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SUCCESS STORY

Pork Producers See Increased Incomes

Better management and production techniques, like homemade feed, help increase profits for group of pork producers.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Handmade feeders like this one are helping pork producers in Santa Barbara raise healthy pigs, which is translating into increased profits and incomes. USAID-ACCESO technicians are also teaching the producers to make their own low-cost and nutritious feed.

With the improved feeding practices, the annual income from piglet production from one sow can total \$588 – or around 10 percent of the annual net income requirements to keep a family of six above the poverty line.

With assistance from the United States Agency for International Development's ACCESO project, more than 30 pork producers in Santa Barbara and Ocoatepeque are becoming more profitable thanks to improved production techniques.

The group is learning how to reduce their production costs and increase profits in several ways, namely by preparing their own feed for the livestock; by decreasing the number of days to slaughter, which saves on food costs and improves quality; and by increasing the sows' birth rates.

With help from USAID-ACCESO, the producers are learning how to prepare nutritional and low-cost food that is healthier for the pigs. Using readily-available ingredients and preparing it themselves, the producers are saving money and improving quality.

Prior to receiving project assistance, the producers bought small quantities of feed concentrate and mixed it with bran in order to stretch the rations. This practice was neither cost-effective nor did it result in good-quality feed.

The producers were previously spending nearly \$15 per 100 pounds of feed, but with the homemade feed they spend a little more than \$10 – representing a savings of 42 percent per 100 pounds.

The group also learned to construct and use automatic drinking units and feeders, which allow them to better manage and care for the pigs' nutrition during the various stages of growth.

USAID-ACCESO is also teaching the producers how to better manage the breeding process, which results in more production cycles and an overall improved quality of livestock.

Decreasing lactation periods from 60 to 30 days means better quality pork. It also increases the number of births per sow, who can be impregnated more quickly with a shorter weaning time. All of which is translating to better sales and improved incomes for the pork producers.

In the first five-month cycle with one sow and the sale of 10 piglets, the improvements resulted in an increase of 120 percent in net profits, from \$136 to \$298. When followed by a second cycle, the net profits from the sale of the subsequent piglets increase by 140 percent, from \$120 to \$290.