



Monthly Bulletin *May 2014*

HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,655 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 184,245 people – 89 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.
- This month, 1,810 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 55,781 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 23,999 hectares of coffee, 26,869 of basic grains, and 4,913 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: coffee, maize, bean, watermelon, rice, potato, banana, tomato, and cabbage.
- More than 1,560 hectares of maize planted this month are using new basic practices that will allow for higher yields even during times of uneven rain distribution.
- In May, the project established contact with an exporter of oriental vegetables in the Quimistan area. Producers began planting eggplant, bitter melon, cucumber, and okra as a pilot plot at a school in Pompilio Ortega.
- This month, clients continued planting pasture for livestock feed in La Paz, Copan and Ocotepeque. This pasture production has demonstrated effectiveness for both increased milk production to increased weight in calves. To date, USAID-ACCESO clients have planted 177 acres of pasture.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Access to technical expertise: A producer implements good agricultural practices such as high-density planting, drip irrigation, and crop rotation. Llanito Verde, Lempira.



Access to recognition: The President of Honduras, US Ambassador, Ministers of Health and Education, and other US dignitaries visit San Pedro de Lomas, Intibucá to recognize the health volunteers working with USAID-ACCESO.

USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, May 2014

Department	Household Clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients*
Copán	5,459	24,072	1,553
Intibucá	5,641	37,061	1,280
La Paz	5,724	27,546	1,060
Lempira	6,669	44,658	2,004
Ocotepeque	4,397	24,875	895
Santa Bárbara	6,765	26,032	1,729
Otros	0	0	763
TOTAL	34,655	184,245	9,284

*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 households above the poverty line and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.



Access to technical expertise: Lettuce and bean production using drip irrigation, high plant density, raised beds, and pest control. San Manuel de Colohuete, Lempira.

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, 363 participants attended 59 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices, including those for processing fruit and vegetables, as well as techniques to produce new dairy and baked goods.

Forestry specialists conducted 144 technical assistance visits in sustainable forestry management and wood processing practices. Six training events for 58 participants were held this month.



Access to business development services: Business development specialists present official registration papers to the board of a producer association. Quiala, Intibucá.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 26,114 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 19,666 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 and safe use of agrochemicals; soil conservation; and contour plowing.

2,274 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene, particularly during pregnancy; 1,049 on processing; 1,118 on business skills including production logs and reducing costs. 641 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 318 visits focused on natural resource management; and 459 on postharvest handling and certifications.



Access to technical expertise: Specialists in agroforestry train clients at the cooperative El Palisal on building wood cubes to meet market demand. Yamaranguila, Intibucá.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

In May, 15 participants attended two training events on market information. The producers and buyers learned about quality standards and regulations, supply, and the negotiation process. Technicians conducted 50 technical assistance visits to provide support in logistic coordination with local and regional markets, including transport of goods from farm to market.

Marketing specialists continued coordinating tours of producers' plots to increase market exposure for small-scale farmers and deliver information about market logistics routes and formal buyer requirements.



Access to better living conditions: This house in San Luis, Santa Barbara features three basic home improvements promoted by USAID-ACCESO: an eco-stove, running water, and cement floors.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The nutrition and health team held 238 training events, giving 3,771 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 981 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children’s nutritional status, especially their weight; 1,524 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life for both mother and child. 433 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. 594 participants learned “healthy household” practices: the concept of establishing healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

USAID-ACCESO animal production specialists are training livestock farmers in various aspects of good livestock management to help them diversify into new income sources. In May, clients in La Paz, Copan, and Ocotepeque continued planting feed pasture to ensure a constant supply of food for their animals. The families have learned a variety of new techniques to improve feeding practices and provide the correct rations during all stages of development. Producers are also learning to reduce production costs and prepare homemade feed concentrate. The project continues to assist in management of tilapia, poultry, dairy and breeding cattle, and goats and pigs.

The project held 641 technical assistance visits in animal production and management this month.



Access to new income sources: Female producer harvests and prepares pasture to feed her livestock. Brisas de San Juan, Copan.

Training – May 2014

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	193	33
Business and Finance Skills	478	47
Natural Resource Management and Disaster Mitigation	231	9
Postharvest and Certifications	418	57
Processing and Value Addition	421	65
Production	18,064	2,515
Market Information	28	6
Nutrition and Health	3,771	238
TOTAL	23,604	2,970

67 percent of participants are male and 33 percent are female.

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