



## MONTHLY UPDATE – MAY 2011

### BACKGROUND

USAID-ACCESO is a four-year project funded by the people and government of the United States of America through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This project is part of the global “Feed the Future” initiative of the United States government and USAID’s main investment in Honduras.

USAID-ACCESO will assist more than 30,000 client families in Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque and Santa Bárbara. The project is working to raise a minimum of 18,000 rural households out of extreme poverty and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.

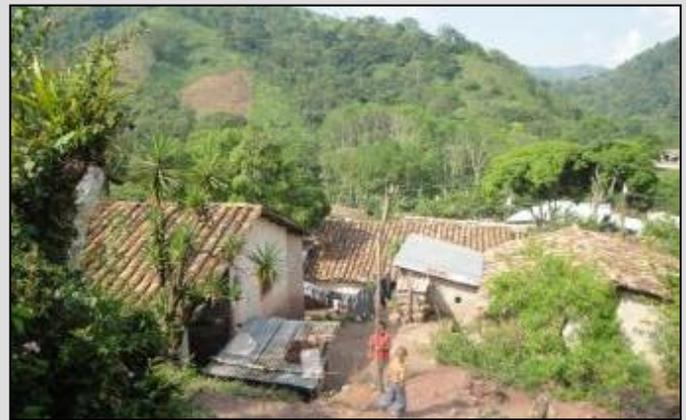
### LET’S GET TO WORK

- USAID-ACCESO’s technical team began work on planting activities to significantly improve basic grain yields. Activities focused on soil preparation and seed selection, planting with proper plant densities, and fertilization programs to guarantee higher yields.
- By the end of May, 684 client households, with 2,351 beneficiaries had joined the program. Seventy-six percent of participating households are living in extreme poverty, and seven percent are living in poverty. This group is already participating in individual and group training to implement improved production systems.
- Fifty-five organizations have joined the project, including 31 municipal corporations, and organizations such as AHIBA, IHCAFE, PMA, ChildFund, COHEP, COMRURAL, COPRAL, DICTA, FAO, FIDA, Hermandad de Honduras, and SAG. Joint activities are already being coordinated.
- USAID-ACCESO made 975 technical assistance visits including 745 on production, 65 on postharvest handling, and 57 on business skills, marketing, and finance. A total of 6,425 people participated in 448 training events held by ACCESO.

#### May 2011 Trainings

Technical Area	Participants	Events
Farm Certifications	134	9
Business Skills	64	5
Postharvest	24	3
Production	6,090	429
Project	113	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,425</b>	<b>448</b>

1,352 women (21%) and 5,073 men participated.



Photos by Fintrac

**USAID ACCESO assists people in rural areas to increase incomes and improve quality of life.**



#### USAID-ACCESO Client Households and Beneficiaries May 2011

Department	Client Households	Beneficiaries
Copán	129	344
Intibucá	128	379
La Paz	42	107
Lempira	99	566
Ocotepeque	61	259
Santa Bárbara	199	696
Other	26	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>2,351</b>

This monthly update was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The content is Fintrac’s responsibility, the main implementing partner of USAID-ACCESO, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of USAID or the United States government.

## USAID-ACCESO LAUNCHED IN LA PAZ

Fintrac and USAID officially launched the USAID ACCESO project before an audience of more than 200 attendees on May 26 in Santa Ana, La Paz. USAID/Honduras Director William Brands, representatives from USAID's Economic Growth and Nutrition and Health offices, Minister of Agriculture (SAG) Jacobo Regalado, USAID ACCESO Director Andrew Medicott, Honduran Congressman Manuel Ivan Fiallos and numerous mayors from La Paz attended the opening event, which was hosted by Santa Ana Mayor, German Mendoza. Representatives from Global Village, CARE, FHIA, FUNDER and Zamorano, the main partners for USAID ACCESO implementation, also attended.

Authorities from USAID and the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed their support for the project. Medicott outlined program components including training to improve production, business skill development for the poorest households, development of market access, expansion of rural financial services, and malnutrition prevention for rural households. The project also includes natural resource and environmental management activities and assistance to eliminate the structural barriers that hinder access to economic opportunities.

Producers from La Paz also participated in the event, sharing their biggest challenges and best opportunities. They emphasized that success can be attained by adopting good agricultural practices and implementing new production technologies. Ricardo Gómez, Manager of Supermercados del Corral, discussed market opportunities for horticultural products and cattle. He described his experience working with previous USG-funded projects that helped him establish commercial relationships with producers from the zone. José Jaar, Manager of Del Campo Soluciones Agrícolas, who has worked closely with previous technical assistance projects, informed participants on a new financing mechanism that will support the agriculture sector.

### MAIN GOALS OF USAID ACCESO

- Bring 18,000 rural homes living in extreme poverty above the poverty threshold;
- Generate \$73.95 million in net profits for the clients assisted by the project; and
- Create 10,425 permanent jobs in the assisted communities.



**USAID-ACCESO launch: German Mendoza, Santa Ana Mayor, Jacobo Regalado, Minister of Agriculture, William Brands, USAID/Honduras Director, and Tom Hamner, USAID.**



**Jacobo Regalado, Minister of Agriculture, at the public launch of USAID ACCESO.**



**USAID-ACCESO team, May 2011.**

## MAY ACTIVITIES

- USAID ACCESO held three events to present the project to local NGOs in Lempira, Copán, and Ocotepeque. Thirteen NGOs participated at the event that took place in Gracias, Lempira. Sixteen NGOs from Copán and Ocotepeque participated at the event held in Santa Rosa de Copán.
- USAID-ACCESO continues to recruit and hire personnel for Community Technical Units (CTU) in six departments, as well as specialists for all technical areas. ACCESO has identified seventy-four candidates who will join the project in June.
- The project worked with more than sixty municipal corporations to identify communities with potential for development. In selected zones, USAID ACCESO's technical assistance to assure higher yields through new production techniques will complement the SAG's Production Solidarity Bonus initiative.
- Alliances and agreements were established with several institutions including Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA), Programa Nacional de Desarrollo Rural Sostenible (PRONADERS), Programa de Competitividad Rural (COMRURAL) and Instituto Hondureño de Mercadeo Agrícola (IHMA). Negotiation of the alliance agreement with IHMA is in the final phase and is expected to be completed in June. The alliance will provide USAID ACCESO clients with access to bean seeds as well as a market for 4,500 MT of corn and 2,700 MT of beans.
- The project was formally introduced to three directors from the Ministry of Public Health who will be coordinating with the nutrition and health activities in the program's six departments.
- The monitoring and evaluation unit finalized all data collection templates and began to collect baseline information and client profiles.



Field day on corn production, Lempira.



Training on corn planting, Ocotepeque.



Traditional tilapia production, Copán.

## USAID-ACCESO CONTACTS

For more information or if you are interested in being assisted by the program please contact:

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### La Lima

USAID ACCESO  
Instalaciones FHIA  
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### Department Managers

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Lempira	Ali Valdivia	9996-9360
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Copán	Hugo Ávila	9923-6826
Santa Bárbara	Leopoldo Aguilar	9997-0130

Regional offices will open in Santa Bárbara, Copán and Intibucá during the month of June.