



Monthly Bulletin *July 2014*

HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,495 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 183,358 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, 386 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 66,164 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 24,548 hectares of coffee, 36,219 of basic grains, and 5,397 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: maize, bean, coffee, potatoes, cabbage, pepper, and papaya.
- USAID-ACCESO participated in Wal-Mart’s annual fair, hosting a stand with information for producers and other participants on successful technologies and inputs promoted by the project, as well as the distribution of production manuals for maize and beans. The project’s nutrition handbook was also distributed to more than 290 producers participating in the event. COPRAUL, a collection center in Ocotepeque whose producers are all USAID-ACCESO clients, was a winner at the event.
- The buying and export manager for OLAM, an international coffee exporter, visited producers in La Paz and Santa Bárbara to discuss local and international sales opportunities. Representatives from FHIS and USAID visited renewable energy projects in Santa Bárbara and Intibucá to discuss potential expansion of these projects.



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Access to technical expertise: a grower shows off her high-value squash crop, which she has diversified to from corn thanks to Project support. Santa Fe, Jesús de Otoro, Intibucá.



Access to technical expertise: Farmers receive training in basic practices for maize, including plant spacing and fertilizer application. Gualcinse, Valladolid, Lempira.

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

| Department | Household clients | Beneficiaries | Other clients * |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Copán | 5,412 | 23,773 | 1,573 |
| Intibucá | 5,620 | 36,937 | 1,396 |
| La Paz | 5,712 | 27,298 | 1,060 |
| Lempira | 6,664 | 44,602 | 1,996 |
| Ocotepeque | 4,392 | 24,756 | 930 |
| Santa Bárbara | 6,695 | 25,993 | 1,746 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 775 |
| TOTAL | 34,495 | 183,358 | 9,476 |

**Includes: MSMEs, buyers, input and service providers, municipal corporations, counterbart 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: A small-scale coffee producer in Santa Barbara receives training in pest and disease identification and drip irrigation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 27,174 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 21,900 (70 percent) 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.

2,948 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene, particularly during pregnancy; 1,294 on processing; 1,558 on business skills including production logs and reducing costs. 1,006 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 456 visits focused on natural resource management; and 438 on postharvest handling and certifications.

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, 430 participants attended 52 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 192 technical assistance visits in sustainable forestry management and wood processing practices. Six training events for 47 participants were held this month.



Access to technical expertise: A project postharvest specialist trains smallholder lettuce farmer in proper harvesting techniques. Guanololo, Azacualpa, Intibucá.



Access to markets: OLAM buyers visit coffee producers in La Paz to discuss requirements and opportunities for export.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, marketing specialists continued exploring options for exporting passion fruit pulp. They visited La Paz and Santa Bárbara to establish links between coffee producer groups and international exporter OLAM.

The project organized 248 technical assistance visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, transportation coordination, and sanitary requirements for export.



Access to better nutrition and health: Mothers learn to prepare foods high in vitamins and minerals with guidance from nutrition specialists. San Pedro de Lomas, Intibucá.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 265 training events, giving 4,182 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 1,019 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children’s nutritional status, especially their weight; 1,669 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 422 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. 698 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, including improving their animals’ productivity, reducing production costs, opening access to new markets, and, in some cases, diversifying into new income sources. In July, clients in La Paz, Copan, and Ocotepeque continued planting feed grass to ensure a constant supply of pasture for their animals. In Copan, five additional families received five steers each for fattening through the alliance with El Corral, bringing the total number of families supplying this market to 15. The project continues to assist in management of tilapia, poultry, dairy and breeding cattle, and goats and pigs.

The project held 1,006 technical assistance visits in animal production and management this month.



Access to off-farm business opportunities: Small dairy processing businesses receive technical assistance to help them ensure quality, diversify their product offerings, and access new markets. La Esperanza, San Jerónimo, Copán.

Trainings – July 2014

| Area | Participants | Events |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| Renewable Energy | 147 | 28 |
| Business Skills / Finance | 900 | 110 |
| Market Information | 271 | 18 |
| Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation | 354 | 24 |
| Nutrition and Health | 4,182 | 265 |
| Postharvest and Certifications | 422 | 47 |
| Processing and Added Value | 430 | 52 |
| Production | 17,604 | 2,402 |
| TOTAL | 24,310 | 2,946 |

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