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## QUARTERLY REPORT #04 (JANUARY – MARCH 2012) **USAID-ACCESO**



**March 2012**

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**Fintrac Inc.**

[www.fintrac.com](http://www.fintrac.com)

[info@fintrac.com](mailto:info@fintrac.com)

**US Virgin Islands**

3077 Kronprindsens Gade 72

St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Tel: (340) 776-7600

Fax: (340) 776-7601

**Washington, D.C.**

1400 16th Street, NW

Suite 400

Washington DC 20036

Tel: (202) 462-8475

Fax: (202) 462-8478

Email: [info@fintrac.com](mailto:info@fintrac.com)

**USAID-ACCESO**

Tegucigalpa

Oficina 1804, Piso 18,

Edificio Torre Alianza

Lomas del Guijarro Sur

Tegucigalpa MDC

La Lima

Instalaciones FHIA

Contiguo Instituto Patria

La Lima, Cortés

Tel:(504)2668-1190

E-mail: [acceso@fintrac.com](mailto:acceso@fintrac.com)

**QUARTERLY REPORT #4 (JANUARY – MARCH 2012)**  
**USAID-ACCESO**

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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USAID-ACCESO is a 46-month project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Economic Growth in Honduras, to move rural Honduran households out of extreme poverty and undernutrition by improving their incomes. USAID-ACCESO represents the core investment by USAID/Honduras in the US government's global hunger and food security initiative known as Feed the Future. The project is working through six key components to enable economic development at the household level:

1. Technical assistance and training to enhance the capacity of Honduras' poorest households in production, management, and marketing skills.
2. Market access focused on linking farmers to market opportunities.
3. Rural financial services through existing rural financial intermediaries, village banks, commercial banks, and other service and input providers.
4. Assistance in eliminating policy barriers that impede rural household access to market opportunities.
5. Malnutrition prevention activities to enhance the capacity of rural households to improve utilization and consumption of healthy food.
6. Sound environmental and natural resource management.

USAID-ACCESO is implemented by the US agribusiness firm Fintrac Inc., in association with Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola (FHIA), Escuela Agrícola Panamericana (EAP-ZAMORANO), Fundación para el Desarrollo Empresarial Rural (FUNDER), CARE International, and the Global Village Project. Other local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) were subcontracted during the first three quarters of implementation, and are now directly implementing activities under USAID-ACCESO. These include Hermandad de Honduras, Save the Children, Cooperativa Regional Agroforestal Erandique Limitada (COPRAFEL), Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras (OCDIH), Proyectos e Iniciativas Locales para el Autodesarrollo Regional de Honduras (PILARH), Comisión Acción Social Menonita (CASM), and Instituto Hondureño del Café (IHCAFE).

This is the fourth quarterly report for USAID-ACCESO, summarizing the principal activities carried out from January to March 2012. Key activities this period included expansion of market-based production; technical assistance in production and nutrition; support for small off-farm businesses; establishment of renewable energy and water conservation projects; identification of new client households; and baseline data sampling.

In addition, USAID feedback was incorporated into the final versions of the PERSUAP and the Environmental Mitigation Plan (EMP).

Within the first year of implementation, USAID-ACCESO established 12 community technical units (CTU), all of which are fully operational, and all of the technical components are functioning and integrated.

Other highlights include:

- 2,538 new client households were incorporated into the project during the quarter, for a total of **13,430 client households**, with a total of 60,386 family member beneficiaries. 1,679 micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs), Atención Integral a la Niñez en la Comunidad (AIN-C) groups, community-based organizations, and others have also enrolled in the project. For client households with income data, 8,961 are living in extreme poverty, 875 are in the poverty category, and 1,231 are non-poor (data remains to be collected for 2,363 client households).
- Technical assistance visits and training were provided to basic grain and small-scale coffee producers on soil preparation practices, increasing planting densities, implementing weed control, and improving fertilization use. Plots already harvested have **shown two or**

**threefold increases in productivity**, and in many cases have reduced the risk of climate-related losses. These activities are the starting point for diversification to more profitable high-value cash crops. Initial beneficiaries are also serving as demonstration farms for other producers and potential clients.

- A total of **8,259 hectares** are under project technical assistance with **936 hectares already in high-value, cash crop fruit and vegetable production**. Market-driven production programs have been established with local supermarkets, and initial activities have commenced for small-scale export programs to regional and international markets.
- Other technical areas are now **fully integrated into the economic development activities** (on- and off-farm), including health and nutrition, business skill development, policy, natural resource management, renewable energy, and disaster mitigation.
- **Market driven production programs** are already linking around 900 families with new market opportunities. The sales volume from the first season is expected to range between four and seven containers per week, translating to estimated weekly sales of more than \$50,000 – all new income for client families. In addition, these projects will generate more jobs in the field and in processing and packing plants.
- The project assisted with and installed **72 renewable energy systems** this quarter, for a total of 102 to date.
- With project support, the **“Copyright Law for Protection for Planting Materials”** was modified, presented to the National Congress, and passed.
- The introduction of **feeding guidelines for children under 2** is already achieving results, with communities throughout the six departments showing improvement in children who previously presented consecutive low development measurements.
- During the quarter, the project assisted clients to obtain **114 loans with a value of \$66,853**, for a project total of 552 loans worth \$395,411.
- Through continued work on marketing activities and market driven production programs, **195 MSMEs are now accessing new markets through a broker** and **223 MSMEs have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers**.

## 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Honduras' social and economic indicators rank it among the least developed countries in the Western Hemisphere, with 65.5 percent of its population living in poverty, the largest portions of which are found in rural areas.

The agriculture sector in Honduras employs 35 percent of the workforce, accounts for an estimated 75 percent of exports, and remains the most important source of income for the poor and extremely poor. USAID-ACCESO targets six departments that are among the poorest in the country. The majority of farm households cultivate traditional crops on small plots, often on hillsides, for which market access is hindered by poor roads and distance. The use of traditional cultural practices has produced poor yields, depleted soil of nutrients, and led to forest encroachment. Malnutrition is also a major problem, with nearly half of all children in extremely poor households exhibiting stunted growth.

USAID-ACCESO represents an important component of USAID/Honduras's new multi-year strategy for Feed the Future. Objectives of Feed the Future include increasing agricultural productivity, preserving natural resources, improving agricultural marketing, increasing the purchasing power of vulnerable households, and maximizing food security. This strategy is in line with the economic growth (Agriculture/Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise) and natural resource management related aspects of the "Promoting Economic Growth and Prosperity" goals of the US government's Honduras Country Assistance Strategy covering fiscal years 2009 to 2013.

USAID-ACCESO works in six departments: Intibucá, La Paz, Ocotepeque, Lempira, Copán, and Santa Bárbara, with the following high-level targets:

- Bring 30,000 rural households living below the poverty line above the poverty threshold, of which a minimum of 18,000 will be from households living in extreme poverty.
- Generate \$73.95 million in net profits for client households assisted by the project.
- Create 10,425 permanent jobs in the assisted communities.

USAID-ACCESO will assist at least 31,800 client households in these six departments, distributed as follows: 30,000 households living in poverty (of which a minimum of 18,000 households are living in extreme poverty), 1,000 commercial scale producers of horticultural crops, and 800 off-farm rural MSMEs.

The project is increasing sales and incomes by introducing basic production practices and market-driven programs for high-value cash crops, as well as by expanding off-farm microenterprise and employment opportunities. The six key components explained above enable economic development and nutrition improvements at the household level.

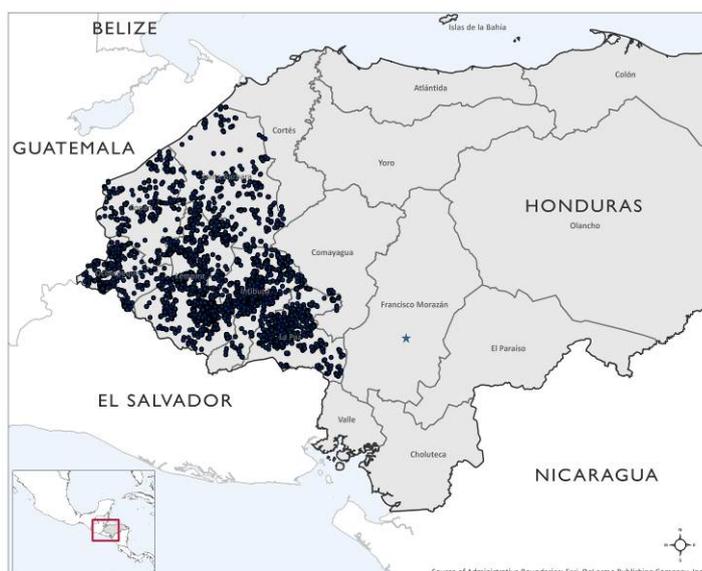
The details on implementation methodology, strategies, and activities are provided in other documents prepared for USAID, including those on the work plan, gender, and environment.

### 3. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

This section highlights some of the activities and results achieved by the project across the areas of intervention during the reporting period. It details the actions taken by USAID-ACCESO to meet the intermediate and sub-intermediate results established in the contract, and presents the project's progress in achieving milestones and output indicators. The intermediate results are:

- Rural MSME growth increased (IR 2.1).
- Honduran biodiversity and natural resources conserved (IR 2.2).
- Capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change strengthened (IR 2.3).
- Use of quality maternal and child health and family planning services increased (IR 4.1).

**Figure 1: Geographical coverage**



A total of 2,538 additional client households joined the project during the quarter, for a cumulative total of 13,430 client households with 60,385 beneficiaries (family members). In addition, 1,679 MSME's, AIN-C groups, community-based organizations, and others are now enrolled in the project and receiving technical support. For the client households for which income data has been collected, 8,961 are households in extreme poverty, 875 are in the poverty category, and 1,231 are non-poor (data remains to be collected for 2,513 client households). The project is working in 127 of 131 municipalities in the six departments. Details on beneficiaries by income, type, department and age are given in Annex III. A GPS map of client households is provided in Figure 1.

The principal components and targets of the USAID-ACCESO work plan for fiscal year two (October 2011 to September 2012) and status to date are as follows:

Activity/Target – March 2012	Status – March 2012
Demonstration plot development and commercial production operations for basic grains, horticulture, and tree crops in all six departments	Ongoing; more than 8,259 hectares planted and under the project's technical assistance program
More than 12,613 individuals will have received agricultural sector productivity or food security training, of which at least 2,850 will be women	Total of 19,771 individuals, of which 5,818 were women
More than 86,000 technical assistance visits to project-assisted households will have been executed	68,458 technical assistance visits to beneficiary households
More than 1,202 MSMEs will have accessed new market opportunities through a broker	195 MSMEs accessed new market opportunities
A total of 75 brokers will be providing market linkages to MSMEs	10 brokers providing market linkages
More than 323 off-farm and processing MSMEs will be receiving technical assistance from the project	530 off-farm and processing MSMEs receiving project assistance.
A total of 90 technical materials will be produced for use and distribution by project staff and counterparts	133 technical materials produced

Activity/Target – March 2012	Status – March 2012
A total of 605 MSMEs will have accessed market-based financing as a result of the project's assistance	552 MSMEs accessing financing
A total of 16 public-private partnerships and 6 private sector alliances will be developed	3 public-private partnership alliances developed and 11 private sector alliances
All of the community technical units (CTU) will be completed and fully operational	Completed

Activities are behind schedule in some areas due to the project's start-up at the end of the 2011 basic grain planting season, a delayed start-up of six of the CTUs (5 in December 2011 and 1 in January 2012), increased support to improving basic grain production systems, and increased efforts to ensure full integration of all technical areas alongside the production and income generation activities. Those targets that are currently behind schedule are expected to be achieved by the end of fiscal year 2012.

### 3.1. IR 2.1. RURAL MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE GROWTH INCREASED

USAID-ACCESO's main activities and interventions are targeted towards achieving MSME growth. Not only will increased incomes and increased productivities at the household level have a positive effect on the communities' overall economic growth, it will also increase client purchasing power to reduce the food insecurity situation in western Honduras and the related health problems.

In this section, USAID-ACCESO is reporting on activities that are directly contributing to three of USAID sub-intermediate results (Sub IRs). These are:

- Rural MSMEs access to inputs, practices, and technology for market participation improved (Sub IR 2.1.1).
- Rural MSMEs access to new market opportunities increased (Sub IR 2.1.2).
- Barriers to competitiveness of rural MSMEs improved (Sub IR 2.1.3).

#### 3.1.1. SUB-IR 2.1.1: RURAL MSMES ACCESS TO INPUTS, PRACTICES, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR MARKET PARTICIPATION IMPROVED

The greatest impact on the livelihoods of USAID-ACCESO-assisted households will occur when market-driven production programs are implemented with the basic production practices to enable access to markets and buyers. Competitive, consistent, and coordinated production operations with defined markets are critical to ensuring increased incomes. To achieve this goal, a range of activities have been undertaken by the project. This principally involves the provision of technical assistance and training to on- and off-farm MSMEs to implement technology and updated production practices; expand direct links with markets and buyers; work with groups of growers to introduce market-led production programs; develop private sector alliances; and increase the technical capacities of local NGOs, agricultural schools, and the private sector in the technology transfer process.

