



Monthly Bulletin *August 2013*

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 35,565 households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting production technologies and practices to increase incomes and improve the overall quality of life. The project is benefitting 191,603 people – 90 percent of whom live in poverty and extreme poverty conditions – through technical assistance and training in production, value-added processing, natural resource management, renewable technologies, disaster mitigation, and nutrition and health.
- The total production area increased to 42,055 hectares this month: 18,514 hectares of coffee, 20,425 of basic grains, and 3,116 of fruit and horticulture crops. Crops covering the most planting area included: corn, bean, coffee, sweet potato, and allspice.
- During the month of August, USAID-ACCESO opened two nutritional training centers in the communities of Los Olivos and San Pedro Lomas, Intibucá. These centers, which are located in schools, provide nutrition and health knowledge to local mothers on how to prepare healthy foods for their children under two years old. The center also teaches mothers that participate in the school lunch initiative.
- The project held the Boncafe coffee award ceremonies in Lempira and Intibucá this month. 37 winners were USAID-ACCESO producers (19 from Lempira and 18 from Intibucá); their products scored between 86 and 90 points, categorizing them as high-quality specialty coffees. More than 250 producers from the two departments participated in the events.



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ACCESS to technical knowledge: Copán producers visited producers in Ocotepeque to learn basic production practices for lettuce.



ACCESS to markets: Coffee producers from Lempira received top prizes for their high-quality coffee at the Boncafe award ceremony.

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

Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,528	22,277	1,027
Intibucá	5,700	44,381	832
La Paz	5,868	33,573	867
Lempira	6,941	45,282	1,535
Ocotepeque	4,651	23,901	673
Santa Bárbara	6,877	22,189	1,265
Otros	0	0	718
TOTAL	35,565	191,603	6,917

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

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.



ACCESS to new opportunities: A farmer applies ACCESO's basic agricultural practices to his corn field; he will sell his harvest under contract to formal markets.

VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to create new products from locally-available resources to generate off-farm employment opportunities. This month, 1,290 participants attended 161 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices, and techniques to produce frozen chicken tacos, *dulce de leche*, and other dairy and bakery products. Clients also learned how to construct eco-stoves.

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

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 35,716 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 27,121 strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics, including basic production 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.

2,061 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene; 1,351 on processing; 1,636 on business skills such as production logs and reducing costs; 1,401 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 585 visits focused on natural resource management; and 645 on postharvest and certification.



ACCESS to new opportunities: A woman-owned bakery receives technical support in Ocotepeque.



ACCESS to local markets: Feeding pen for a small poultry business in Santa Barbara.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

In August, 324 participants attended 28 training events on market information. The producers and buyers learned about quality standards and regulations, supply, and the negotiation process.

Marketing specialists coordinated tours of producers' plots to increase market exposure for small-scale farmers and deliver information about market routes and formal buyer requirements. This month, the project organized 205 visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, and transportation coordination.

USAID-ACCESO organized two agricultural markets in Copán Ruins to promote local sales and reduce transportation costs, directly benefitting 16 families. The project also met with US-based Occidental Food Company to coordinate an export program for allspice.



ACCESS to a nutritious diet: A young boy eats a meal made during a training exercise at the nutritional training center in La Paz.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 202 training events, giving 3,154 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 851 participants were trained in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 675 participants learned about nutritious food preparation and practiced recipes for natural juices, rice with vegetables, fortified tortillas, bean soup, and other vitamin-rich recipes made from low-cost and accessible ingredients. 641 participants learned “healthy household” practices: the concept of establishing healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

Project staff and community partners inaugurated two new nutritional training centers in the communities of Los Olivos and San Pedro Lomas, Intibucá.

BUSINESS SKILLS AND POLICIES

1,636 technical assistance visits focused on improving business practices and access to credit. 1,290 participants attended 161 training events. This month, trainings focused on using agricultural logbooks to track calendarized planting programs of yellow corn for formal markets.

The project worked with 44 MSMEs in Lempira and Santa Barbara in legalization and training activities for 388 people (132 women). A total of 128 MSMEs have been legally registered with the help of USAID-ACCESO and 113 are in various stages of the process.



ACCESS to water: Community members mark watershed borders in participation in Intibucá.

Trainings – August 2013

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	194	19
Business Skills / Finance	1,290	161
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	951	50
Postharvest and Certifications	802	61
Processing and Added Value	990	95
Production	26,004	2,781
Market Information	324	28
Nutrition and Health	3,154	202
ACCESO project	42	3
TOTAL	33,751	3,400

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