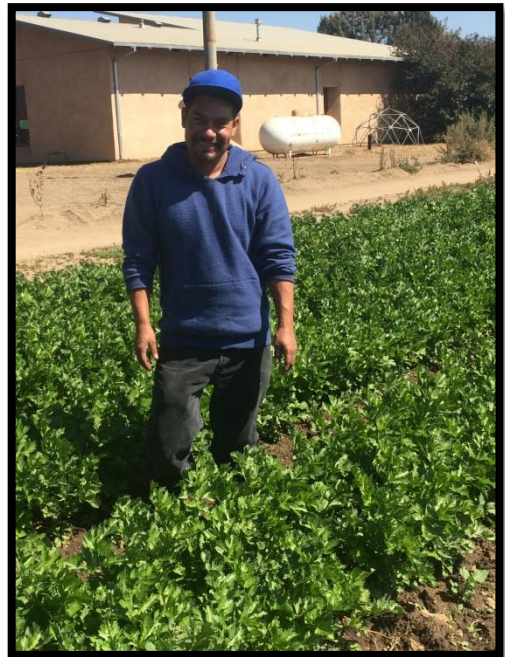


Jesus Calzadillas – Graduate 2015

“In Mexico I worked with honeycomb, but here, it’s organic farming that is sweet.”

With an easy smile and a quiet demeanor, Jesus easily relays his big dreams. “I decided to come to Alba because of Octavio Garcia. He was so enthusiastic and suggested I take the Farmer’s Education course, PEPA. And the truth is that I love working in agriculture, so it was a pretty easy decision.” As a new graduate from PEPA, Jesus is just getting started, but he is already planning ahead for the kind of life he wants to have.



“I have a lot of things in mind. But really what I want is to be successful, to get ahead in this world. The best thing in the world is to work for oneself, and that’s my goal.” But Jesus is not just working for himself; he is working for the future of his family, too. “I have twin girls, and right now they are young, but I want them to have the opportunity to study and to work in something that makes them happy and helps them get ahead.”

Recently, he received his organic license and so Jesus will begin to start selling his products to a larger market. This year, he has kale and lettuce, but he loves strawberries and hopes to plant some next year. “I love this work. I love to plant and to harvest. Even when it gets difficult, this is the path I have chosen, so I will continue until I am successful.”