#### *Implementation of updated production technologies (on- and off-farm)*

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component is as follows:

- Number of individuals who have received government-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training: 20,794
- Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries: 68,458 (note the number reported in the 12/2011 quarter was reduced as it included visits made by the nutrition & health component)
- Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools): 133
- Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project: 530
- Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation: \$0.928 million
- Number of female individuals in training activities: 5,818

- Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of government assistance: 7

Additional information is provided below:

- Over the quarter, a total of 28,176 technical assistance visits were provided to client households on good agricultural practices to increase yields, improve product quality, reduce unit costs, diversify crop production, food security, disaster preparation, nutrition & health, etc. To date, USAID-ACCESO technicians have delivered 68,458 technical assistance visits to client households (excluding nutrition & health).
- The project promoted new crop alternatives, based on the potential of each specific region in terms of crop development, cost of production, and availability and proximity to logistics and markets. Since most of the farmers are new to these crops, it has been crucial to guide them in every step of the production process.
- As shown in Table 1, this is the first quarter where the largest area planted is for the horticulture value chain (61 percent of the area). USAID-ACCESO technicians have been promoting the incorporation of fruits, vegetables, and other crops with market potential on farms with irrigation and access to water. Of the 1,082 producers who registered new plantings during the quarter, 671 (62 percent) planted fruits and vegetables.

Value Chain	As of December 2011	January – March 2012
Horticulture	847	141
Coffee	4,787	25
Basic Grains	2,393	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,027</b>	<b>232</b>

- Crops with the highest number of new plantings by USAID-ACCESO client households during the reporting period include potato, snow pea, eggplant, carrot, lettuce, cabbage, cucumber, and broccoli. Additional details are presented in Table 2.

Crop	Hectares	Number of Farmers Planting
Potato	27.32	169
Snow pea	9.44	167
Eggplant	8.10	123
Carrot	8.49	98
Lettuce	5.84	71
Cabbage	13.74	68
Corn/Maize	9.85	58
Cucumber	3.83	43
Broccoli	2.88	38

- Given the economic limitations of client households (poverty and extreme poverty), one of the project's greatest initial challenges is to achieve competitive yields and acceptable quality with low or no additional costs. The project has taken a similar approach to working with both basic grains and higher value vegetables. The practices recommended by USAID-ACCESO focus on the efficient and proper use of inputs, rather than encouraging farmers to use more or additional inputs, and prevention of problems before occur. The application of basic production practices, such as seed selection, planting densities, land preparation, weed

control, and the introduction of fertilization allows the plants to maximize the uptake of nutrients.

- More than 600 growers planted nontraditional crops during the quarter. These include potato, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, and cucumber for the local markets, and peas, Asian vegetables, and a selection of herbs for the export markets. Technical assistance was provided to client households in marketing, postharvest handling, certification, processing, and off-farm activities. Additional data on project technical assistance is provided in Annex III, Tables 14 and 15.
- In addition to technical assistance visits, a total of 3,392 training events were provided to 27,378 participants (19,552 male and 7,826 female). A total of 19,771 individuals (13,952 male and 5,818 female) have received training since project startup (excluding nutrition & health). Training subjects have included basic practices in coffee production, soil conservation practices, pest and disease identification and control, planting methods, weed control practices, efficient use of water, fertilization techniques, farm certification, costs of production, recordkeeping, and processing systems. Additional data on project training are provided in Annex III, Tables 10 to 13.
- To date, client households have planted new or have rehabilitated planted areas totaling 8,259 hectares. A summary of plantings by value chain is provided in Table I, with detailed information of all the plantings presented in Annex III, Table 16.
- Capital investment in production-related assets totaled \$351,956 during the reporting period with 406 individual investments. To date, project clients have invested more than \$749,000 in production-related assets. One fourth of the investments made during the quarter were for irrigation infrastructure and equipment, about 30 percent were for land purchases, and 14 percent of investments were for coffee farm expansion. Other investments made by client households were for greenhouse infrastructure, farm tools and inputs, production infrastructure, application equipment, and vehicle purchases. Detailed investment data for production and other areas are provided in Annex III, Table 20.
- Project activities related to off-farm production, food processing, and animal husbandry increased significantly during the quarter. The goal for FY 2012 is to provide technical assistance to at least 483 processors and off-farm MSMEs. The total number of MSMEs assisted by USAID-ACCESO as of March 2012 was 530.
- USAID-ACCESO clients continued investing in value-added off-farm and animal production activities. During the quarter, 104 clients registered investments of more than \$78,400 (\$48,020 for processing equipment and infrastructure and \$30,441 for animal production activities).
- For value-added off-farm activities, 195 training events were carried out with 2,284 participants (483 male and 1,801 female) and 1,875 technical assistance visits were carried out. To date, 826 individuals have received training and 3,600 technical assistance visits have been made in support of value-added off-farm activities.

## PRODUCTION: SELECTED ACTIVITIES & RESULTS

- Following USAID-ACCESO technical advice and implementing the “Basic Production Package,” bean farmers in Copán harvested the equivalent of 3,136 kilograms of beans per hectare. These farmers previously achieved yields of only 1,000 kilograms per hectare.
- Coffee farmers in Copán achieved higher yields and income with project support. Alan Remberto Gomez of San Ramon, Talgua, harvested 5,455 kilograms from 2.80 hectares. He sold each sack at \$144 for gross sales of more than \$17,000; his total costs were \$4,200. Andres Diaz Castro, from El Porvenir, Florida harvested 1,818 kilograms from 1.4 hectares at an average price of \$157 per sack, achieving gross sales of \$6,300; total costs were \$640.
- In Intibucá, 280 client households planted 21.3 hectares of snow peas and sweet peas in February and March, for export to the US. On average, each producer planted 437 square meters, but given the short cycle of these crops, most will plant two cycles this year (765 square meters). This crop is an excellent source of employment, since 53 percent of the cost of production is labor.
- USAID-ACCESO established a Chinese eggplant export program in the Otoro Valley, with the planting of 3.5 hectares by 4 growers in mid-March. Harvests are expected to commence during the next quarter. Exveco, an exporter from the Comayagua Valley provided the plants for the farmers and will buy the entire production at a fixed price. This activity is currently functioning as a pilot project to encourage other farmers to participate in market-led production in the Otoro Valley.
- In Ocotepeque, the project has worked develop farmers markets, such as the market in San Marcos, where project clients have already sold nearly \$10,000. The first produce fairs in San Francisco del Valle and San Jerónimo, have resulted in sales totaling \$570. One of the new production zones selling to these markets is El Zompoperon, where all of the families live in extreme poverty. Initial sales of lettuce from El Zompoperon totaled \$944.
- In the highlands of La Paz, USAID-ACCESO-assisted farmers have completed 14 consecutive weeks of harvesting vegetables such as carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, beets, and cabbage for sales to La Antorcha and La Colonia supermarkets through a local collection center. This achievement was made possible thorough calendarized plantings of 1.10 hectares of vegetables. Potato harvests will begin next quarter, and will be added to the vegetable supply program for these supermarkets.
- In Guajiquiro, La Paz, USAID-ACCESO is working with Funbanhcafe to develop a calendarized production program for growers who are organized in village banks to supply Wal-Mart. Harvest from the first plantings started during the quarter.
- Alberto Reyes, Oscar Caballero, Antonio Vásquez and José Santos Hernandez, from Valle Verde, Macuelizo, Santa Bárbara each harvested 437 square meters of cucumber in January 2012. They produced and sold 20,455 kilograms at \$2,500 and earned a net profit of \$1,364. These positive results have motivated neighboring growers to produce cucumber and tomato. Similarly, in El Jilote, Concepción Norte, Jose Eleuterio Amaya planted 875 square meters from which he harvested 14,545 kilograms in March. His investment of \$682 earned him a net income of \$787. Another farmer group of 16 members in San Francisco de Ojuera, Santa Barbara planted 3,500 square meters of cucumber for exports to El Salvador, thanks to USAID-ACCESO technicians who reactivated a drip irrigation system that was stored in a warehouse.
- Juan Ramón Martínez is one of the many allspice producers in Ilima, Santa Barbara. He decided to diversify his farm, and with project support planted small plots of sweet pepper and tomato. His harvests during the quarter yielded 1,818 kilograms of tomato and 2,000 peppers. After factoring in his costs, he netted more than \$500 in new income. Observing his success, other allspice growers in the area are now interested in diversifying their production, accessing another source of income during the allspice off-season.
- Twenty-nine garlic producers in San Manuel de Colohete, Lempira saw their yields double with project technical assistance. USAID-ACCESO technicians introduced improved practices such as soil preparation, liming of acidic soils, control of pests and diseases, seed selection, higher densities, and balanced fertilization. Sixty percent of the harvest was classified as grade A garlic (up from 30 percent).
- USAID-ACCESO initiated a fresh herb export program in Lempira with three producers on 0.12 hectares of select herbs, including basil, thyme, oregano, and chive. Basil harvest is expected to start by the end of April, and around 15 producers with 2 hectares of herbs are expected to plant in the next quarter.

## OFF FARM VALUE-ADDED: SELECTED ACTIVITIES & RESULTS

- **Garlic** (*San Manuel de Colohete, Lempira*): Garlic is one of the main income sources in Lempira. Due to poor production practices, 40 to 50 percent of the garlic produced is small (grade 3), earning only 25 to 50 percent of the grade 1 price. To improve family incomes, USAID-ACCESO held four workshops to teach growers how to make garlic paste using the small garlic. One pound of raw garlic yields 2.5 pounds of garlic paste, which is now sold at \$5.25 per pound. The cost of production of 1 pound of garlic paste is \$1.30, leaving nearly \$4 of profit per pound. The project also connected the growers to the San Pedro Sula market where the product is now sold through a distributor. This activity directly impacts 100 families dedicated to garlic production in this area.
- **Sugar** (*San Juan Quinoco, Lempira*): USAID-ACCESO is working with 17 families who produce *panela* – blocks of unrefined cane sugar. One *panela* usually weighs 2 pounds and is sold for \$0.63. Project technicians developed a new product: one ounce *panela* blocks, which are packaged 20 units per bag and sold for \$0.79. The project has linked producer families with distributors to sell the new product.
- **Honey** (*all six departments*): USAID-ACCESO technicians are working with beekeepers to develop new, value-added products such as comb honey packed in plastic trays. Comb honey can earn beekeepers up to \$18.37 per frame, far exceeding the \$4 they currently earn from one frame's honey. Project technicians are also providing guidance for entering the pollen industry. The producers can produce 30 pounds of pollen per hive in a sixty-day period, representing a potential \$500 in additional income per hive, per year.
- **Poultry** (*Gualala, Santa Barbara and San Rafael, Copán*): New techniques for processing chickens, making feather removal more efficient and improving the quality of the team were introduced in two communities. With these changes, USAID-ACCESO helped reduce the costs of operation while at the same time improving food safety and quality.
- **Bakery workshops**: The project held three workshops on bakery operations in Lempira, Intibucá and Copan. After these courses, participants opened six new bakeries in Ocotepeque, four in Lempira, and one in Intibucá. Other participants applied the techniques they learned to improve efficiency, reduce production costs, diversify products, and improve product quality at existing bakeries.
- **Forest Products**:
  - The project connected two forest groups (more than 70 families) in Intibucá with an exporter in La Lima. The groups have already started their first exports to the US market. Four forest groups (two in Intibucá and two in Santa Barbara) are preparing to begin producing pine resin for a local paint manufacturer. This activity directly will benefit more than 240 families.
  - The project facilitated new market linkages for timber producers in Yamaranguila. To date these producers have increased their sales by 30 percent and 70 new jobs have been created.
- **Animal Products**:
  - With USAID-ACCESO technical assistance, pig producers have begun to make their own high-quality animal feed using local ingredients, reducing costs by 50 percent. USAID-ACCESO technicians have helped farmers build automatic water dispensers and feeders that provide steady food and water to the animals and reduce the risk of infections and waste.
  - Clients constructed more than 30 new household chicken coops designed to improve production, poultry health, and the quality of eggs.
  - Trainings on silo pack production for smallholder farmers resulted in the adoption of this technology by more than 10 farmers. The technology is now being used to provide balanced nutrition for animals during the dry season.
- **Improving Efficiencies**:
  - *Mujeres in Acción, Petoa, Santa Bárbara*: With support from the project, the women have increased their production from 10 pounds of flour a week to 90 pounds a week. The project is also helping them install a sales showroom in town.
  - *Procesadora de Alimentos, San Andres, Tutule, La Paz*: By following project recommendations to improve the plantain chips' presentation, packaging, food safety, and processing equipment, the group was able to access new markets, resulting in a 300 percent increase in weekly sales.

### *Private Sector Investment*

During the quarter USAID-ACCESO clients invested \$475,867 in fixed assets, for a total of \$928,331 invested to date. Just under \$750,000 has been with production-related investments. Further details are given in Table 20.

#### *Private sector alliances and integration of private sector equipment, input and service providers*

Six private sector alliances were signed during this quarter with private sector input suppliers DISAGRO, DURECO, SEAGRO, SEREMA, BAYER, and OCDIH.

