

Finca Bayano

Newsletter January 2012

At the end of the rainy season, we are looking back on what we have archived last year, on what we have learnt, and on what we have to improve on.

It's December and the dry season is about to start.

Fortunately our area has not been affected by any climate change yet. We hope it will remain that way.



The plants have grown nicely. Especially bananas have developed very well. This is how one of the banana circles looked like half a year ago, when we released the last newsletter.

And this is how
it looks today.



Thanks to the
decomposition of
organic material,
the quality of the
soil has been
improved a lot.

The banana mother plant
is not bearing fruits yet,
but there are already
eight offsets around it.

We have grown 7,000
bananas. If they all multiply
like this, soon there will be
no more space at
Finca Bayano. 😊





Weeds are growing quickly, too, and have to be cut frequently.

Hard stuff is cut with machetes....



... whereas a string trimmer is used for soft grass.

In some places, the grass
that we have cut, together
with natural materials
like horse dung, ...



... leaves and branches
are placed in layers
on top of
each other ...

... to be mixed
mixed with soil.





Eventually the heap is covered.

In the next rainy season we are going to use this as compost.

After only two years, this is one of our first oranges. It's not too big and not ripe yet.



The tomatoes in the background are also growing very well.

The reason that there is nothing red in the background is that the tomatoes are tasting too good.

We are preparing
to plant beans.



To avoid erosion we
only dig small holes.

Maracuya is bearing
fruits all year round.





This is the first
maracuya blossom.

Those are the branches
that we planted a few
months ago.



This is a small
pineapple plantation.

There are ten other
pineapple plantations
at Finca Bayano.



It was a very good idea to give preference to fast growing trees. This papaya tree is bearing its first fruit after a few months.

My left hands points to an...

... ant deflector which works without poison.

So far there are 2,500 fruit trees growing at Finca Bayano.



One of our employees is preparing to plant yucca.

This is going to be
mixed field of yuca
and corn.



This is how a
yuca field looks
after three months.

Things are growing
very fast.

Cassava is called yuca
in Latin America. It
comes from South
America and has
been widespread for
hundreds of years.

Meanwhile, it is grown
in many parts of the
tropics and subtropics
worldwide.





Growing perfectly.

This is the only bull cart I have ever seen in Panama. There is still an abundance of wealth in this country, thus this kind of vehicle is not used in many places.



This is Garnadera village, close to Finca Bayano. There are more horses than cars, which is one of the most important conditions to survive a crisis.

Where there are more cars there is also more money and for that reason, more crime.