



Monthly Bulletin *October 2014*

HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,047 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 181,267 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, 218 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 71,923 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 26,054 hectares of coffee, 39,617 of basic grains, and 6,1252 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: coffee, bean, potato, maize, red onion, cabbage, tomato, plantain, chia, and sweet pepper.
- USAID-ACCESO participated in the Food Security and Nutrition Forum sponsored by EAP-Zamorano. Other participants included students, mayors from communities around Zamorano, and other special guests from both the public and private sector.
- USAID personnel visited communities working with the project’s nutrition component in Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibucá, and La Paz to identify and analyze potential cases of anemia in children under 2 years old.
- To date, more than 736 students have carried out project-promoted practices in processing, business and finance skills, production, health and nutrition, IT, and administration. These students come from 57 different institutions, including technical colleges and universities, and have received 4,880 weeks of on-the-job training. Thirty-four students came from the university level.



All photos by Fintrac Inc.
Access to technical expertise: Implementing basic practices on maize achieves higher yields; Mejocote, Lempira.



Access to technical expertise: Producers visit other USAID-ACCESO clients to learn how they bag plantains for commercial planting; Cane, La Paz.

USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, October 2014			
Departament	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients*
Copán	5,372	23,645	1,706
Intibucá	5,584	36,795	1,562
La Paz	5,646	27,028	1,258
Lempira	6,635	44,438	2,166
Ocotepeque	4,335	24,427	1,150
Santa Bárbara	6,474	24,934	1,817
Others	0	0	821
TOTAL	34,047	181,267	10,480

*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.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 18,222 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 12,370 (68 percent) strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics including basic practices for coffee, basic grains, 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.

1,476 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition to prevent anemia, proper administration of micronutrients received from health posts, pregnancy spacing, and improving personal and home hygiene; 814 on processing; 1,096 on business skills including production logs for both producers and MSMEs and reducing costs. 820 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 757 visits focused on natural resource management and disaster mitigation and prevention; and 354 on postharvest handling and certifications.

VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to help microenterprises perfect their processes and products in order to guarantee improved profitability and success on the market. This month, 289 participants attended 41 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices, including those for processing fruit and vegetables, wood products, and others.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, marketing specialists continued activities to identify new markets and confirmed agreements with new buyers including Los Andes supermarket, Pricemart, and Grupo Intur.

The project organized 27 technical assistance visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, transportation coordination, and sanitary requirements for export. Seven events trained 41 participants in meeting market and buyer requirements for specialty coffee.



Access to knowledge: Students and producers learn to use drip tape to make low-cost doors; Mejojote, Lempira.



Access to income: Packaging jilotes to add value to harvested crops; Mejojote, Lempira.



Access to education: A group of students finish their field day with USAID-ACCESO; Cane, La Paz.



Access to information: Health volunteers trained by USAID-ACCESO measure the height of children between 2 and 5 years old.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 181 training events, giving 2,647 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 427 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children’s nutritional status, especially their weight; 1,340 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 331 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. 357 participants learned “healthy household” practices to establish 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 October, the project continued to assist in management of tilapia, poultry, dairy and breeding cattle, and goats and pigs.

The project held 820 technical assistance visits in animal production and management this month focused on good livestock and poultry management. 70 events provided 624 individuals opportunity to improve their understanding of animal management, commercialization requirements, and fodder preparation at the community level.



Access to new opportunities: Households can diversify their incomes with animal production, including small-scale pig fattening; Florida, Copan.

Trainings – October 2014

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	401	58
Business Skills / Finance	477	46
Market Information	11	3
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	693	28
Nutrition and Health	2,647	181
Postharvest and Certifications	287	38
Processing and Added Value	289	41
Production	11,278	1,510
TOTAL	16,083	1,905

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