- DISAGRO distributes agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and packaging materials, as well as agricultural machinery and will provide discounted terms to project clients.
- DURECO distributes irrigation equipment, including PVC pipes, filters, pumps, drip tape, and accessories. This equipment complements technical activities in renewable energy, agriculture, coffee production, disaster mitigation, natural resource management, and health and nutrition.
- SEAGRO distributes agricultural inputs, seeds, fertilizers, farm equipment, drip tape, protective equipment, coffee drying technology, and sugar processing equipment, among others. SEAGRO will provide discounted terms to project clients as well as training support in the field.
- SEREMA is an agricultural machinery distributor in Ocotepeque. This distributor is providing training support in the field as well as discounted prices for project clients.
- BAYER distributes a wide array of agricultural inputs through distributors in rural Honduras. In addition to discounted prices for project clients, Bayer is also willing to provide special credit conditions for village banks or cooperatives currently assisted by USAID-ACCESO, who in turn provide services to project clients.
- OCDIH is an NGO with operations in Lempira and Copán. They are currently implementing a subcontract for USAID-ACCESO in Copán and provide logistic support to project technicians and assistance to project clients, as well as help with client recruitment.

To date, 11 private sector alliances and three public-private partnerships have been developed. An additional six letters of agreement have been developed with NGOs and government institutions.

#### *Grower organization and the development of market-driven production programs*

Status of activities under this component:

- Number of organizations / companies providing business development / extension services to MSMEs: 43
- Number of public-private partnerships formed: 3
- Number of private sector alliances developed: 11

Activities to organize growers and production programs around buyer purchasing requirements increased significantly during the quarter. In addition, the project is working with groups of client households to improve access to input supplier and credit programs. During the reporting period, USAID-ACCESO marketing specialists continued to work closely with production managers to link client households with existing local, regional, and international market opportunities. Given the limitations of farmers in the region, it is essential that these efforts are supported by activities to improve postharvest infrastructure, irrigation, logistics, access to inputs and seed, finance, and local investment to ensure that farmers meet quality standards and safety regulations. The current status of select market driven production programs and their projected potential are detailed in Table 3.

**Table 3. Current Status of Market Driven Production Programs and Their Potential**

Crops	# of Producers (March 2012)	# Hectares (March 2012)	Market	# of Projected Producers to Join the program
Snow Peas	300	11.47	Original Maya, USA	1,500
Beans	116	714.29	INALMA, USA	>1,000
Plantain	13	59.67	Exporters, USA	50
Fresh Herbs	3	0.25	Original Maya, USA	300
Cucumber	34	5.77	Exporters, USA	75
Oriental Vegetables	31	26.38	Original Maya y IAGSA, USA	100
Vegetables – Supermarkets	184	34	Collection Centers and Direct Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, Honduras	1,000
Vegetables – El Salvador	35	18	Collection Centers and Direct Cooperativa de La Tiendona	200
Vegetables	50	27	Direct Producer - Broker	1000
Coffee		3,422	Coffee mills, Honduras – USA	5,000
Corn	103	1,975	Agro-Industry, Honduras	5,000
Allspice	27	85	Occidental Food, USA.	150
Sweet Potato	8	1.2	Neptali Barahona, Canada	50
Lemon Grass	5	0.14	Switzerland	500
Zucchini	7	0.15	USA	50

Negotiations are in the advanced stages to export one container per week of red kidney beans, representing almost \$1 million per year in gross sales for farmers, to Goya Foods in the US. Goya's president and vice president visited Honduras to discuss the project and met with the Honduran Minister of Agriculture, as well as supplier Inalma, and USAID-ACCESO to assure mutual support in opening the bean export market. USAID-ACCESO has committed to also supply one container of beans for the local market for each exported container. To add value to the beans, the exported product will be air dried, cleaned, polished, and packed into one-ton totes. USAID-ACCESO is currently discussing a start date for the first trial shipment to the US market. .

USAID-ACCESO has already linked 900 families with new market opportunities. The volume from the first season of production is expected to range between four and seven containers per week, translating to estimated weekly sales of more than \$50,000 – all new income for client families. In addition, these activities will generate more jobs both in the field and in packing plants.

#### *Local markets*

During the quarter, the project focused on expanding existing production programs. These include calendarized plantings of broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, cucumber, passion fruit, plantain, and potato. Production is oriented to the local market, including supermarkets such as La Colonia, Wal-Mart and La Antorcha, distributors such as ASOFAEL–CICOM, ECARAI, ODECO, and ISEM; and municipal markets such as Dandy and Central de Abastos de San Pedro Sula.

The project continued working with off-farm MSMEs in joint sales programs. One of the project's marketing specialists is developing distribution routes with small independent distributors in secondary cities in the western region. These distributors are now consolidating products from microenterprises, including snacks, roasted coffee, bread and other bakery products, pickled vegetables, and beverages, to sell to retail outlets. This linkage will significantly reduce distribution costs of assisted microenterprises.

USAID-ACCESO is developing activities with community-based organizations in order to increase outreach and improve the quality of services. By working with community level organizations, the

project generates client confidence. Problems and opportunities are identified through a participatory process by the communities themselves.

As of March 2012, a total of 743 organizations are enrolled as USAID-ACCESO beneficiaries. These include 154 water associations, 225 finance service providers (cooperatives, village banks), 18 grower groups and cooperatives, and 346 health service providers.

#### *Increasing the technical capabilities of agricultural schools and local NGOs*

NGOs are invited to participate in the many project training events held in all six departments, and in some cases, specialized training courses have been developed to meet the needs of government organizations and local NGOs. For example, Ministry of Agriculture technicians received an intensive course on horticulture production. The number of local NGOs and government organizations participating in USAID-ACCESO training is expected to increase as more training activities are developed and carried out.

As of March 2012, 34 NGOs and donor institutions and two schools have participated in project-sponsored activities. These are: Aldea Global, ANDESAIN, ANED – Consultores, Caritas, CASM, CESAL, CEPUDO, CHF Honduras, Child Fund, CODESSE, COPRAFEL, CRS, Escuela San Pablo, Escuela Agrícola Pompilio Ortega, FAO, FIDA, FIDE, FOPRIDEH, Fundación Adelante, Fundación Banhcafe, Fundahmicro, Fundación Vida, Funder, Heifer, IHCAFE, OCDIH, Veco-MA, Oxfam, PILARH, Save the Children, SOCODEVI, Swiss Contact, World Food Programme and World Vision. Representatives from government organizations receiving USAID-ACCESO training include PRONADERS, DICTA, and selected municipalities and municipal organizations.

### **3.1.2. SUB-IR 2.1.2: RURAL MSMEs ACCESS TO NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED**

#### *Development of buyer linkages and logistics*

Status of activities in the PMP under this component:

- Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker: 195
- Number of brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs: 10 (17 were reported in the 12/2011 report, of which 7 were removed from the total based on the PIRS definition)
- Number of market surveys conducted: 2

USAID-ACCESO marketing specialists continued to monitor new product and market opportunities, as well as recommending crops, varieties, and value-added products for commercial trials. Calendarized production programs have been initiated in each department for both the local and export markets, and are expected to expand as more growers join these programs and new ones are developed. In addition to fresh produce, the project has emphasized developing new markets and improving logistics for MSME products. Due to current low production volumes and difficulties competing in the large markets in the main and secondary cities, USAID-ACCESO is exploring opportunities for these products to be sold in *pulperias* (home shops) in the same zones where they are produced. This reduces transport costs and speeds up payment time. More than 300 of these rural retail outlets have been identified and logistics routes to supply them have been developed. This line of activity will continue to be expanded in the next quarter. Products include sweets, baked goods, pickles, sauces, plantain chips, and others.

Another key activity this quarter was the expansion of local produce fairs (*ferias del agricultor* or *mercaditos verdes*). USAID-ACCESO worked closely with local authorities and community organizations to develop fairs to provide producers a nearby market at which to sell their goods. Two local fairs were established in the previous quarter and four additional fairs were established in the current quarter. These are Colinas (Santa Bárbara), Marcala (La Paz), La Labor and Nuevo Ocotepeque (Ocotepeque), La Unión (Lempira), and Santa Rosa (Copan). Eight to 10 client producers have participated in the weekend fairs, grossing between \$625 and \$1,300. Additional fairs are expected to begin in the next quarter.

*Production and systems implementation to meet buyers' quality and standards*

In order for micro and small businesses (including farmers) to build a sustainable relationship with new markets, it is essential they comply with buyer expectations, not only for volumes, consistency, and frequency, but also in terms of quality and product standards. USAID-ACCESO's postharvest and certifications specialists provide direct technical assistance to farmers so they can achieve this goal. By the end of the project, a minimum of 2,000 producers or microenterprises will have implemented systems to meet buyers' demands. This is verified when actual sales to a specific market demanding a particular quality or standard take place.

This activity is tracked by the number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers, which to date stands at 223 MSMEs. These buyers include collection centers, cooperatives, supermarkets, and exporters.

USAID-ACCESO is working with selected buyers to develop quality standards. This has been done for passion fruit (three different specifications for fresh passion fruit for supermarkets, for frozen pulp, and for juice), selected vegetables for La Antorcha Supermarkets, for allspice to the North American markets, and for potato and carrot for CICOM. Other examples include fresh herbs and oriental vegetables for export to the US, a range of fresh products for El Salvador buyers, and cardamom to a European importer.

Given the informal nature of local markets, there are very few buyers with specifications for produce. For this reason, postharvest specialists, working with marketing specialists, have focused on supporting USAID-ACCESO clients in meeting buyer quality standards so they can enter more reliable formal markets. Support has been provided to both buyers and growers in the development and use of product standards.

*Implementation of business certification programs*

USAID-ACCESO specialists are providing support to vegetable growers to enter formal markets with quality standards and to obtain farm/product certifications. Project specialists are also assisting coffee growers meet the requirements for a range of certifications (depending on buyer requirements), including Rainforest Alliance, UTZ, 4C, Certified Organic, and Fair Trade. The current status of activities in the PMP under this component is:

- Number of MSMEs that have been verified to meet market standards for their products: 205

Details of the MSMEs and buyers are provided in Annex I.

It should be noted that not all market links facilitated by the project have been recorded to date. The project is working to collect the data, in order to accurately reflect project achievements in this area.

*3.1.3. SUB-IR 2.1.3: BARRIERS TO COMPETITIVENESS OF RURAL MSMEs REDUCED**Increased access to finance*

USAID-ACCESO is introducing client households to existing financial services and assisting in the development of new services to enable the poorest households to access credit.

A total of 114 loans, totaling \$66,853, were made this quarter; a 143 percent increase in number of loans and a 96 percent increase in the value of the loans from the previous quarter. Status of activities in the PMP under this component:

- Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing as the result of government assistance: 552
- Value of agricultural and rural loans made to MSMEs: \$395,411
- Number of MSMEs implementing sound business management practices: 82

More details on loans and lenders are provided in Annex I and Annex III, Tables 17 to 19.

## RESULTS

- In La Paz, USAID-ACCESO worked with the CONJUNTO program in preparing business profiles for animal production (milking cows, pigs, and poultry). The CONJUNTO program provides financing to young rural entrepreneurs between the ages of 16 to 29. During the quarter, the first six loans were disbursed, and there are currently between 80 and 100 client households in the pipeline for the next quarter. USAID-ACCESO technical staff is conducting field visits together with CONJUNTO to determine the technical viability of the loan projects.
- In Cabañas, La Paz, three families received credit from the FUNDER/JICA loan program and with project support, each received a milking cow. Payments will be made to the village bank *Siempre Viviremos*, which will increase seed capital.
- In Intibucá, USAID-ACCESO worked with CACIL to develop a loan program for snow pea farmers in the highlands and for oriental vegetable farmers in the Jesus de Otoro valley. A total of 23 growers accessed loans for these crops during the period.
- In Macuelizo, Santa Bárbara, a group of 19 cucumber growers from Valle Verde received support to obtain a 60 day line of credit for \$11,000 from Agropecuaria La Entrada. The loans were made in January and after harvesting in mid-March, they not only paid the loans on the inputs they had purchased, but they were also able to procure inputs for their next cycle.
- The Agrofacil financial product established by Del Campo has continued to increase in the number of users. During the period, Del Campo provided credit to 36 USAID-ACCESO producers in Santa Bárbara. In addition, 25 producers from Ocotepeque and 17 producers from Copán have completed their credit request forms with project support. These producers expect to obtain the Agrofacil credit benefits next quarter.
- In Gracias, Lempira, two small businesses received loans from Programa de Asignación Familiar: a coffee roasting business with a \$13,000 loan, and a fried plantain business with a \$7,800 loan.
- A warehouse receipts pilot program for corn (*pignoración de granos*) was initiated during the period with six financial services providers: three in Santa Bárbara and three in Lempira. All of the financial service providers are storing 1,800 pounds (18 sacks) of corn for which they were loaned \$13 per sack. Farmers can collect their corn by paying back their loan, plus a small storage and handling fee and a 12 percent interest rate after five to six months. The farmers may take the corn to the warehouse in late December and January and can withdraw their corn no later than June 30.

### *Policy and value chain sector constraints identified and eliminated*

With project support, the “Copyright Law for Protection for Planting Materials” (*Ley Para la Protección de Obtenciones Vegetales*) was modified, discussed, and presented to the National Congress, where it was passed. This activity was identified by STTA 05, during which a consultant examined policies and administrative barriers that limit the growth of the agricultural sector (report finalized in December 2011). USAID-ACCESO worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to rework the existing Copyright Law documents that were previously prepared but not finalized, and included a clause to allow small growers to re-use seeds and planting materials for their own use (other similar laws in Latin America do not include this clause). This law will benefit the entire agriculture sector, including USAID-ACCESO clients, as improved planting material that is not currently not available due to the lack of copyright protection will become available. These include planting material for maize, beans, sunflower, soybean, potato, and flowers (roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, calla lilies, and others), which have higher productivity potential, disease resistance and improved quality characteristics. The law will also open up the possibility of the production of seeds themselves for sale to other countries. This is the second policy reform that has been developed and passed with project support.

