

# Voices OF HOPE

## Cuba

Thanks to training sessions designed to help during natural disasters, Rev. Noel Rodríguez, Pastor at San Juan Episcopal Church in Palma Soriano in eastern Cuba, was able to apply what he had learned when COVID struck.

Rodriguez responded quickly, teaching people to grow vegetables, raise animals for meat and preserve food from their own gardens and church facilities making it possible to ensure families had enough to eat and could support their sisters and brothers of the San Juan Episcopal Church.

He then created a Facebook page and shared educational materials for other growers related to organic agriculture, gardening techniques and planting by seasons. As he developed his farming skills and practices, Rodriguez became the “poster boy” of the Food for All Program, an initiative that the Integrated Development Program of the Episcopal Church in Cuba launched in mid-2020 to improve food security in 40 communities. The project directly benefits 1,650 people, 65% of whom are women.




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