



Monthly Bulletin *August 2014*

HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,477 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 183,247 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, 459 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 68,458 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 25,162 hectares of coffee, 37,579 of basic grains, and 5,717 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: coffee, maize, bean, potato, plantain, tomato, allspice, carrot, and cabbage.
- In August, the project continued activities under the partnership with ANAVIH. Thirty-five poultry producers from Santa Barbara, Copan, and Lempira met with representatives of ANAVIH to learn about the advantages to and requirements for partnering with ANAVIH. At the end of the day 16 of the 35 producers began the process of association.
- Under the ANAVIH agreement, weekly delivery of eggs continued to schools and nutrition training centers in Santa Barbara, Copan, Intibucá, Lempira and Ocotepeque, benefiting 627 children under 2 years and 636 preschool and school-age children. In November 2014, ANAVIH studies will conduct complete blood and cholesterol testing among the target population, in order to determine whether to extend the initiative to other communities to further expand the project’s reach and impact.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.
Access to technical expertise: A maize producer displays good agricultural practices under use, including plant spacing, and fertilization. Concepción del Norte, Santa Bárbara.



Access to technology: Farmers are using new technologies such as these automated water filtration and pumping systems to irrigate high-value crops. Guise, La Esperanza, Intibucá.

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

Departament	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients*
Copán	5,415	23,793	1,643
Intibucá	5,622	36,952	1,427
La Paz	5,708	27,280	1,119
Lempira	6,679	44,610	2,103
Ocotepeque	4,393	24,762	1,018
Santa Bárbara	6,660	25,850	1,764
Others	0	0	798
TOTAL	34,477	183,247	9,872

*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: Crop rotation of corn and bean using basic technologies. Cabañas, La Paz.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 25,844 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 18,027 (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.

2,191 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene, particularly during pregnancy; 1,330 on processing; 1,484 on business skills including production logs and reducing costs. 1,006 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 662 visits focused on natural resource management; and 727 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, 413 participants attended 55 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 248 technical assistance visits in sustainable forestry management and wood processing practices. Ten training events for 90 participants were held this month.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, project clients sent the first containers of passion fruit concentrate to Europe through a marketing alliance with ALPROSA. Agreements with two exporters resulted in initial planting of chilies and chia. The number of products for weekly delivery to La Colonia rose from 6 to 14 this month thanks to continued negotiations.



Access to infrastructure: A new irrigation system will irrigate 10 hectares of cucumber, tomato and bean in La Elencia, Florida, Copán.



Access to better health and nutrition: Mothers learn to prepare foods with high nutritional value, Intibucá.

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 August, household clients continued planting feed pasture to ensure a constant supply of food for their animals. 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. Through 93 events 726 participants improved their understanding of proper animal management, particularly with regard to feed and nutrition.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 234 training events, giving 3,260 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 732 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children's nutritional status, especially their weight; 1,442 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. 335 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. 654 participants learned "healthy household" practices: the concept of establishing healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.



Access to new business opportunities: Women receive training in milk processing techniques in order to develop off-farm sources of income. Azacualpa, Santa Bárbara.

Training – August 2014

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	267	33
Business and Finance Skills	1,154	108
Market Information	69	8
Natural Resource Management and Disaster Mitigation	377	36
Nutrition and Health	3,260	234
Postharvest and Certification	751	51
Processing and Added Value	413	55
Production	16,933	2,179
TOTALS	23,224	2,704

71% of participants are male and 29 percent female.

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