To follow up and resolve the prioritized policy issues and administrative barriers identified in the previous period, a long-term policy expert was hired.

A list of priority activities based on their contribution to project goals was produced for immediate action. Select examples include:

- Simplify the process to formalize and operate a micro or small business in Honduras.
- Inventory the “static” funds in the Ministry of Agriculture, including trust funds, project specific, unused balances, and explore the possibility of consolidating them for the development and growth of the sector.
- Regulate, standardize, and communicate technology packages and manuals to harmonize and ensure good quality extension services.
- Land titling for the coffee sector.
- Standardize marketing units (weight and volumes) for the coffee market to create a healthy, fair, and transparent market.
- Promote local market fairs.
- Simplify the export permit processes for the regional (Central American) markets.
- Simplify and decentralize services from SENASA to obtain sanitary licenses and licenses and permits for imports and exports.
- Improve the Ministry of Agriculture’s data management platform to improve planning, and monitoring and evaluation capacity.

#### *Applied research and development programs developed*

Applied research programs in technical areas to support USAID-ACCESO’s production activities and crops were initiated during the quarter, under the auspices of a partner fund with FHIA. This applied research will result in information and scientifically validated practices that will help Honduran farmers achieve higher yields, utilize more resistant and productive crops, and improve production and postharvest practices. Status of activities in the PMP under this component:

- Research and development projects and activities identified: 9

The status of the research activities initiated during the quarter:

- Management practices for bacterial wilt caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Solanaceas (potato, tomato, pepper, eggplant, etc.): A variety of tomato and eggplant seeds from AVRDC, SEMINIS and East West Seed Co were planted in the nursery in March. Grafting activities are expected to start in mid-April, and transplant in the open field is expected for the second week of May. The seeds for mustard and arugula were also received. Plantings will start in mid-April.
- Optimization of drip irrigation practices for improved soil-borne pest control and application of agricultural inputs: Experiments and trials were designed during the period. Field activities will start next quarter.
- The effect in productivity and harvesting curve for plantain with different bed heights and land preparation systems: Contacted the provider of the corms in March, which will be planted in the end of April (direct sowing) and in late May for the trails with the nursery system.
- Reaction time and adequate doses of calcium from different sources to apply to the soil for optimum production of vegetables: Soil sampling was conducted in one of the experimental stations with the result that they did not need to be corrected with lime. A new site is currently being located for these trials.
- Agronomic performance of different varieties of onions and shelf life analysis for each variety: Shelf life analyses are being conducted for 12 different yellow onion varieties. Samples have been sent to the postharvest specialist for quality and shelf life evaluation under ambient conditions in Comayagua. Planting materials include varieties from Seminis, Sakata, Nunhems, Edena Seed, and Agrotip.
- Identification of virus species affecting Solanaceas, mainly potato, tomato and pepper, in the western region of Honduras: USAID-ACCESO technicians from all six departments were trained on virus identification and on proper collection of the plant samples in March. The

necessary materials for the collection of the samples have been distributed to the staff, and the permission documentation has been sent by AGDIA lab in the US to allow the delivery of the samples into the US. Samples will be collected in the upcoming quarter.

During the quarter, applied research activities were discussed with USAID-ACCESO partner, EAP–Zamorano. A partner fund to carry out these activities will be presented to USAID in the next quarter.

### 3.2. IR 2.2. HONDURAN BIODIVERSITY & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVED

On-farm natural resource management activities to maintain healthy soils and conserve water are integrated into the good agricultural practices at the centerpiece of the USAID-ACCESO extension program. Under this component, the project works to improve overall natural resource management practices at the community, micro-watershed, and municipal levels, in collaboration with community groups.

USAID-ACCESO uses a participatory municipal and community planning process to develop and implement municipal natural resource management plans that identify existing, proposed, and potential areas of public interest; biological and economic corridors, including areas with potential for ecotourism and irrigation or hydropower development; as well as areas under current or future environmental threat due to deforestation, soil erosion and sedimentation, chemical and organic pollution, and natural hazards.

During the life of project, USAID-ACCESO will work with at least 20 municipalities to develop and implement natural resource management plans. Work has already begun with 31 municipalities in the six departments (details are provided in Table 4).

#### *Implementation of natural resource management practices on farm*

Status of activities in the PMP under this component:

USAID-ACCESO incorporated on-farm natural resource management activities to maintain healthy soils, prevent contamination, and conserve water, as part of the good agricultural practices the promoted. The following practices were promoted:

- **Land preparation:** use of contoured beds, raised beds, drainage systems, low tillage techniques, and wind/erosion barriers; introduction of appropriate tools and machinery.
- **Crops:** crop rotation (including use of leguminous cover crops that fix nitrogen in a more economical way than chemical fertilizers), elimination of crop residues, use of border weed control (alternative hosts), use of hybrid seeds, and improved planting materials with greater disease tolerance.
- **Water:** protection of water sources from contamination for better water management, better water quality, less soil erosion, and less pesticide and fertilizer use. This also increases yields for farmers, reduces input costs, and increases gross and net incomes.

Reporting on these two targets will be done in September 2012, based on random sampling.

The USAID-ACCESO Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) was reviewed by USAID, and the final document was submitted during the quarter. Staff field activities will be planned according to the instructions and recommendations presented in this action plan throughout the life of project. The project also finalized an Environmental Mitigation Plan.

#### *Implementation of natural resource management practices at community and municipal levels*

The activity in the PMP under this component is as follows:

- Number of local municipal governments effectively implementing natural resource management policies: 30 municipalities have been identified and work has initiated.

During the quarter, the USAID-ACCESO natural resource management and disaster mitigation team identified and selected 33 municipalities and 48 communities that will receive direct technical assistance in natural resource management and disaster mitigation. These municipalities were selected based on existing project presence, rates of poverty and child malnutrition, and high vulnerability to environmental disaster.

Select activities carried out during the period include:

- **Coffee pulp treatment:** Project technicians trained coffee growers to produce microorganisms to treat coffee pulp, as well as how to use commercial products to accelerate the decomposition of the pulp. The treatments reduce odors and limit insect breeding. A model ordinance on coffee pulp and effluent treatment has been drafted and approved by two municipalities in Intibucá: San Isidro and Jesus de Otoro. The draft has been presented in four municipalities in La Paz (Santa Maria, Chinacla, Yarula and Santa Elena), three municipalities in Intibucá (Yamaranguila, San Marcos de La Sierra and San Miguelito) and in Erandique, Lempira.
  - 18 coffee mills have started to treat their coffee pulp using microorganisms in the following communities:
    - Pavas, Santa Maria, La Paz (1)
    - Pueblo Viejo, Santa Maria, La Paz (1)
    - San Isidro, Intibucá (2)
    - Las Lajas, Yamaranguila, Intibucá (1)
    - San Marcos de La Sierra, Intibucá (2)
    - San Miguelito, Intibucá (3)
    - Erandique, Lempira (5)
    - La Union, Lempira (1)
    - La Iguala, Lempira (2)
- **Approval of other city ordinances:** The municipalities of Trinidad and Nueva Frontera in Santa Barbara approved three ordinances for water quality, solid waste management and coffee waste (pulp and effluent) management. The water quality ordinance includes provisions for periodical microbiological analysis, water chlorination in case of contamination, and prevention of watershed contamination. The solid waste management ordinance prohibits incinerating trash and promotes recycling. In addition, the use of small landfills at the home level was encouraged. The coffee waste ordinance prohibits depositing pulp and effluent directly into water sources, promotes the use of coffee pulp for organic fertilizer production and promotes the use of low cost infrastructure to remove the solids from water used to wash coffee.
- **Solid waste management:** A model ordinance related to solid waste management has been approved in Jesus de Otoro in Intibucá and Erandique in Lempira. This ordinance was also presented in La Union and Iguala in Lempira; San Marcos de La Sierra in Intibucá and Yarula in La Paz. Most of the 30 sanitary landfills where the project operates were visited to conduct research for a plan for each municipality to improve its solid waste management. The plan includes recommendations for waste collection, recycling, improved access to landfill, signs, and relocation of landfill if necessary.
- **Legalization of water producing areas:** In cooperation with the National Institute of Conservation and Forestry Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife, the legalization process was started in two water boards in Santa Catarina, Intibucá. The delimitations of the watershed in Erandique, Lempira and Guajiquiro, La Paz were accomplished and the process already started in la Union, Lempira. Water boards in Santa Elena and Guajiquiro in La Paz have been trained in this subject. In some cases, such as Santa Maria in La Paz, the work required the identification of the wathersheds area prior to beginning the legalization process.

- **Recovery of deforested areas in watersheds:** USAID-ACCESO in cooperation with PMA, ICF, and the respective municipalities started the implementation of three forest nurseries in Santa Elena, Yarula and Guajiquiro in La Paz.
- **Drinking water:**
  - USAID-ACCESO evaluated various water filters for the households to guarantee the elimination of pathogenic organisms. A low cost filter has been identified, which is easy to operate and maintain, will be installed in the next quarter.
  - Introduced a quick test for total coliforms in drinking water to facilitate the awareness about the importance of drinking water chlorination at the community level. Where used, this has resulted in obtaining quick acceptance for the need for improvements.
  - During the quarter, support was provided to seven additional water boards to rehabilitate and correctly chlorinate the water supplies. The water boards that have been trained to date in chlorination systems include:

Department	Municipality	Community (Water Board)	Beneficiaries
Copán	La Unión	Kélix	86 families
		La Arena	150 families
	Corquín	Jimilile	140 families
	San Pedro Copán	Platanares	110 families
	Cucuyagua	Yaruconte	105 families
	Santa Rita	Las Medias	30 families
Lempira	Tomalá	Copante	57 families
Santa Bárbara	Trinidad	El Tigre	120 families
	Santa Bárbara	El Zapote	80 families
Ocotepeque	Belén Gualcho	Los Arcos	36 families
	San Fco. del Valle	Las Mesitas	50 families
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 municipalities</b>	<b>11 Communities</b>	<b>964 families</b>

### 3.3. IR 2.3. CAPACITY TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE STRENGTHENED

#### 3.3.1. SUB-IR 2.3.3: DISASTER VULNERABILITY REDUCED

Work under this component included support to communities with high vulnerabilities in disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. As with all other components, reducing communities' disaster vulnerabilities will ultimately put USAID-ACCESO-assisted households in a position to increase their incomes. USAID-ACCESO will utilize the small grants mechanism for select projects. Two main activities tracked in the PMP are being developed under this component:

- Number of communities in high vulnerability municipalities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity: 42 communities identified so far
- Number of rural micro-generation clean/renewable energy projects established: 102

#### *Development and implementation of disaster mitigation plans*

Activities under this component are targeted to reduce vulnerability to disasters both at the farm-level (introducing good agricultural practices that minimize potential losses), and by strengthening or forming at least 40 community-level disaster emergency committees (CODELs) in the most vulnerable target communities.

Select activities during the period included:

- High level meeting with COPECO authorities and USAID-ACCECO management to present the project activities, targets, and current joint activities. COPECO and USAID-ACCESO agreed to sign an agreement to work together, which is currently being drafted.
- A special activity was carried out to co-sponsor a training event in “Damage Evaluation and Needs Analysis” with COPECO. This training prepared volunteers in targeted communities.
- 72 people attended a simulation exercise to evaluate their preparation for mudslides, which was developed in coordination with COPECO, Adevas, PDA, the police department (preventive and transit), the health center, and 11 CODELs in San Marcos de Ocotepeque.
- USAID-ACCESO started the organization and training of more than 15 CODELs and three CODEMs during the quarter, with 46 training events with 711 people trained in disaster prevention and mitigation and natural resource management.

USAID-ACCESO will utilize COPECO’s curriculum and training programs in risk assessment, mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery (based on USAID/OFDA-LAC materials). Simulations will be supported in all 40 assisted communities.

#### *Installation of renewable energy technologies*

USAID-ACCESO’s renewable energy component is focusing on identifying and promoting low-cost renewable technologies for both small communities and individual rural households. Priority support is being given to investments that provide energy for economic activities, health clinics, and schools, in addition to individual households.

Status of activities in the PMP under this component is as follows:

- Number of rural micro-generation clean/renewable energy projects established: 102

During the period of January to March 2012 the installation of small-scale renewable energy systems continued. More important than the installation of the systems was training of the beneficiaries to assure that they will be able to operate the systems correctly. Additionally, trainings were directed to staff of NGOs and municipalities on the installation, operation and maintenance of small-scale renewable energy systems such as the bio-digesters, improved stoves, solar dryers and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

The project assisted and performed the installation of 72 renewable energy systems this quarter with investments totaling \$35,616, 22 percent of which was financed by USAID-ACCESO, 43 percent by the beneficiaries, and a total of 35 percent by project counterparts. The high leverage of investment from beneficiaries and other counterparts will allow a larger amount of renewable energy projects in the upcoming periods. The fact that the end beneficiaries are making the largest contributions reflects the acceptance of these technologies and therefore their sustainability.

