for their own families or to sell, and each family also works th common land which is used to produce cash crops.

Our work was not on this farm, but on land being used by the govern ment's Institute for Natural Resources and the Environment (IRENA) part of a major reforestation project. Although August is the middl of the rainy season, there was an unprecedented drought while we wer there. Except for an occasional sprinkle, it hard not rained since June 20th. Another brigade from the United States which was there i June had planted Guanacaste trees. If there had been rain we would have been planting too, but instead we were weeding the area they h planted.

Six mornings a week, at 5:40AM we were picked up by a truck which h already picked up about 10 Nicaraguan workers. Since there are very few vehicles on the peninsula, the truck often to pick up anyone goi the same direction. Nicaraguans generally carry a bowl of rice or beans with themm when they go to the fields. We carried 2 five gall water jugs of purified water, numerous canteens, a bag of fruits or nuts, and 15 shovels. Each of us wore work boots, long pants, a bandana, and a hat. Often during the morning's work when we stopped for a drink or to renew ourr sun block or insect repellent we would soak the bandana with water and put it over our heads or around our necks. We worked in the fields from 6 AM until 11:30. In the after noons we generally had a lecture or an excursion, or sometimes a tri to the beach.

On the ride back we would generally stop more often for people needi rides. Once we made a detour so the passengers could harvest some yucca (not the cactus, but a root vegetable resembling casava). Sin the brigadistas helped to cut the yucca, they brought us a delicious bowl of cooked yucca the next morning..

We returned to our farm for lunch. All three meals are rice, bean and tortillas--all very good. Once or twice a day there is another dish too--an egg, cheese, another vegetable, or occasionally meat. ate with the temporary workers in a common kitchen. Families on the farm eat the same kind of food in their own homes. Many families ke chickens, ducks, or pigs, so they probably eat more meat and eggs th we do.

Everyone here is well fed, though the food is somewhat monotonous. And people seem generally healthy. I have not seen festering sores distended bellies that are so common in many parts of the third worl and yet people here are very poor. The clothing has been patched ma times. For work in the fields, most people wear simple plastic san dals, often torn or broken. Some people have rubber boots, but tha have gaping holes and signs of having been repaired many times. Wha we went out to buy beer for 25 cents at the local bar, many of the young men from the farm came along to dance. They were always plea if we bought them some beer, but I never saw any of them buy be

There is electricity at San Marco and at least one radio, but th nearest telephone was 30 miles away. There were tractors and pl and a water pump.