



Monthly Bulletin *November 2014*

HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,041 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 181,231 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, 452 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 72,443 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 26,166 hectares of coffee, 39,854 of basic grains, and 6,423 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: maize, coffee, onion, bean, potato, cabbage, plantain, squash, and green beans.
- Awards for the best yields in corn and milk were presented this month in Lempira. Two of the top three finishers harvested during the event; Carlos Calixto Castillo yielded 106 quintales per manzana; Jose Ceferino Lopez 96 quintales per manzana; and Agustin Martinez 70 quintales. Of the 17 participants, one woman, Marian Bernarda Castillo, placed in the top 10.
- Seventeen clients with at least two cows each participated in a competition for the highest milk production. In the category of improved cow, Allen Milla won first place with a production of 20 liters per cow per day. Second and third place winners yielded 15.5 liters and 11.5 liters per cow per day, respectively. In the category of “vaca criolla” Abelardo Diaz took first place with 9.5 liters of milk per cow per day. All participants are providing their cows with improved feed using the good practices learned from USAID-ACCESO.



Access to knowledge: At a maize yield competition winner Carlos Calixto Castillo Martinez achieved yields of 106 QQ/Mz with the implementation of good agricultural practices; Erandique, Lempira.



Access to knowledge: At a milking competition in Lempira, Allen Milla took first place in the improved cow category with 20 liters of milk per day. Abelardo Diaz won first place in vaca criolla with 9.5 liters per day; Erandique, Lempira.

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

| Department | Household clients | Beneficiaries | Other Clients* |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Copán | 5,372 | 23,640 | 1,707 |
| Intibucá | 5,583 | 36,788 | 1,568 |
| La Paz | 5,642 | 27,023 | 1,258 |
| Lempira | 6,635 | 44,429 | 2,169 |
| Ocotepeque | 4,335 | 24,422 | 1,151 |
| Santa Bárbara | 6,475 | 24,929 | 1,816 |
| Others | 0 | 0 | 821 |
| TOTAL | 34,041 | 181,231 | 10,488 |

*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 18,438 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 11,855 (64 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.

1,669 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; 826 on processing; 1,351 on business skills including production logs for both producers and MSMEs and reducing costs. 714 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 746 visits focused on natural resource management and disaster mitigation and prevention; and 528 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, 212 participants attended 34 training events. One event in particular trained a group of women in Corquin, Copan on improving their confectionary business. They are diversifying their product offerings to improve competitiveness.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, marketing specialists continued activities to identify new markets and confirm agreements with new buyers. In November, project clients sent a second container of frozen passion fruit to a buyer in England. Marketing specialists are in negotiation with two other exporters to send passion fruit concentrate to Europe and the US.

The project organized 242 technical assistance visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, transportation coordination, and sanitary requirements for export. Seven events trained 93 participants in meeting market and buyer requirements for specialty coffee.



Access to technology: Inaguration of a new irrigation system in Candelaria y Gualcinse, Lempira with participation of local mayors and governor.



Access to knowledge: Health volunteers participate in production events to sell healthy food such as fortified tortillas; La Paz.



Access to improved diets: A community bank provides ingredients to a school as part of an initiative to support healthy school meals; El Durasnal, La Paz.



Access to knowledge: Mothers participate in a health fair to receive basic health services for their children under 2, learn new recipes, and practice healthy behaviors; Santa Maria, La Paz.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 185 training events, giving 2,587 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 476 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children’s nutritional status, especially their weight; 1,228 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 155 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. 230 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 November, project specialists in Lempira awarded prizes to clients with the best milk production thanks to improved feeding and maintenance practices.

The project held 714 technical assistance visits in animal production and management this month focused on good livestock and poultry management. 75 events provided 747 individuals the opportunity to improve their understanding of animal management, commercialization requirements, and fodder preparation at the community level.



Access to finance: Small-scale bean, grain, and livestock producers learn about new financing options from project specialists; Berlín, Copán.

Trainings – November 2014

| Area | Participants | Events |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| Renewable Energy | 472 | 80 |
| Business Skills / Finance | 439 | 40 |
| Market Information | 93 | 7 |
| Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation | 586 | 31 |
| Nutrition and Health | 2,587 | 185 |
| Postharvest and Certifications | 441 | 53 |
| Processing and Added Value | 212 | 34 |
| Production | 10,750 | 1,481 |
| TOTAL | 15,580 | 1,911 |

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