Activities started with “hydraulic ram pumps” (*ariete hidráulico*), a new renewable energy category for USAID-ACCESO, which use the momentum of a relatively large amount of moving water to pump a relatively small amount of water uphill. They do not need an external power source as the force of moving water provides the power that is needed. The pumps are being used to fill tanks for irrigation and household use.

In all cases, capacity is being developed with local micro-enterprises for building and maintaining these technologies. During the quarter activities centered on biodigesters, solar dryers, and improved stoves.

#### EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- Twenty-seven improved stoves were installed in Ocotepeque and Copán. In Ocotepeque, every family paid for its stove. USAID-ACCESO provided the logistical support to bring the materials to their homes and the technical assistance to build the stoves. In Copán, a client household had received a stove as a donation from a government organization a few years ago, but it was not installed correctly. The project assisted in re-installing the stove properly. All of the stoves that have been installed are being used to promote this technology in the communities.
- Thirty solar 65 watt photovoltaic systems were installed as part of the FHS/PROSOL project, where solar energy is being promoted among communities without access to energy and where there are no other options of renewable energy. These systems cost \$994 each, and the total investment was \$29,820, where the client invested \$11,940 (40 percent), USAID-ACCESO invested \$7,890 (26 percent) and FHS invested a total of \$9,990 (34 percent). SOLARIS was responsible for the installation and provided training to the users. These systems are providing energy to 30 client households in the community of El Duraznito in Intibucá and generating 1.9 kilowatts of clean energy. Results will be analyzed to determine future replication.
- Eight tubular polyethylene biodigesters were built during this period in three departments (Ocotepeque, Copán, and Lempira). The ones in Ocotepeque were built as demonstration biodigesters and the investment was shared between USAID-ACCESO and the client households. Other systems were paid entirely by the producer and one by the Mennonite Social Action Commission in Copan, who paid for this system after making a technical visit to USAID-ACCESO biodigesters installed in Agua Buena, Copán. All of these systems are working and producing biogas (one cubic meter per day). Investments in biodigesters totaled \$952, of which around 60 percent came from the client households, 23 percent from USAID-ACCESO, and the remaining 17 percent from project counterparts. With the installation of 15 biodigesters to date, USAID-ACCESO households have a current biogas production of around 15 cubic meters, which in energy terms is the equivalent to 18.75 kilowatts of clean energy.
- Six solar dryers, each with the capacity to dry 2,000 pounds of coffee every four days, were installed during this period. All are being used as demonstration systems. The total investment in solar dryers was \$2,049, where 80 percent came from the beneficiaries, 15 percent from other organizations, and the remaining 5 percent from USAID-ACCESO. Fifteen solar dryers have been installed to date.
- One hydraulic ram pump was installed in Intibucá. This is a “zero energy” water pump that cost a total of \$351, 75 percent of which was paid by the client and the remaining 25 percent by other organizations.

During the installation of all of the renewable energy systems, a total of 13 training events were developed for the users and other interested farmers. A total of 95 participants received training on the installation and operation of biodigesters, installation and maintenance of solar dryers, construction and maintenance of improved stoves, and operation and maintenance of solar photovoltaic systems. A total of 52 technical assistance visits were performed on renewable energy topics and systems.

During this period USAID-ACCESO met with NGOs, municipalities, and other organizations to schedule trainings, to analyze financing opportunities and to establish alliances for the installation of future systems that will benefit USAID-ACCESO clients.

#### 3.4. IR 4.1. USE OF QUALITY MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCREASED

USAID-ACCESO has fully integrated the nutrition and health activities with all other technical areas, including economic development (access to food), renewable energy (improved stoves), natural resource management (drinking water access and chlorination, waste disposal), and value-added products and animal production (diet diversity).

*Implementation of improved health and nutrition practices at the household level*

- USAID-ACCESO beneficiaries continued receiving training in health and nutrition-related activities complementary to assistance being provided in production systems and economic development. Both men and women are receiving basic training in child care, prevention of illnesses, nutrition practices, keeping a healthy household, and family planning. During this quarter, the project held 401 training events in nutrition and health, with 5,757 participants (707 male, 5,050 female). Training subjects included the basics of nutrition and food, the importance of breastfeeding, adequate care of acute malnutrition, community health and sanitation, diet diversity, healthy homes, hygiene practices at the household level, adequate spacing of pregnancies, and monitoring of nutritional status. A total of 1,708 individual technical assistance visits were made to client households.
- Follow up on the implementation of the feeding guidelines for families with children with nutritional problems was the central activity of USAID-ACCESO technicians during the reporting period. Feeding guidelines for children under the age of 2 were developed and distributed to targeted families with USAID-ACCESO technicians providing training and technical assistance to support its implementation. The improvements that households have achieved is starting to produce positive results, with some communities already showing adequate development trends in children who were presenting consecutive low measurements. These communities include:
  - La Paz: San Miguel and Santiago in Santa Ana, Cerro Bueno in San José, Pescadito in Santa Maria.
  - Intibucá: El Tabor, Los Encinos, Las Hortensias and Olivos.
  - Ocotepeque: El Tuyal and Cipres in Belen Gualcho, El Higon in La Encarnación.
  - Santa Barbara: Divisoria, El Liston and El Venado in Quimistan.
  - Copán: Llanetío, El Zompopero, La Esperanza in Copan Ruinas, Londres and Castellona y Santa Rita, Campanario in La Jigua.
  - Lempira: Sinai, San Antonio and San Pedrito in San Rafael.
- Through USAID-ACCESO staff, AIN-Cs, and health volunteers, activities have begun with expanding and improving the health and nutrition messages to the wider population. Information, Education and Communication materials were elaborated and disseminated, including “Hygienic food preparation”, “Adequate washing of hands”, and “Use and maintenance of latrines.” The project is currently looking at the possibility of conveying key health and nutrition messages through the radio.
- As part of the healthy household activities, around 60 houses have been assisted on improving the floors in the houses, by switching them from dirt floors to a cement coating. This low cost coating seals the floor and substantially improves living conditions as it reduces the presence of dust, dirt, and insects, and enabling them to swept and cleaned.
- Training on food preparation has been delivered to priority communities in all six departments. Food preparation training shows families how to prepare nutritious food and how to supplement foods that are part of their regular diet. Locally available herbs, leaves and weeds with high nutritional properties are utilized so that families living under extreme poverty can have access to these ingredients.

*Strengthening of health center services*

- During the quarter, twenty health centers were selected as recipients of equipment that will improve their capacity to manage acute undernutrition and other critical health conditions. Selection criteria were based on visits made to health centers, USAID-ACCESO’s experience with these centers in executing activities in the communities, and their inclusion in the project’s prioritized community listing (which was developed based on nutrition indicators). Specific equipment needs were identified and suppliers and quotes have been obtained. A technology fund was drafted and approval, procurement and the setup of this equipment in all of the selected health centers are expected to take place next quarter. The selected health centers are:

- Intibucá: CESAR Zacate Blanco, CESAMO San Isidro, CESAR San Nicolás
- La Paz: CESAR Florida de San José, CESAR El Encinal, CESAR Sabanetas
- Ocotepeque: CESAMO San Jorge, CESAMO Belen Gualcho, CESAR Jocotan
- Lempira: CESAMO San Rafael, CESAMO San José, CESAR Rodeo Quelacasque, CESAR Platanares, CESAMO San Bartolo
- Santa Bárbara: CESAR Paso Viejo, CESAR San Francisco Carrizal
- Copán: CESAR Vega Redonda, CESAR de Capuca, CESAR Río Amarillo, CESAMO Nueva Armenia
- Project health and nutrition technicians have coordinated activities with these twenty health centers to deliver the primary attention services (*Servicios de Atención Primaria*) to 50 communities during the period. The primary attention services include the delivery of a basic package, which includes dietary supplements, vaccines, pre-natal care, and education of AIN-C mothers in family planning, nutrition and breastfeeding. USAID-ACCESO has provided support in logistics to improve the delivery of the basic package and to increase outreach. The project also provided educational materials (“The Healthy Household” and “Family Planning”) to these health centers.

### 3.5. SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

#### 3.5.1. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Most of the senior level technical and management team were in place within two weeks of project start-up. Contracts were developed in the first quarter, with the initial five subcontractors operating six of the 12 local field implementation teams by the end of the second quarter. In the third quarter, contract mechanisms were developed with six local NGOs for five local implementation teams. By the end of 2011, 11 of the 12 CTUs were operational. The final CTU was finalized in January 2012.

The speed of implementation of the local field teams was slower than originally anticipated due to delays with subcontract and personnel approvals and with the delivery and tax exoneration of vehicles.

#### 3.5.2. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

Activities carried out by the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit enable all project employees to report their activities in the field, to provide recurrent and real time feedback to department managers on major advancements in their regions, and to collect information on assisted client households. Specific activities carried out during the period include:

- Field visits to household clients from all six departments with representatives from IFPRI and USAID prior to implementing M&E baseline and evaluation surveys. All of the project components were covered during this visit.
- The M&E team completed 11,041 client household profiles, representing 83 percent of the total number of client households registered in CIRIS. Collection of profile information is ongoing in all six departments.
- Data entry technicians continued entering information on the individuals participating in training events.
- 508 baseline surveys within the six departments were completed during the period and entered into CIRIS. A second phase for baseline survey collection will be completed during the next quarter based on the number of new household clients incorporated into the project. This process will continue until the completion of a maximum of 3,000 baseline surveys within the six departments.
- M&E specialists have been present at all department level meetings, presenting CIRIS reports and providing critical feedback on project progress.
- Developed new CIRIS reports to provide information on activities, outputs, and results.
- Participated in USAID-sponsored gender workshop.

- Provided ongoing training as required to all project employees on M&E systems and data collection.
- Performed continuous maintenance of the CIRIS database.
- Continued collecting end of harvest forms.
- Provided management reports on advancement of all project components to department and zone managers for performance evaluation and decision making.
- Developed activity and status reports for subcontractors.
- Prepared inputs for monthly and quarterly reports.

### 3.5.3. SMALL GRANTS, SUBCONTRACTS AND ALLIANCES PROGRAM

The last CTU to begin operations opened in January 2012 with IHCAFE as subcontractor.

Other activities in this quarter include:

- *Coffee Demonstration Plots*: Installed demonstration plots in La Paz for technical assistance in best practices for growing coffee. This will provide better crop yields in future harvests.
- *Snow pea demonstration plots*: Installed demonstration plots in Intibucá and provided technical assistance in best practices for growing snow peas, which farmers will eventually be able to sell to a local packing plant who will then export.

The small grants funds have continued to develop this quarter, with new activities beginning and others continuing their process. The overall status is summarized in Table 5.

<b>Table 5. Small grants status</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Renewables Fund</b>		
Photovoltaic Systems	Installation of 33 solar panels in Intibucá for project client households	Completed
Solar Dryers	Installation of 300 solar dryers for coffee growers	Ongoing
Eco Stoves	Construction of 500 eco stoves for client households	Ongoing
Biodigesters	Construction of 120 biodigesters with biogas stove and lamps	Ongoing
<b>Smallholder &amp; MSME Technology Fund</b>		
Marketing Jumpstart	Sending trial shipments, startup costs for potential exporters	Ongoing
MSME Kitchens	Demonstration kitchen in Intibucá for MSME training	Installed
Herb Seeds	Aromatic herb seeds for export program in Lempira	Completed
Snow Peas	Pea seeds for export and local market production programs	Completed
Allspice Thresher	Thresher and cleaner for allspice producing cooperative in Santa Bárbara	Ongoing
Irrigation	Irrigation systems restoration, installation and training	Approved
<b>Research Fund</b>		
FHIA Research	Research in virus, pest management, and diseases	Ongoing

The project also focused on the development of technology and partner funds in marketing, production, postharvest, nutrition and health, research and development, and others. These grants will begin implementation in the upcoming quarter.

#### 3.5.4. GENDER MAINSTREAMING

USAID-ACCESO continued to emphasize and implement its gender mainstreaming strategy. The gender strategy includes details on gender disaggregated indicators and data analysis, as well as for including women in technical training in the cultural context of Honduras. The strategy identifies the types of technical assistance, technologies, and crops that best address the constraints faced by women. Key activities include focusing crop selection on production of herbs that are easy to grow and require smaller areas of land for cultivation, garden-grown vegetables to generate food for the family, and fruit trees. Good opportunities exist to increase women's involvement in the economy in animal production and off-farm and value-added microenterprises. Targeted technologies include drip irrigation and the introduction of low-cost greenhouses. Sowing, harvesting, and postharvest activities are also activities that provide women with labor opportunities.

#### 3.5.5. OTHER

Supporting US government-related activities included:

- Visit of the US Ambassador in Honduras and other representatives of the US Embassy and USAID to project clients in Copán (January 2012).
- Visit of USAID Honduras Director and other USAID representatives to project clients in Santa Bárbara (February 2012).
- Visit of USAID Honduras Sub-Director and other USAID representatives to project clients in Lempira (January 2012).
- Visit by IFPRI and USAID Honduras representatives to project clients in the six departments of USAID-ACCESO influence (February 2011).
- Visit by USAID Washington DC BFS and USAID Honduras representatives to project clients in La Paz (March 2012).
- Presentation made by USAID-ACCESO in USAID Washington DC (BFS) on project activities and video interview conducted (<http://www.feedthefuture.gov/video/feed-future-project-honduras-interview-andy-medlicott-fintrac-inc>).

