



## Monthly Bulletin *September 2014*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,050 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 181,288 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, 1,363 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 71,672 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 25,988 hectares of coffee, 39,542 of basic grains, and 6,142 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: bean, coffee, maize, zucchini, potato, plantain, tomato, cabbage, and allspice.
- USAID-ACCESO continued installing water systems in select communities in order to ensure potable water and year round production. In September, the project inaugurated two potable water systems in Azacualpa and Llano Alegre, Santa Elena in the department of La Paz, and two irrigation systems in Chinquilla, Colinas, Santa Barbara and Buenos Aires, Opatoro, La Paz.
- Visits this month included those by the US Ambassador, representatives from USAID/Honduras and USAID/Washington, and the Ministers of Economic Development and Agriculture to nutrition and production sites in La Paz. Two organizers from USAID/Washington’s Climate Smart Agriculture Practices bureau visited Gracias, Lempira to see sites where project clients are applying these practices.



*Access to technical expertise:* A corn producer has started diversifying his plantings to include radish, which were planted using good agriculture practices; Mejojote, Lempira.



*Access to technical expertise:* A smallholder bean farmer shows off her healthy crop planted using good agricultural practices; San Manuel de Colohete, Lempira.

#### USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, September 2014

Departament	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients*
Copán	5,375	23,651	1,702
Intibucá	5,583	36,804	1,554
La Paz	5,646	27,013	1,259
Lempira	6,635	44,448	2,164
Ocotepeque	4,336	24,432	1,144
Santa Bárbara	6,475	24,940	1,813
Others	0	0	837
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,050</b>	<b>181,288</b>	<b>10,473</b>

\*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 markets:* Farmers grade harvested chilies produced under contract with a processor; Azacualpa, Santa Bárbara.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 23,861 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 16,934 (71 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.

1,895 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene, particularly during pregnancy; 1,073 on processing; 1,334 on business skills including production logs and reducing costs. 1,255 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 651 visits focused on natural resource management and disaster mitigation and prevention; and 445 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, 257 participants attended 28 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices, including those for processing fruit and vegetables, dairy products, and others.



*Access to recognition:* The US Ambassador, representatives from USAID/Honduras and Washington, and the Ministers of Economic Development and Agriculture visit ACCESO producers; Cabañas, La Paz.



*Access to technology:* A "cold room" made of charcoal keeps harvested products cool on-farm; Mejocote, Lempira.

## ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, marketing specialists continued activities to identify new markets. They contacted new buyers including Los Andes supermarket and Grupo Intur. Discussions with Los Andes are underway for the sale of 27 different horticulture products, and Grupo Intur is considering purchasing potato, onion, lettuce, and tomato. These discussions will continue next month.

The project organized 58 technical assistance visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, transportation coordination, and sanitary requirements for export.



*Access to potable water:* Inauguration of potable water system in Azacualpa, Santa Elena, La Paz.

## NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 239 training events, giving 3,411 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 794 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children’s nutritional status, especially their weight; 1,571 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 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. 642 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 providing training and technical assistance to livestock farmers to improve their animals’ productivity, reduce costs, open access to new markets, and, in some cases, diversify into new income sources. In September, the project continued 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 focused on good livestock and poultry management. 123 events provided 1,079 participants the opportunity to improve their understanding of animal management, commercialization requirements, and fodder preparation.



*Access to finance:* Rural community banks receive training to improve their existing credit services and to offer new services such as input sales and grain pledging, which contribute to increased net incomes; Caja Rural Medalla Milagrosa, Intibucá.

### Trainings – September 2014

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	175	22
Business Skills / Finance	462	42
Market Information	193	13
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	479	25
Nutrition and Health	3,411	239
Postharvest and Certifications	384	49
Processing and Added Value	257	28
Production	16,370	2,118
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,731</b>	<b>2,536</b>

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