



Monthly Bulletin *October 2013*

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,880 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 186,054 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 October 243 new hectares were cultivated under project technical assistance reaching a total production area of 43,311 hectares, including: 17,906 hectares of coffee, 22,159 of basic grains, and 3,246 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area were: coffee, beans, sweet potato, onions, avocado, corn, banana, tomato, cabbage, and passion fruit.
- This month, USAID-ACCESO conducted the first delivery of yellow corn from small-scale producers in Santa Bárbara to national markets through ALIANSA, a Honduran distributor. The delivery of 665 quintals of corn was worth \$8,780. In the coming months, producers will be delivering additional harvested crops from the departments of Copán and Lempira.
- USAID-ACCESO opened a new nutrition training center in Goascotoro, La Paz. The center is located in a school where it provides nutrition and health education to local mothers on how to prepare healthy foods for children under two years old. The center also trains mothers who participate in the school lunch initiative.



All photos by Fintrac Inc.
ACCESS to new markets: Project clients participate in agribusiness fairs, displaying their products and establishing contact with buyers and input providers.



ACCESS to new opportunities: Producers growing yellow maize under contract are guaranteed a reliable market and fair prices.

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

Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,482	24,575	1,218
Intibucá	5,635	39,818	1,041
La Paz	5,784	29,578	980
Lempira	6,736	42,273	1,740
Ocotepeque	4,404	23,205	756
Santa Bárbara	6,829	26,605	1,385
Otros	0	0	716
TOTAL	34,870	186,054	7,836

*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: Copán producers visited producers in Ocotepeque to learn basic production practices.

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, 416 participants attended 81 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices, and techniques to produce frozen chicken tacos, frozen beans, 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 options: a partnership with La Colonia supermarkets presented recipes and nutritious foods with harvested products from ACCESO producers.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 25,684 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 19,793 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.

1,476 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene; 1,209 on processing; 732 on business skills such as production logs and controlling costs; 493 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 290 visits focused on natural resource management; and 890 on postharvest and certification.



ACCESS to new opportunities: Handling and sorting passion fruit for sale and commercialization to new markets in the community of La Entrada, Copán.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

In October, 51 participants attended eight 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 156 visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, and transportation coordination.



ACCESS to better nutrition and health: A mother feeds her baby at the inauguration of a new nutritional training center in the community of Guascotoro, La Paz.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 184 training events, giving 2,582 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 1,072 participants were trained in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 133 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. 343 participants learned “healthy household” practices: the concept of establishing healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

DRIP IRRIGATION

USAID-ACCESO agricultural production specialists provided technical assistance in the installation of drip irrigation systems to ensure continuity and high yields in production and increased revenue.

The drip irrigation technology maximizes water use by controlling the volume of water that is delivered directly to the plants through the drip systems. They also allow accurate, regular and cost effective delivery of fertilizers and biologicals controls to the plants. Constant access to water allows continuous production, healthier crops and crop diversification, all of which lead to higher incomes. By diversifying into crops such as tomato, onion, banana, lettuce, cabbage, carrots and other vegetables, families also increase diet diversity and food security.



ACCESS to technology: Intibucá producers and the Minister of Agriculture, Jacobo Regalado, inaugurate a drip irrigation system.

Trainings – October 2013

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	594	78
Business Skills / Finance	501	73
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	249	13
Postharvest and Certifications	801	74
Processing and Added Value	416	81
Production	17,910	2,351
Market Information	51	8
Nutrition and Health	2,582	184
ACCESO project	64	1
TOTAL	23,168	2,863

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