bus terminal. At 13.00 another bus leaves from the Cotran Norte terminal (this bus does not travel on Sundays). Both buses pass the west side of the central square in Estelí respectively at 7.10 and 13.10. Ask for 'empalme del Lagartillo'. Journey costs 15 Córdoba (\$1.00) and takes 2-3 hours depending on the state of the roads.

From León take a bus or an interlocal van in the morning for El Sauce (1 hour) and from there take the 12.00 Estelí bus that goes via Achuapa. The bus leaves Achuapa at 13.00 and gets to the Lagartillo T-junction around 13.30. From there the village is a 1km walk.

Hijos del Maíz is a project by the community for the community.



Gina, Mancho, Memo in the main 'street'

A DAY IN EL LAGARTILLO

The day begins very early for the farmers in El Lagartillo. We are woken by a dawn chorus of roosters crowing and other birdsong. Women and men get ready for their days' work tending the crops and the cattle.

The children go to their school which is in the centre of the community and in the afternoon they play in the street and in the backyards. Since there are no cars, they own the street for their games.

We light up our nights burning resinous heart of pine (ocote) and with gas-lamps. The family gathers around the light to tell stories, exchange jokes. There are few evenings when there are no young people playing the guitar and singing.

In the city we do not notice the moon. Here the full moon is so big that no-one wants to go to bed. On dark nights the sky is full of stars.

REGISTRATION

Send us an e-mail telling us a little about yourself, your Spanish level, when you want to come and for how long.

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