

# INTRODUCING VICENTE NIMA LAUREANO

Farmer Code: 0201033  
Land Owned: 0.50 hectares  
CEPIBO Member since: 2003

Vicente Nima Laureano is the oldest of nine siblings. He had just completed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade when, at the age of 12, he started farming with his father. Now, his father, who taught him how to farm, is now 90 years old.

Today, Vicente is a small-scale banana farmer and a member of CEPIBO banana co-op. He has been a member of CEPIBO for 13 years. Vicente inherited his father's land, approximately 0.50 hectares (~ 1.2 acres), where he now farms organic bananas.



***“This is ancestral land that was passed on to me by my father. This land allows me to feed my family and provide an education to my three children. Because of all this, the land is blessed for me.”***

In the very beginning, the farmers sold bananas to Dole, who was paying the farmers less than their costs of production. Vicente and other local farmers decided to create a co-op in order to access markets with better and fairer prices, or at least to earn what they had invested in their land. Together, they had a shared commitment to develop their land, their families, and their communities.

Now, Vicente is a board member of CEPIBO and is working to improve the living conditions for his family and his community. Vicente's dream is to build a hospital for the town and provide opportunities for young people to receive an education. Vicente does not want his children to abandon their “blessed land” because of lack of opportunities.

**Each purchase of Equal Exchange bananas supports Vicente and farmers like him. All bananas are not created *Equal*.**

