



Monthly Bulletin *June 2013*

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is currently assisting 34,920 client households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting production technologies and practices to increase income and improve overall quality of life. The project is benefitting 188,171 people, of which 90 percent live in poverty and extreme poverty conditions, through trainings in production, processing, resource management, introduction to renewable technologies, market information, and nutrition and health.
- The total production area expanded to 34,150 hectares that includes 17,946 hectares of coffee, 13,277 hectares of basic grains, and 2,927 hectares of fruit and horticulture crops. The most planted crops included: corn, bean, coffee, potato, watermelon, sorghum, rice, cabbage, grenadine, and onion.
- Thanks to project intervention, residents and technical unit coordinators of the San Isidro municipality learned to mark areas protected by legal sanctions against those who attempt to harm them. When protected areas are properly marked, specific areas can be defined to allow wood collection and legal tree felling, organizing and controlling available resources. This month, 445 participants attended 29 training events to strengthen natural resource management practices.
- Since June 17, Honduran producers have had more opportunities to export agricultural goods to El Salvador now that they can obtain their official documentation and sanitary permits from the office of El Poy, located on the border between Honduras and El Salvador. In the past, producers obtained permits in Santa Rosa de Copán, which lies two hours from the border. With USAID-ACCESO's initiative and support, the new customer service counter will save time, reduce costs, and promote agricultural commerce.

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 is assisting 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.



Residents and coordinators of the Municipality of San Isidro received qualified technical assistance to mark and protect safeguarded areas. With the use of technology the coordinators mark the protected watershed territory.



The project continues working to improve the agricultural production and commercialization of new crops such as passion fruit, loofah, and cucumber.

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

Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,419	21,532	898
Intibucá	5,486	43,851	793
La Paz	5,645	33,991	730
Lempira	6,953	45,022	1,224
Ocotepeque	4,639	23,336	576
Santa Bárbara	6,778	20,440	1,059
Otros	-	-	798
TOTAL	34,920	188,171	6,078

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



Thanks to the technical assistance provided by USAID-ACCESO, the Garcia brothers of Erandique increased yields in corn from 5 quintals from 0.4 hectares up to 60-70 quintals from the same area. The brothers apply their acquired knowledge and also promote the practices with other producers of the area.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 24,166 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 19,377 strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics, including basic and cultural practices for coffee and horticulture crops; soil preparation and management; pest, disease and weed identification and control; transplant and planting; fertilization program management; nutrient balance; adequate use of agrochemicals; soil conservation; and contour plowing.

1,374 technical assistance visits focused on creating healthy households and personal and home hygiene; 888 on processing; 795 on business skills such as production logs and cost reduction; 523 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 489 visits were on natural resource management; and 146 on postharvest and certification.

VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to create new products from available resources to generate off-farm employment opportunities. This month, 416 participants attended 65 training events where they learned to transform resources into commercial products such as furniture, baked goods, dairy products, flour tortillas, vegetable chips, and fruit concentrate for juices.

Forestry specialists continued promoting legal tree felling, working with wood transformers in creating furniture, doors, chests, and other in-demand products for sale to local markets.



USAID-ACCESO supports legal tree felling for the creation of commercialized goods such as doors, tables, and chests to increase income in households.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

In June, 57 participants attended five training events on market information during which they identified new market opportunities and potential clients, and studied buyer standards and regulations. These types of trainings strengthen small-scale producers' ability to participate in more lucrative commercial markets.

Marketing specialists continued coordinating tours of producers' plots to increase exposure for small-scale farmers and deliver information about market routes and buyer requirements. This month, the project organized 69 visits that facilitated sharing of market information, logistic details, and transportation coordination.



Marketing specialists promote tours and visits to small-scale producers' plots, creating relationships between the market and assisted producers and increasing exposure for rural communities.



Nutrition and health technicians promote spacing pregnancies in rural communities to improve the overall health of mother and child.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 293 training events during which 3,818 parents had the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 1,470 participants were trained in spacing pregnancies, promoting the importance of maintaining a period of two years between pregnancies to provide a better quality of life for mothers and children. 609 participants increased their knowledge of healthy recipes by participating in food preparation trainings during which they prepared natural juices, rice with vegetables, tortillas fortified with green leaves, plantain cakes, yuca rolls, corn-based meals, bean soup with green leaves, and other iron and vitamin enriched meals made at low costs from readily-available ingredients.

PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In 2010, the municipality of Erandique, Lempira suffered from torrential rains and landslides that affected the watershed El Nacho, leaving the area more vulnerable to the risk of completely losing this water source for the communities of Barrio Nuevo and Carrizalito.

In response to the situation, natural resource management specialists started working with the community to restore the watershed. After numerous activities and technical assistance visits, residents of both communities came together to plant 200 yucca stakes in contoured terraces to stabilize the area. The total cost of materials and labor was less than \$1,000. The communities of Barrio Nuevo and Carrizalito now have a safe water source and the necessary knowledge to restore protected areas in case of future emergencies.



Fotos por Fintrac Inc.

More than 100 people from of Barrio Nuevo and Carrizalito actively participated restoring the watershed area of El Nacho, planting 200 yucca stakes in rows in small contoured terraces.

Trainings –June 2013

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	52	8
Business Skills / Finance	682	101
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	755	46
Postharvest and Certifications	215	26
Processing and Added Value	416	65
Production	17,996	2,061
Market Information	57	5
Nutrition and Health	3,818	293
ACCESO project	11	2
TOTAL	24,002	2,607

This monthly update was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This 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 is implemented by Fintrac Inc. in association with FHIA, Zamorano, Aldea Global, FUNDER and CARE, and with CASM, COPRAFEL, Hermandad de Honduras, IHCAFE, OCDIH, PILARH, Save the Children and Visión Mundial.