## 4. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

### Rural MSMEs access to inputs, practices and technology for market participation improved

- Initiate and continue the development of market-led production programs in all six departments for high-value cash crops including potato, snow peas, carrot, garlic, Asian vegetables, plantain, a selection of herbs (basil, marjoram, chives, rosemary, and thyme), onion, and cucumbers.
- Continue with recruitment of new project clients, both on- and off-farm.
- Increase the provision of training and technical assistance in production and value-added activities with the expanded team.
- Introduce new technologies, crops, and processed products with high market potential.
- Develop market-driven production programs to meet local and regional demand.
- Start pine resin deliveries to paint manufacturer - 300 barrels per month.
- Increase wood deliveries to 200,000 pounds per month.
- Start dairy products exports to El Salvador market and to the formal market in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.
- Inventory of all honey producers and establish the available supply to find new buyers and develop new products.
- Start chicken contract supply program to small slaughter operations in Copán and Santa Bárbara.
- Prepare business plans for organic fertilizer production program using coffee pulp or organic waste for unrefined sugar (*panela*) and for dehydrated peppers and pepper mash.
- Develop the cardamom and allspice essential oil project.
- Implementation of the bean, oriental vegetable and fresh herb export programs to the US market.
- Continue with the development and distribution of a technology investment fund small grants program for productive infrastructure.

### Rural MSMEs access to new market opportunities increased

- Continue with the development and promotion of local farmers fairs.
- Increase the number of local buyers working with USAID-ACCESO for increased market links and production programs.
- Expand the local distributor and retail outlet network in local towns for MSME sales with off-farm value added products.
- Develop outgrower programs for local buyers, exporters, and processors.
- Expand calendarized production programs for local market buyers.
- Initiate new exports of herbs, radicchio, and snow peas to the US.
- Initiate new marketing relationships with buyers in El Salvador.
- Develop market standards for El Salvador buyers.

### Barriers to competitiveness of rural MSMEs reduced

- Training and technical assistance to first and second tier rural banks.
- Expand implementation of project clients' access to financial products developed with input providers and exporters, including Del Campo Soluciones Agrícolas, CADELGA, Original Maya, and others.

- Initiate activities relating to barriers and policy issues affecting competitiveness in the agricultural sector.
- Continue with the contracted research and development activities targeted to increase productivity for key crops.
- Initiate applied research activities with EAP-Zamorano.

### **Biodiversity and natural resources conserved**

#### *At the farm level*

- Expand technical assistance in soil conservation, water resource management, wildlife preservation, pest and disease identification and control, and the safe use of pesticides.

#### *At the municipal and community levels*

- Business plan development to promote coffee pulp treatment with natural microorganisms.
- Pre-design and budget preparation for two pilot effluent treatment projects in two communities.
- Continue the rehabilitation of chlorinators.

### **Disaster vulnerability reduced**

- Continue implementation of mitigation plans in 20 communities.
- Define mitigation infrastructure projects and cost share using technology fund.
- Continue training of Municipal Emergency Committees to strengthen their operational capacities.
- Organize and or strengthen at least 30 Local Emergency Committees.
- Continue disaster mitigation training to CODELs in coordination with Copeco.
- Start using the technology fund for watershed and mitigation project.

### **Renewable energy projects to be implemented during the next period**

- Install 400 improved stoves, 30 bio-digesters, and 72 solar crop dryers.
- Training on the use and maintenance of improved stoves.
- Training on the concepts and critical points of design and installation of bio-digesters and solar dryers.
- Develop technical handbooks for bio-digesters and solar dryers.

### **Use of quality maternal and child health and family planning services increased**

- Continue identifying specific cases that need attention in the target communities and referring them to the health facility for the delivery of the basic health package.
- Continue promoting family planning and quality maternal and child health practices in the basic messages that are conveyed in the training events.
- Expand the implementation of the healthy household program.
- Provide training in food preparation and diet diversity to ensure nutrient uptake.
- Coordinate with the renewable energy and natural resource management components to target select activities (water quality, waste disposal, effluent water treatment, fuel efficient stoves, bio-digesters, etc.) to help improve health conditions.
- Initiate the establishment of family lots with suitable crops for improved household nutrition.
- Initiate the establishment of food preparation training centers for teaching mothers how to prepare nutritive food in their houses.
- Expand the dissemination of basic health and nutrition information in targeted communities and to counterparts.

- Continue with the provision of direct technical assistance and training on health and nutrition subjects at the household level, to health volunteers AIN–C groups.

### **Natural resource management**

- Continue supporting community-led projects in municipalities with high vulnerabilities.
- Develop work plans for municipalities for protected area and water sheds.
- Implement priority activities to contribute to the achievement of the health and nutrition and economic growth components through the implementation of household water filter program.

### **Gender mainstreaming**

- Follow up on gender inclusion activities in the day-to-day implementation of USAID-ACCESO.
- Follow recommendations and focus on opportunities highlighted in the gender mainstreaming plan for implementation of all activities.
- Accommodate training events and technical assistance delivery times and methodologies to the intended audience based on focus group findings (male, females, and youth).

### **Project management and administrative activities**

- Continue developing formal alliances with selected counterpart institutions and private sector alliance.

### **Monitoring and evaluation activities**

- Prepare and regularly update the PMP monitor.
- Meetings with technical production staff to evaluate performance against results, and to prepare strategies for the achievement of project goals.
- Continue collecting client profiles and end of harvest forms.
- Analyze findings of current baseline data surveys carried out in the previous quarter in all six departments.
- Provide management reports on advancement of all project components to department and zone managers for performance evaluation and decision making.
- Develop activity and status reports for subcontractors.
- Prepare inputs for monthly and quarterly reports.

### **Small grants, subcontracts and alliances program**

This upcoming quarter will be marked with a significant boost in small grants investments as client beneficiaries' needs have been identified in more areas such as health and nutrition and natural resource management and disaster mitigation. Some of these investments are likely to include:

- More alliances with NGOs identified in previous periods that support similar efforts, including ODECO, Hermandad de Honduras, and others.
- New private sector alliances.
- Irrigation systems installations.
- Investments in snow pea export program – packing plant infrastructure.
- Bean export and local market program support with seeds.
- Water filters for households with children under the age of 2 with little or no access to adequate drinking water.
- Nematode research and development partner fund with EAP-Zamorano.
- Equipment for acute malnutrition treatment centers.

- Equipment for nutritional training centers.
- Natural resource management activities and investments.
- Disaster mitigation activities and infrastructure.
- Weather stations.
- Household garden plots for adequate nutrition at the household level.
- Marketing activities investments.

# ANNEX I: PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

The PMP and work plan targets for each indicator is provided below, together with the overall status as of March 2012. These are now separated by IRs and sub-IRs to be consistent with the quarterly and work plan formats. Note: data for selected indicators are collected on an ongoing basis while others will be collected via annual surveys.

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011) ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGETS (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)				Total Year 2 Target	TOTAL EXPECTED LOP	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 2 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (12/2011)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (03/2012)	Updated Status (03/2012)	
	Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				Male	Female					
<b>1</b>	<b>Program Administrative Activities</b>														
	<b>Start-Up Activities</b>														
1.1	Key Personnel Fielded	done													
1.2	Grants Manual Submitted	1											done		
1.3	Project Intranet/Internet Sites Designed & Launched	2											done		
1.4	Vehicle/Equipment Procurement	cars/motorbikes	on-going	on-going									done		
1.5	Local Project Team Fielded	done	on-going	on-going									done		
1.6	Local staff trained in Fintrac implementation methodology	done	on-going										done		
1.7	Remaining team hired and fielded		on-going										done		
	<b>Communications &amp; Reporting</b>														
1.8	Branding & Marking Plan Prepared & Submitted	1											done		
1.9	PERSUAP	1												done	
1.10	EMP			1										done	
<a href="#">1.11</a>	Monthly Reports	6	3	3	3	3	12	46	Reports				9	3	12
<a href="#">1.12</a>	Quarterly Reports	2	1	1	1	1	4	15	Reports				3	1	4
<a href="#">1.13</a>	Annual Workplan	1	1				1	4	Workplans				2		2
1.14	Final Report							1	Reports						
<a href="#">1.15</a>	Steering committee meetings		1		1		2	7	Meeting Minutes				1		1

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011) ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGETS (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)				Total Year 2 Target	TOTAL EXPECTED LOP	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 2 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (12/2011)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (03/2012)	Updated Status (03/2012)	
	Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				Male	Female					
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Activities</b>														
2.1	Fintrac M&E System (CIRIS) customized and installed	done									done				
2.2	Staff trained in M&E methodology and CIRIS	done									done				
2.3	M&E Plan / PMP Developed and Submitted	1					1	Plan			done				
2.4	Baseline Data on Program Clients Collected							Data					on-going		
2.6	Follow-up indicator data collected and verified							Data							
2.7	Performance Indicator Review														
<a href="#">2.8</a>	Success Stories Produced and Disseminated	2	3	3	3	3	12	40	Publications			6	3	3	12
<b>3</b>	<b>Small Grants Program</b>														
<a href="#">3.1</a>	Technology Fund (households)		1,035	1,035	1,035	1,052	4,157					0		0	
<a href="#">3.2</a>	Nutrition / Health			5	10	5	20					0		0	
<a href="#">3.3</a>	Disaster Mitigation / NRM			5	10	5	20					0		0	
<a href="#">3.4</a>	Renewable Energy			50	100	50	200	890				0	11	38	49
<a href="#">3.5</a>	Number of grants awarded by community small grants mechanism		1,035	1,095	1,155	1,112	4,397					0	11	38	49

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011) ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGETS (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)				Total Year 2 Target	TOTAL EXPECTED LOP	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 2 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (12/2011)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (03/2012)	Updated Status (03/2012)
	Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				Male	Female				
<b>High Level Targets</b>														
<b>GOAL: Increased Rural Household Incomes</b>														
PIRS # 1	Number of households living in poverty moved above the poverty line					6,000	30,000	Households	4,800	1,200				
PIRS # 2	Number of rural households living in extreme poverty moved above the poverty line <sup>1</sup>					4,500	18,000	Households	3,600	900				
PIRS # 3	Value of new net income of participant rural farmers and MSMEs					14.79	73.95	US\$ Million	13.31	1.48				
PIRS # 4	Number of jobs attributed to FTF implementation					2,085	10,425	FTEs	1,251	834				
<b>Increased Agricultural Productivity</b>														
PIRS # 5	Value of incremental sales (collected at farm/firm level) attributed to FTF implementation					26.73	133.65	US\$ Million	24.06	2.67				

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011) ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGETS (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)				Total Year 2 Target	TOTAL EXPECTED LOP	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 2 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (12/2011)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (03/2012)	Updated Status (03/2012)	
	Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				Male	Female					
<b>IR 2.1: RURAL MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (MSME) GROWTH INCREASED</b>															
<b>Sub-IR 2.1.1: RURAL MSMEs' ACCESS TO INPUTS, PRACTICES, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR MARKET PARTICIPATION IMPROVED</b>															
<b>Implementation of updated production technologies (on-farm and off-farm)</b>															
<a href="#">WP #1</a>	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	5,045	3,784	3,784	3,784	3,784	15,136	55,500	Individuals	12,208	2,928	10,832	9,877	-938	19,771
<a href="#">WP #2</a>	Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries	34,400	25,800	25,800	25,800	25,800	103,200	378,400	Extension Visits			41,234	-952	28,176	68,458
<a href="#">WP #12</a>	Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools)	50	20	20	20	15	75	225	Technical materials			84	20	29	133
<a href="#">WP #10</a>	Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project	161	81	81	80	80	321	805	MSMEs	128	193	366	0	164	530
<a href="#">PMP #6</a>	Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation		1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	4.32	21.60	New private sector investment (Millions)			0.357	0.095	0.476	0.928
<a href="#">WP #11</a>	Number of female individuals in training activities	1,800	525	525	525	525	2,100	8,300	Female Individuals			3,091	2,706	21	5,818
<a href="#">PIRS #7</a>	Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance		1,000	1,000	1,205	1,205	4,410	22,050	MSMEs	3,528	882	0	0	7	7
<b>Private sector alliances and integration of private sector equipment, input and service providers</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS #30</a>	Number of organizations / companies providing business development / extension services to MSMEs	23	5	15	25	25	70	465	organizations / companies providing services to MSMEs			0	0	43	43
<a href="#">PIRS #32</a>	Number of public-private partnerships formed	10	3	3	9	10	25	50	PPP formed			2	0	1	3
<a href="#">PIRS #33</a>	Number of private sector alliances developed	2	2	2	2	2	8	15	PSA's Formed			5	1	5	11
<b>Grower organization and the development of market driven production programs</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS #31</a>	Number of producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance	20	15	15	20	20	70	210	Organizations / associations / CBO's receiving assistance			183	-13	0	170
<a href="#">WP #3</a>	Number of small farmer associations formally established as businesses			2	2	2	4	55	Associations formally established as businesses			0	0	0	0

