



Monthly Bulletin *May 2013*

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,273 client households in six departments in western Honduras, increasing annual sales and income through the introduction of improved agricultural practices and market-driven production programs. More than 152,000 beneficiaries, or 82 percent of client households, are currently living in extreme poverty conditions.
- The total production area expanded to 30,384 hectares this month, including 17,209 hectares of coffee, 10,451 hectares of basic grains, and 2,724 hectares of fruits and horticulture crops. The most planted crops this month were corn, coffee, bean, watermelon, tomato, rice, potato, cabbage, carrot, and plantain.
- USAID-ACCESO natural resource management specialists continued training producers in treating coffee pulp with microorganisms to break down and transform the pulp into organic fertilizer, reducing input costs and promoting environmental protection. This month, 554 participants attended 36 training events in natural resource management.
- Motivated by the results of project interventions, municipality authorities approved infrastructure investments in rural communities. In the municipality of San José, La Paz, Mayor Abel García organized a L. 200,000 (\$9,800) donation to construct a road to the community of La Culebrina. The new road will facilitate the transport of maize and other products from this project-assisted community to nearby markets.

About USAID-ACCESO

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

USAID-ACCESO will assist more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara to lift these rural households above the poverty line and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.



Thanks to USAID-ACCESO, coffee producers learned to use microorganisms to decompose coffee pulp and transform it into organic fertilizer, reducing costs and promoting environmental protection.



Municipal authorities in La Paz helped fund the construction of a new road to La Culebrina, a community assisted by USAID-ACCESO with increased agricultural yields.

USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, May 2013

Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,356	20,894	828
Intibucá	5,399	43,756	760
La Paz	5,392	33,945	699
Lempira	6,869	44,368	1,179
Ocotepeque	4,589	22,410	549
Santa Bárbara	6,668	20,033	1,031
Others	-	-	793
TOTAL	34,273	185,406	5,839

*Includes: MSMES, buyers, input and service providers, municipal corporations, counterpart organizations



José Orellana of Chaguiton, La Paz, increased his coffee yields by more than 400 percent in one year. Orellana applied fertilizers and lime according to the techniques he learned from USAID-ACCESO.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In May, USAID-ACCESO carried out 30,263 technical assistance visits. Of these, 25,030 focused on agricultural production, including best production practices for coffee, basic grains, and vegetables; soil preparation and management; transplanting; fertilization; pest and disease identification, prevention and control; soil conservation; contour plowing; nursery management; irrigation system installation, operation and maintenance; and field tours for producers.

1,097 technical assistance visits focused on nutrition and health, principally family planning and childhood diets; 819 visits on poultry production and management; 1,335 on business and finance skills; 128 in postharvest and certifications; 904 in processing; and 593 visits in natural resource management.

VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO is working to add value to raw materials to promote income growth and off-farm employment. This month the assistance included work with the Buena Vista producer association of San Francisco del Valle, Ocotepique, to process their peaches into jams, syrups, and sweets for sale to local markets.

Through 82 training events, 453 participants learned to make diverse products including cookies, cakes, pastries, whole sugar cane, and processed beans that diversify businesses and generate employment and new income opportunities in assisted communities.



A group of fruit producers in San Francisco del Valle learned to transform their peaches into more valuable products such as jams and sweets.



Coffee producers assisted by USAID-ACCESO work with marketing and postharvest specialists to add value, ensure quality, and opening new commercialization opportunities, all of which serve to increase incomes for assisted families.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

Market specialists held 23 events for 146 participants to strengthen their knowledge of new sales opportunities, potential links, and efficient delivery routes to increase their participation in formal markets.

Market specialists continued linking small-scale farmers with formal buyers, and at the end of the 2013 coffee season, one of the market linkages resulted in 163 producers selling more than 660,000 kilograms of green coffee for \$641,000.

Oscar Bjorquez, a sugar cane processor from Copán received technical assistance from USAID-ACCESO to export processed sugar cane. To date, two trial shipments of 162 boxes have been sent to Miami. He projects another shipment of 250 boxes in June.



On average, a family with a traditional stove requires 2.3 loads of wood per week; with the use of eco-friendly stoves only 0.5 loads of wood are used per week. The eco-friendly stove helps save families money and reduce health problems.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health specialists held 175 training events in which participants acquired the knowledge necessary to implement improved nutrition and health practices. This month, participants learned about spacing pregnancies and breastfeeding infants under six months, and food preparation trainings. The household clients also received assistance in improving the physical conditions of their homes, their children's health, and their families' overall quality of life.

Health and nutrition specialists also promoted the installation of eco stoves, which reduce both the incidence of respiratory diseases and the use of wood logs, resulting in cleaner air.

INCREASING EFFICIENCY WITH THE USE OF CALENDARIZED PLANTINGS

Generally, small-scale producers have difficulties participating in formal markets because they are producing products and volumes that do not reflect actual market demand. To solve the situation and promote market-driven production, USAID-ACCESO production specialists introduced calendarized planting programs, which allow a group of producers to plant the same crop in different periods of time, resulting in a steady supply of product to markets.

This month, 23,688 participants received training in agricultural production, increasing their knowledge of calendarized plantings and how to strengthen commercial relationships between producers and local and international buyers.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Rubén Rodríguez not only increased his cucumber yields, but thanks to the introduction of calendarized planting, he and five other producers are constantly supplying local cucumber markets.

Trainings – May 2013

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	94	14
Business Skills / Finance	1,269	167
Natural Resources Management	604	39
Postharvest and Certifications	457	37
Processing and Added Value	453	82
Production	23,688	2,644
Market Information	146	23
Nutrition and Health	2,770	175
ACCESO project	120	7
TOTAL	29,601	3,188

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