

Old Dreams Come Alive in “Nueva Esperanza”...

By: *Homar Otero*

We met with Faust Andi, 31 years old, in Nueva Esperanza, one of the communes in the province of Napo, where Ivanhoe Energy is beginning operations.

- “Have you seen significant changes with Ivanhoe’s presence here in the area?”

“The highway is the most important thing,” says Fausto Andi, “every time I walk on it, I feel like I’m dreaming. When I saw the machinery roll in, I thought it would be completed in 2015, and that’s what I told my neighbors in the community. I used to have to walk two kilometers to get my products out, and would make up to 26 trips. It was a huge sacrifice. We transported the *naranjilla*, yucca, plantain, or *chonta*, depending on the season, cutting out a path through the brush. Now we don’t have to make such an effort; we just harvest and the trucks drive up to our houses and that’s it. We are all very happy; our sales are up. What before didn’t reach even \$300 per month has turned into sales of over one thousand.”

Fausto’s story is repeated time and again in the community of Nueva Esperanza, which is located in Cotundo. The people here see Ivanhoe’s activities as something positive. “One day we named our village Nueva Esperanza (“New Hope”), and we feel that our time has come. We hope that the production tests end up being positive so that the community can keep having something to be excited about,” said Fausto, with great emotion, embracing his wife, Elvia, 26 years.

Fausto Andi is part of the team that is building the IP15 road and pad, which has made it possible for him to improve his standard of living and develop himself as a person who has the right to learn new skills.



Fausto Andi and his wife, Elvia Mamallacta