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011) ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGETS (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)				Total Year 2 Target	TOTAL EXPECTED LOP	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 2 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (12/2011)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (03/2012)	Updated Status (03/2012)	
	Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				Male	Female					
<b>SUB-IR 2.1.2: RURAL MSMEs' ACCESS TO NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED</b>															
<b>Development of buyer linkages and logistics</b>															
<a href="#">WP # 4</a>	Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker	218	492	492	492	492	1,968	10,932	MSMEs	1,771	197	77	0	118	195
<a href="#">PIRS # 12</a>	Number of brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs	25	25	25	25	50	125	500	Brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs			17	-7	0	10
<a href="#">WP # 6</a>	Number of market surveys conducted	6	2	3	4	3	12	24	Market Surveys			2	0	0	2
<b>Production and systems implementation to meet buyers quality standards</b>															
<a href="#">WP # 5</a>	Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers		74	150	150	225	599	2,996	MSMEs	509	90	0	0	223	223
<b>Implementation of business certification programs</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 13</a>	Number of MSMEs that have been verified to meet market standards for their products		50	50	100	100	300	2,000	MSMEs			51	0	154	205
<b>SUB-IR 2.1.3: BARRIERS TO COMPETITIVENESS OF RURAL MSMEs REDUCED</b>															
<b>Increased access to finance</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 14</a>	Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing as the result of USG assistance	215	180	210	230	243	863	4,314	MSMEs accessing finance	690	173	353	85	114	552
<a href="#">PIRS # 15</a>	Value of Agricultural and Rural Loans made to MSMEs	0.32	0.27	0.31	0.33	0.35	1.26	6.33	Value of loans (millions)	1.01	0.25	0.245	0.084	0.067	0.395
<a href="#">PIRS # 11</a>	Number of MSMEs implementing sound business management practices		300	360	480	556	1,696	8,482	MSMEs	1,357	339	0	0	82	82
<a href="#">PIRS # 16</a>	Number of value chain / sector constraints identified and resolved			3	5	7	15	40	Constraints			0	0	0	0
<a href="#">PIRS # 17</a>	Number of policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed for which implementation has begun with USG assistance	1			1		1	4	Policies, regulations or administrative procedures passed			1	0	1	2
<b>Applied research and development programs developed</b>															
<a href="#">xx</a>	R&D projects and Activities Identified	1		1			1	1				1	8	0	9

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011) ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGETS (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)				Total Year 2 Target	TOTAL EXPECTED LOP	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 2 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (12/2011)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (03/2012)	Updated Status (03/2012)	
	Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				Male	Female					
<b>IR 2.2: Honduran Biodiversity and Natural Resources Conserved and IR 2.3: CAPACITY TO ADAPT AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE STRENGTHENED</b>															
<b>Implementation of NRM practices on farm</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 8</a>	Number of additional hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance		700	700	781	800	2,981	14,904	Hectares	2,683	298	0			
<a href="#">PIRS # 10</a>	Number of companies (including farms) that have made conservation-friendly changes in their business practices		1,000	1,000	1,205	1,205	4,410	22,050	Companies (including farms)			0			
<b>Implementation of NRM practices at community and municipality levels</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 9</a>	Number of Local Municipal Governments effectively implementing natural resource management policies				3	4	7	20	Local Municipal Governments			0			
<b>SUB-IR 2.3.3: DISASTER VULNERABILITY REDUCED</b>															
<b>Development and implementation of disaster mitigation plans and systems</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 28</a>	Number of communities in high vulnerability municipalities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity				5	10	15	40	Communities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity			0			
<b>Installation of renewable energy technologies</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 29</a>	Number of rural micro-generation clean/renewable energy projects established	10	52	90	100	109	351		Projects established			30	0	72	102

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011) ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGETS (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)				Total Year 2 Target	TOTAL EXPECTED LOP	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 2 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (12/2011)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (03/2012)	Updated Status (03/2012)
	Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				Male	Female				
<b>IR 4.1: USE OF QUALITY MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCREASED</b>														
<a href="#">PIRS # 18</a>	Prevalence of households with moderate to severe hunger						-20%	% reduction from baseline						
<a href="#">PIRS # 19</a>	Prevalence of underweight children under 5				-5%	-5%	-20%	% reduction from baseline	-5.0%	-5.0%				
<a href="#">PIRS # 20</a>	Prevalence of stunted children under 5						-20%	% reduction from baseline						
<a href="#">PIRS # 21</a>	Percent of children 6-23 months that received a Minimum Acceptable Diet						30%	% increase over baseline						
<a href="#">PIRS # 22</a>	Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of children under 6 months				5%	5%	20%	% increase over baseline						
<a href="#">PIRS # 23</a>	Prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age						-5%	% reduction from baseline						
<a href="#">PIRS # 24</a>	Prevalence of anemia in children 5 - 59 months						-20%	% reduction from baseline						
<a href="#">PIRS # 25</a>	Women's dietary diversity: mean number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age						30%	% Change in HDDS						
<a href="#">PIRS # 26</a>	Number of health facilities with established capacity to manage acute under-nutrition						20	Health Facilities						
<a href="#">PIRS # 27</a>	Modern contraceptive prevalence rate					2.5%	10%	% Increase over baseline	2.5%	2.5%				

## ANNEX II: SNAPSHOTS & MONTHLY SUMMARIES

### Garlic Producers Triple Income, Double Productivity

**With improved agricultural practices, rural farmers are seeing dramatic increases in incomes.**



*Photo by Fintrac Inc.*

Leocadio Mateo Reyes proudly displays his harvested garlic, which is ready for sale on the local market.

**“We are happy with the support provided by USAID-ACCESO. Now we grow more garlic in the same area.”**

*Juan López Rivera, garlic farmer*

In San Manuel de Colohete, rural farmers have been using traditional methods on their small garlic plots for many years. Without proper land preparation, fertilizer use, or other basic production practices, the farmers were barely able to sustain their families.

USAID-ACCESO is now working with 45 small-scale producers in the area to introduce improved farming practices that are increasing productivity and income.

The project is providing technical support in all aspects of the planting and harvesting process, from the introduction of soil preparation, seed selection, planting systems, fertilizer use and proper weeding techniques, to integrated pest management and postharvest training.

Thanks to these good agricultural practices and ongoing support from USAID-ACCESO agronomists, the garlic farmers are already seeing dramatic increases in their yields and productivity.

“The techniques the project teaches work well for us,” said Ciriaco Martinez, a garlic producer.

The farmers have seen an average doubling of yields, and with the improved quality, this translates into a 305 percent increase in average net income, from \$104 to \$421 for each plot (0.05 hectares). Cost of production per pound of garlic produced is also down 29 percent thanks to the more efficient farming techniques.

In order to maintain the improved quality, farmers are reserving a quarter of their plots to cultivate seeds for future crop cycles.

USAID-ACCESO is also working with the producers to identify new market opportunities for fresh and processed garlic. For instance, the project is teaching farmers how to make garlic paste with the lower-quality crops, a value-added technique that creates an income opportunity out of what was previously considered a loss.

Seeing the income potential, the farmers are committed to growing more garlic and integrating their new knowledge and skills to further increase productivity.

“The lessons we learned from USAID-ACCESO were good,” said Juan López Rivera. “Now we grow more garlic in the same area.”

USAID-ACCESO, a four-year initiative, will assist more than 30,000 clients in western Honduras, lifting them out of poverty and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.

## Renewable Energy Saves Time, Money

**With biogas produced from an on-site biodigester, one family transforms their daily life.**



*Photo by Fintrac Inc.*

Kelin Madrid Ramos prepares the family meals on an eco-stove that uses biogas from their newly-constructed biodigester. This renewable gas helps save the family time and money.

**“For me the stove is perfect. Thank you USAID-ACCESO; we’re doing great!”**

*Kelin Madrid Ramos*

As part of its natural resource management component, USAID-ACCESO is working with rural households to introduce environmentally-friendly, low-cost, and efficient gas stoves. These stoves help improve the quality of life in rural areas and promote effective use of resources.

Jose Rene Madrid Torres learned of the concept from USAID-ACCESO technicians who visited his small community of Agua Buena, Copan. He brought the idea to his family, who was at first skeptical of the idea of using manure to fuel a stove.

“I did not believe,” said his wife, Ernestina Ramos. But after some discussion, the family decided to follow USAID-ACCESO’s advice.

Biodigesters function by breaking down organic material in the absence of oxygen, generating biogas and an organic fertilizer. Biogas is composed of methane and carbon dioxide, and can be used as fuel in communities without reliable access to electricity.

The biodigester the Madrid family built is capable of producing one cubic meter of gas daily, which can power their stove for six hours, enough time to prepare at least three meals. The family is also using the gas to light their lamps, allowing them to have light throughout the day and night without affecting the stove’s functionality.

Women are the main beneficiaries of the more efficient household stove. Ernestina’s daughters, Glenda and Kelin, are seeing the advantages of the biodigester as well.

Glenda is in charge of “feeding” the biodigester every morning so it will produce gas for the household. Kelin prepares breakfast for the family – a task that used to require her to wake at 4 a.m. to light the wood for the stove. With the eco-stove, Kelin does not need to begin preparing breakfast until 6 a.m.

Besides saving time, biodigesters and biogas help reduce overall firewood use and instances of respiratory diseases, and contribute to increased production of organic fertilizer for home gardens.

Neighbors have been visiting the Madrid family to see the biodigester in action. Ernestina said everyone was impressed with the output and uses, and expressed interest in replicating this technology in their own homes.

USAID-ACCESO is currently working with 12 families in four departments to install and use biodigesters as energy sources for their homes and farms.

# Improving Rural Childhood Nutrition

**Applying techniques learned from USAID-ACCESO, mothers see improvements in their children's health.**



*Photo by Fintrac Inc.*

Ada Consuelo is learning healthy, simple recipes that help improve her children's nutrition. Her young daughter was underweight, but with help from the project, Ada was able to bring her to a healthy weight.

**“Sometimes we do not have enough money to buy food, but now we make fortified tortillas with vegetables from our garden...we do not need to buy outside food anymore.”**

*Alicia Gonzalez*

As part of its nutrition and health component, USAID-ACCESO is providing training to mothers of young children in rural communities to combat malnutrition and disease.

In the communities of El Tabor and Las Hortensias, undernutrition is a serious problem among children under 2, with nearly half of the children weighing in the bottom percentile for their age groups. Through trainings and household visits, USAID-ACCESO is teaching rural families how to prepare nutritious meals using readily-available ingredients from their own farms or gardens.

The results so far are impressive: after only a few months, the number of underweight children dropped by 20 percent. The project will continue working with these families to further reduce the prevalence of malnutrition among children through the implementation of sustainable health and nutrition practices.

The mothers in El Tabor and Las Hortensias are thrilled with the results and are making changes in their daily lives to ensure their children consume enough nutrients for healthy development.

Rosibel Lopez attends monthly trainings in El Tabor and is seeing a difference in her 8-month-old daughter's health after incorporating recipes she learned from USAID-ACCESO and the volunteers into her meals.

Alicia Gonzalez, whose daughter had been suffering from a respiratory condition and had trouble gaining weight, has also seen improvements since she began participating in the USAID-ACCESO trainings.

“Sometimes we do not have enough money to buy food, but now we make fortified tortillas with vegetable leaves that we used to throw away,” Gonzalez said. “We do not have to buy food from outside our community.”

In Las Hortensias, Ada Consuelo's 14-month-old daughter, Gleny, suffered from a lack of appetite for three months, her weight gradually declining. USAID-ACCESO staff taught Consuelo new food preparation and hygiene practices to stimulate Gleny's appetite and help her regain the weight.

"In November I started to prepare vegetable soup, rice with greens, and fortified tortillas. But the fortified tortillas are not just for kids! We grown-ups like them too," Consuelo said.

The project is also helping renovate a school in El Tabor, turning it into the area's first nutrition training facility. In the last three months, USAID-ACCESO performed more than 2,000 health-related technical assistance visits.



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## MONTHLY UPDATE – JANUARY 2012

### BACKGROUND

This is the tenth edition of the USAID-ACCESO monthly update, with information on current and future project activities. USAID-ACCESO is a four-year initiative funded by the people and government of the United States of America through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This project is part of the global Feed the Future initiative of the United States government and the main investment by USAID in Honduras.

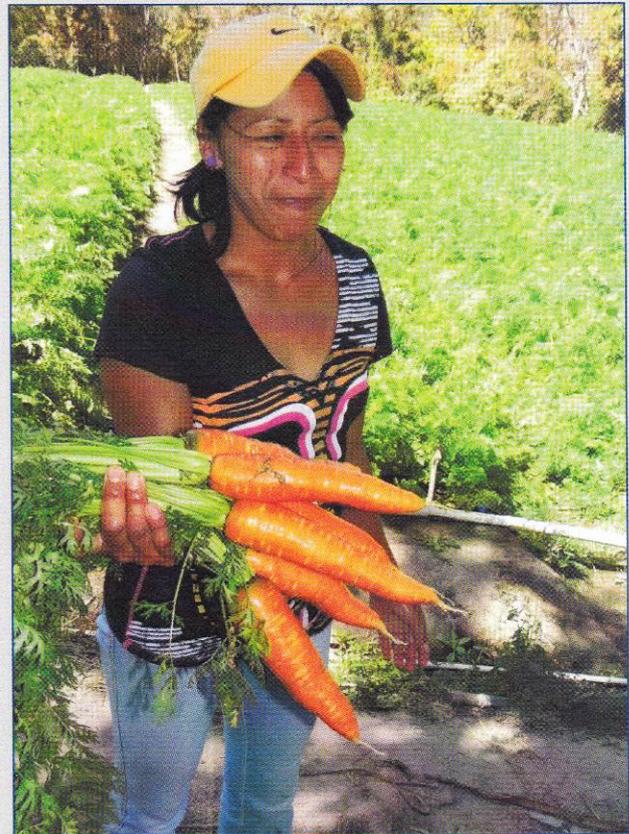
USAID-ACCESO will assist more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque and Santa Bárbara. The goal of the project is to improve the conditions of 18,000 rural homes that are currently living in extreme poverty by moving them out of poverty and malnutrition through financial development, increased incomes, and new jobs.

