



Monthly Bulletin *September 2013*

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,891 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 186,650 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.
- During the month of September 602.6 new hectares were cultivated reaching a total production area of 43,263 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 17,836 hectares of coffee, 22,217 of basic grains, and 3,209 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area were: coffee, beans, corn, sweet potato, tomato, onions, banana, orange, and cabbage.
- During the month of September, USAID-ACCESO participated in the eighth American Forestry Congress; during the event the project presented recycled wood processed products made with help and technical assistance from the forestry specialists. The Latin America Director of the United States Forest Service and the Secretary of the Forest Conservation Institute of Honduras attended the event.
- In September, USAID-ACCESO held the First Annual Microenterprise fair in the city of Marcala, La Paz. 19 MSMEs and five financial institutions were able to identify business and trade opportunities.



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Access to new opportunities: A tomato farmer is benefitting from improve production practices and access to market driven production programs.



Access to new markets: Using sustainable techniques, technicians are helping clients manufacture new products made from recycled wood.

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

Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,510	24,263	1,208
Intibucá	5,631	41,018	1,029
La Paz	5,784	30,469	946
Lempira	6,739	42,912	1,692
Ocotepeque	4,397	21,953	745
Santa Bárbara	6,830	26,035	1,370
Otros	0	0	713
TOTAL	34,891	186,650	7,703

*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 technical knowledge: Producers from Intibucá are learning good agricultural practices for carrots.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 32,587 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 24,425 strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics, including basic 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.

2,160 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene; 1,106 on processing; 1,977 on business skills such as production logs and reducing costs; 970 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 991 visits focused on natural resource management; and 641 on postharvest and certification.

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, 769 participants attended 96 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.



Access to new opportunities: Passion fruit planting with basic production practices and purchasing agreements with local buyers.



Access to markets: the project participated in an agribusiness fair, Promoting Business 2013, displaying fresh and processed products from project clients.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

In September, 326 participants attended 20 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 184 visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, and transportation coordination.



Access to better health and nutrition: A health volunteer in Ciprés, Belén Gualcho, fills out a weight and height monitoring chart with a nutrition and health technician.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 215 training events, giving 3,348 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 1,174 participants were trained in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 547 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. 648 participants learned “healthy household” practices: the concept of establishing healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

BUSINESS SKILLS AND POLICY

1,977 technical assistance visits focused on improving business practices and access to credit. 1,450 participants attended 94 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, including 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 new knowledge: A group of community bank leaders attend training on best management practices for their banks.

Trainings – August 2013

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	291	18
Business Skills / Finance	1,450	94
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	973	53
Postharvest and Certifications	720	62
Processing and Added Value	769	96
Production	23,254	2,583
Market Information	326	20
Nutrition and Health	3,348	20
ACCESO project	-	-
TOTAL	31,131	2,946

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