

### Project Update: September 2013

After an intensive period of work, was concluded the cistern for water collecting in the second marine terrace with a volume of 10 m<sup>3</sup> and another one in the third marine terrace of Majayara with the same volume. The first cistern will beneficiate 20 families from Boca de Miel and Majana towns, which will be supply with spring water and the second cistern in the third terrace will be filled with rain water and will benefit the entire town of Majayara. In this activity participated with enthusiasm some local voluntary people, they decided the exact place where they needed the cisterns. The last water reservoir was not included in the plan but was constructed with the same requested amount that we planned for one cistern; we found cheaper prices of the construction materials and we used the same trips with the transportation vehicles to put the materials in the place. All these efforts to supply water for the farmers will support sufficient quantity of this resource to be used in the compost production in the farms in order to decrease the bat guano consumption into the caves. On the other hand we delivered the material to the proprietaries of the farms to build the enclosures for livestock and they did the rest. This was one of our objectives that assure the correct management of the domestic animals by farmers. It is convenient to mention that the farmers had the habit of leaving animals free in the forest and then they enter the caves. In the case of the biogas plants we just initiated two plants because some peasants don't have in these moments enough animals and such condition are indispensable to obtain the animal excreta to feed the plants. We expect that in the next month three other farmers will be incorporated in this activity.



We started to build the ecological bathrooms but some problems with gathering the wood had been delaying the work; we hope to finish this task in the next weeks. We began to plan the ecological trail guided by rustic panels with the technicians of the area; the design and contents was already established. We also conducted the workshop for farmers and technicians about ecological managements of crops and ecosystems, besides were carried out the didactic talks in the schools. Meantime in every trip we accomplished the invertebrate inventories and monitoring developing direct collects and placing Malaise and pitfall tramps through the area to continue filling the information gaps about invertebrates in the zone. As part of the divulgation of the results of the project we presented a scientific work in the XVII Mesoamerican Congress of Biology and Conservation. The work was about the conservation of the troglobite species *Jimeneziella decui* (Arachnida: Opiliones) that live in the caves of the protected area Yara-Majayara. This work illustrated part of the work that we had been developing in the area for 5 years with Rufford Foundation support. The work was presented in the modality of poster and satisfactorily was the winner work in the contest of posters that was developed during the congress.