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ACCESO

SUCCESS STORY

Feeding the Future of a Small Community

Small producers learn new farming techniques to increase their incomes and improve their yields.



Photo by Fintrac Inc

Cándida Hernández teaches her grandchildren how to clean the grains grown on her plot.

“We are inspired to work ... with the hope that we will harvest our crop.”

Doña Hilaria Nicholas

Cándida Hernández lives in the small farming community of Pavas, Santa María La Paz, where she recently attended a series of training events held by USAID-ACCESO. Motivated by the new skills she learned, Hernández dedicated herself to improving production on her farm.

With assistance from USAID-ACCESO agronomists, Hernández planted two pounds of beans using good agricultural practices such as raised beds and trellises, and using markers to ensure optimal planting density.

A few months after the planting, Hernández’s results were excellent. By farming smarter she was able to increase her yields, reduce her costs and increase her income by nearly 200 percent. Hernández’s initial two-pound planting is now yielding **84** pounds of beans.

“We did not used to plant beans because the rain would ruin the crop, but with raised beds we were able to,” she said.

Pleased with her results, Hernández is committed to using the skills she learned from USAID-ACCESO. She has requested funds for a small drip irrigation system and purchased an irrigation tape with her own money to prepare her land for carrot and bean crops.

Wanting to share her newfound knowledge, Hernández is now serving as an example for other local farmers. USAID-ACCESO held a three-day training event on Hernández’s farm. Hilaria Nicholas was one of the farmers that learned better farming practices.

“We are inspired to work, it takes a lot of effort to prepare the soil, bring wood and place the stakes, but we are hopeful that we will harvest our crop,” said Hilaria Nicholas.

Hilaria’s producing group installed a small irrigation system on their communal plot and has already planted carrots that they plan to sell to a local buyer.

Most producers in Pavas live in extreme poverty, but with the skills they are learning from USAID-ACCESO and a strong work ethic, these rural farmers have the ability to achieve sustainable economic growth, while contributing to larger goals of food security for all Hondurans.