



Monthly Bulletin *January 2015*

HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,033 households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting the transfer of technology, good agricultural practices, nutrition and health, and business development to increase income and improve the quality of life. The project is benefitting 181,188 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, linkages to market, disaster mitigation, and nutrition and health.
- In January, 235 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 73,427 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 26,322 hectares of coffee, 40,451 of basic grains, and 6,654 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: bean, maize, potato, coffee, bananas, cabbage, watermelon, onion, tomato, and lettuce.
- This month, USAID-ACCESO conducted a study of anemia and parasites in children 6-24 months in 21 communities across nine municipalities of six departments. This study was performed in collaboration with the microbiology department of the National Autonomous University of Honduras and the laboratories at the centers of health in each department. Of the 341 children participating in the study, 57.5 percent tested positive for one or more types of parasites. Preliminary results of the study were presented in La Esperanza to USAID representatives and the Secretary of Health; a presentation of final results is scheduled for March.
- The installation of irrigation systems continued alongside the development of parcel plots. These two systems have been introduced in Olosingo and Cololaca of Lempira department.
- A water project was inaugurated that supplies the communities of central Manazapa, Los Encinos, Planes, and Rio Grande and benefits 517 families. USAID-ACCESO, WEFTA, and community members contributed to the reconstruction.



Access to technology: The planting of beans with basic technology includes soil preparation, contour plowing, soil beds, drip irrigation, and fertigation. Planes, Lempira.



Access to technology & markets: After following the recommended harvesting of coffee, this farmer holds a handful of drying beans. Roblón, Lempira.

USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, January 2015

Department	Household Clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,373	23,636	1,722
Intibucá	5,583	36,782	1,622
La Paz	5,636	27,018	1,258
Lempira	6,634	44,408	2,194
Ocotepeque	4,333	24,418	1,159
Santa Bárbara	6,474	24,925	1,828
Otros	0	0	813
TOTAL	34,033	181,188	10,596

*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 15,258 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 11,035 (72 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.

1,210 technical assistance visits focused on health and nutrition, focusing on the importance of preventing childhood anemia through proper feeding and hygiene care; proper administration of micronutrients received from health posts; growth monitoring; pregnancy spacing; food preparation; and improving personal and home hygiene practices. Of these visits, 603 concentrated on processing; 775 on business skills including production logs for both producers and MSMEs and reducing costs; 565 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 344 visits focused on natural resource management and disaster mitigation and prevention; and 371 on postharvest handling and certifications.

VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to help microenterprises perfect their processes and products to guarantee improved profitability and success on the market. This month, 51 participants attended 14 training events. One event in particular trained eight members of the association of ranchers in Erandique on dairy preparation. The participants learned how to make new products, including an energizing drink that combines whey with local fruits. This drink is being promoted for consumption at the household level and local commercialization.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, marketing specialists continued activities to identify new markets and work with existing agreements. Under the agreement with OLAM, 100 solar dryers for coffee were constructed, which benefits an equal number of families in La Paz and Santa Bárbara. OLAM has now started the delivery of specialty coffee.

The project organized 101 technical assistance visits this month that facilitated sharing logistical details, transportation coordination, linkages with buyers, and sanitary requirements for export. Seven events trained 116 participants in tackling issues around marketing specialty coffee and responding to buyer demands.



Access to infrastructure and technology: Fixing the inlet pipe for the system of powering water using drip irrigation. Linderos, La Paz.



Access to knowledge: MSMEs working with crafts from pine needles receive training for calculating costs and profit margins, and overall business transactions. Cofradía, La Paz.



Access to markets: OLAM representatives inspect the quality of the coffee in the solar dryer before tasting micro-batches to identify specialty coffee. USAID-ACCESO farmers in La Paz y Santa Bárbara.



Access to technology: To reduce pressure on the forest from trees cut down for firewood, the project has started a program of planting in Leucaena as a source of firewood in homes with eco-fair stoves; this activity saves time and money for families; El Porvenir Segundo, Copan.

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 January, project specialists conducted 565 technical assistance visits focused on good livestock and poultry management. Sixty events provided 417 individuals the opportunity to improve their understanding of animal management, commercialization requirements, and fodder preparation at the community level.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 113 training events, giving 1,628 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 556 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children's nutritional status, especially their weight; 522 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 132 participants learned about nutritious food preparation and practiced recipes rich in iron and vitamins consisting of low-cost and accessible ingredients for rural communities. 294 participants learned "healthy household" practices to establish healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.



Access to technology: Livestock feeding options are increasing as animal and agricultural production make gains, including fresh and dried grasses, sugarcane, and corn cobs. Cololaca, Lempira.

Trainings – January 2015

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	249	40
Business Skills / Finance	200	42
Market Information	116	7
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	184	15
Nutrition and Health	1,628	113
Postharvest and Certifications	285	40
Processing and Added Value	51	14
Production	9,603	1411
TOTAL	12,316	1,682

75% of participants were male and 25 percent were female.

This monthly update was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This content is Fintrac's responsibility, the main implementing partner of USAID-ACCESO, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of USAID or the United States government.

USAID-ACCESO is implemented by Fintrac Inc. in association with FHIA, Zamorano, Aldea Global, FUNDER and CARE, and with CASM, COPRAFEL, Hermandad de Honduras, IHCAFE, OCDIH, PILARH, Save the Children and World Vision.