### USAID-ACCESO CLIENTS

In January, USAID-ACCESO provided assistance to 10,352 client households and 1,216 additional clients including businesses and community organizations. These groups are not directly linked to the project's overall target of 30,000 impacted households, but contribute to the project's principal goals. Most of these clients are permanently located in the target geographical regions, expanding USAID-ACCESO's reach and sustainability.

This client group can be broken down as follows:

- 380 micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) clients, of which 104 are rural savings and loan associations.
- 246 Atención Integral a la Niñez en la Comunidad (AIN-C) mothers' group clients in the communities with the highest malnutrition indexes.
- 198 business development services clients, of which 30 are input and equipment providers.
- 154 community association and organization clients, of which 144 are community water organizations' committees.
- 71 counterpart organization clients, including 27 nongovernmental organizations, and another 69 municipalities, with whom the project coordinates comprehensive training and technical assistance activities.
- 50 households are receiving nutrition and hygiene assistance only. These households are located in areas that lack agricultural potential, but are being integrated into components of the project that fit their needs.
- 27 buyers who have made at least two purchases from ten project-supported households.



All photos by Fintrac Inc.

Farmer shows off healthy carrot harvest, Zacapa, La Paz.

### USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, January 2012

Department	Client Households	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	1,695	4,258	167
Intibucá	1,946	10,752	127
La Paz	1,474	6,853	247
Lempira	2,254	11,785	234
Ocotepeque	1,508	6,617	140
Santa Bárbara	1,452	6,565	212
Others	23	47	89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,352</b>	<b>46,877</b>	<b>1,216</b>

\*Includes: MSMEs, buyers, input and service providers, Municipal Corporations, counterpart organizations, among others

This monthly update was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The 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.



## PRODUCTION

- An additional 59 hectares were planted in January, for a cumulative total of 7,169 hectares of project-supported production area. Of the total, 3,991 hectares are planted in coffee, 2,331 hectares in basic grains, and 847 hectares in horticultural crops. Beans (11.7 ha), potato (10.3 ha), watermelon (9.4 ha), and cabbage (6.6 ha) are the biggest horticultural crops.
- 4,607 participants were trained in 671 events in agricultural production. The trainings covered best practices for coffee and horticultural crops; soil management and preparation; planting and transplant; fertilization; nutritional requirements; and integrated pest management. The project also arranged field days and activities.
- Thirty-six training events were held for 350 participants in animal production. Participants received training in feeding practices, construction of chicken coops, low-cost feeding and drinking stations, pork production, appropriate storage, de-worming techniques, and the use of vitamins.
- Thirty-six field visits were carried out with 298 participants to promote the adoption of best practices and improved farming technologies. Lead farmers gave testimonials and demonstrated the impact of improved practices for the production of passion fruit, snow peas, tomatoes, coffee, and others.
- Eighty-six participants were trained on postharvest handling in nine training events. Five of these events focused on farm certification processes. Others included quality standards for packaging, use of logbooks, product selection, and pest control.

## ACCESS TO MARKETS

- Conducted 31 technical assistance visits and three training events for 56 participants. The workshops covered market opportunities for snow peas, cucumber, beans, aromatic herbs, oriental vegetables, plantain, and horticultural crops for the El Salvador market.
- Technical assistance was provided to USAID-ACCESO client households in marketing, sales, packing, and quality assurance for garlic, cucumber, green beans, cassava, lemons, and pastries.
- Project staff conducted market surveys and identified new market opportunities with Salvadoran buyers.
- Fifteen client households signed agreements with an oriental vegetable exporter for the United States market.
- A contract between a radicchio/snow pea exporter and a packing company, expected to be finalized in February, will benefit 200 client households in Intibucá.

## BUSINESS AND FINANCE SKILLS

- Business and finance skills specialists held 92 events to train 802 participants in available financing sources and credit options; organization and training of rural savings and loan associations; functions of boards of directors and loan committees; development and implementation of internal regulations; use of logbooks and accounting records.
- USAID-ACCESO facilitated a memorandum of understanding between EXVECO, an oriental vegetable exporter, and CACIL, a savings and loan cooperative, to set up a triangular system that gives USAID-ACCESO producers the opportunity to obtain loans and a formal market contract.
- The Ministry of Industry and Commerce trained 64 rural savings and loan associations and cooperatives on the laws and regulations of the social sector of the economy. The training improves client knowledge about the formalization process.



Solar panels like this one are helping rural farmers significantly cut their energy bills, Intibucá.



Lettuce production, Ocotepeque.



Farmers in Intibucá examine their potato harvest.

### Baseline profile of USAID-ACCESO families to date

- 6,894 of the 10,352 household clients (67%) are in extreme poverty and 685 household clients (7%) are poor.
- 5,927 of the 46,877 beneficiaries (13%) are children under 5 years in age; 12,932 (28%) are children between 6 and 14 years old; 23,053 people (49%) are between 15 and 49 years in age; 11 percent are adults over the age of 50.
- 52 percent of the beneficiaries are men (24,439) and 48 percent are women (22,438).



## NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- Provided technical assistance to 246 AIN-C mothers' groups in collaboration with volunteer health monitors from the communities.
- 1,451 participants attended 99 events in January. Popular workshops included: breastfeeding and complementary nutrition practices of children over six months; preparing nutritious food using locally available ingredients; and maintaining a healthy and hygienic household.
- Other nutrition and health interventions included work on home gardens, construction of chicken coops to increase families' protein intake, and family planning sessions.

## VALUE ADDITION AND MICROENTERPRISE

- 1,068 participants were trained at 86 events in manufacturing practices, cost and pricing analysis, meat processing, and other value-added opportunities such as baking vegetables to sell as snacks or chips.
- Processing and value addition specialists provided technical assistance to 91 micro-, 65 small-, and seven medium-sized businesses. 499 technical assistance visits took place to client households, businesses, and service providers.
- 87 participants were trained in effective administration practices for their forestry businesses.

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- To date, 67 municipalities and 144 community water committees have received technical assistance or training.
- 63 participants were trained at six events. Among the participants were coffee producers and water treatment workers who were trained on the environmental impact of byproduct waste. They discussed alternatives that are both financially viable and environmentally friendly, such as treating coffee pulp with microorganisms to produce organic fertilizer.
- Twenty-five participants were trained on water quality analysis and monitoring. Other municipal workers received training on the effective use of water chlorination tablets.
- Fourteen micro-basin managers were trained in the implementation of a payment model for environmental services.
- Held meetings with the consortium of municipalities in La Paz (MANCEPAZ) to offer support on a new recycling project.

## MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION OF NATURAL DISASTERS

- A field visit took place to the community of Santa Elena in La Paz to evaluate the geologic fault in the community of Caraiman, and to recommend ways to prevent damage in the case of a natural disaster.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Investments totaled \$14,910 in 15 solar panels for client households. Each panel costs \$994, of which the client household pays 40 percent, which will be amortized through monthly electricity payments. USAID-ACCESO and partners, Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social (FHIS) and Solaris, covered the rest of the cost.
- Conducted 24 technical assistance visits on the use and maintenance of solar panels; installed the first biogas fueled lamp.
- Production technicians installed four solar dryers with funding through the partnership agreement with IHCAFE.

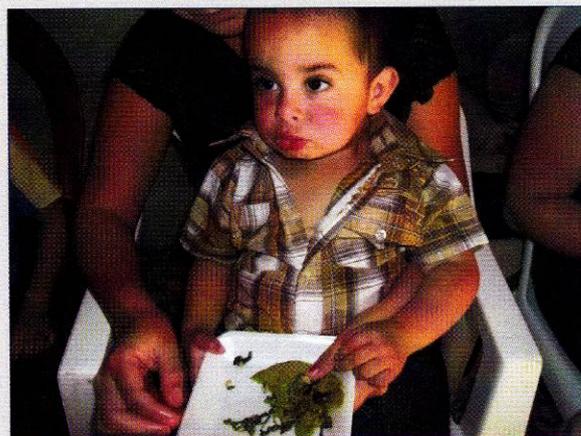
[www.usaid-acceso.org](http://www.usaid-acceso.org) ♦ [acceso@fintrac.com](mailto:acceso@fintrac.com)

### PRINCIPAL GOALS OF ACCESO

- Bring 30,000 rural homes living in poverty and extreme poverty above the poverty threshold;
- Generate \$ 73.95 million in net profits for clients assisted by the project; and
- Create 10,425 permanent jobs in the assisted communities.



Mothers are learning to prepare nutritious food for their families using ingredients from their own gardens, Santa Bárbara.



Children are improving their overall health and nutrition with foods like this fortified tortilla, Ocotepeque.

### Trainings January 2012

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	12	1
Business Skills / Finance	794	90
Natural Resource Management	63	6
Postharvest and Certifications	110	14
Processing and Added Value	1,068	86
Production	4,957	707
ACCESO Project	141	14
Market Information	56	3
Nutrition and Health	1,451	99
Other topics	95	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,747</b>	<b>1,027</b>

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## ACCESS TO MARKETS

### MARKET-LED PRODUCTION

Producers cite the lack of access to markets and credit as their two biggest constraints, both of which USAID-ACCESO addresses through technical assistance in production related activities. In Honduras, there is not a lack of markets but a lack of information on opportunities and market demand. If there is not sufficient demand for what is being produced, it is difficult to develop a profitable and sustainable business. This market-led production approach gives small producers the opportunity to join more formal and stable markets. USAID-ACCESO provides access to market opportunities by developing links between markets and producers, training client households on production skills and technologies, and working on reducing and eliminating administrative barriers to market access.

### CALENDARIZED PLANTING PROGRAMS

Identifying market opportunities determined by supply and demand is the marketing specialist's first step to organize producers into calendarized planting programs. This is a dynamic and ongoing task that follows market trends to reduce producers' risk and increase their competitiveness. Market specialists regularly visit local and international buyers and exporters to keep up with market developments.

#### Local Market

The first calendarized planting programs were developed to supply major supermarket chains and large urban markets. To obtain the necessary volume and incorporate small producers that have diversified into high-value crops after doubling and tripling their yields of basic grains, the project is also working with producers that do not fall under the poverty threshold who can facilitate local distribution. Currently, there are calendarized supply programs for cucumber, carrot, plantain, potato, broccoli, cauliflower, and passion fruit. USAID-ACCESO is also coordinating with existing distribution centers – previously unprofitable due to high management costs and low supply of goods – to distribute smallholders' goods. Additionally, the project is organizing small producer fairs (six to date) in rural municipalities.

#### Export Market

USAID-ACCESO is developing export for the following crops and regions: oriental vegetables in Santa Bárbara; beans in Copán; horticultural crops in Ocotepeque for the El Salvador market; snow peas and radicchio in Intibucá; organic aromatic herbs in Lempira; and oriental vegetables in La Paz. Through these interventions, 380 client households now have access to the export market.

*Calendarized production programs ensure that farmers plan ahead and use available resources more efficiently to obtain additional yields and income from the same planting area.*

#### USAID-ACCESO CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or if you are interested in receiving assistance, you can request it from the following contacts:

La Paz	Cristóbal Montalván	9978-7117
Intibucá	Denis Ramirez	9996-8903
Lempira	Ali Valdivia	9996-9360
Ocotepeque	Eddy Flores	9949-6747
Copán	Hugo Ávila	9923-6826
Santa Bárbara	Leopoldo Aguilar	9997-0130

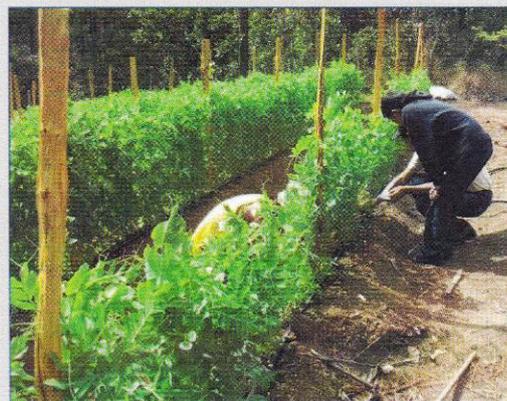
*USAID-ACCESO beneficiaries learn about production systems and integrated crop management, which allows them to produce based on market demands, making them more competitive and better able to capitalize on market opportunities.*



Salvadoran buyers visit a La Paz farm to identify export opportunities for USAID-ACCESO producers.



Cabbage production for the local market, La Paz.



Producers preparing their snow pea crop for export, Intibucá.



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## MONTHLY UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2012

### BACKGROUND

This is the eleventh edition of the USAID-ACCESO monthly update with information on current and future project activities. 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 will assist more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara. The project is working to lift 18,000 rural households out of extreme poverty and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.

### AGREEMENTS AND ALLIANCES

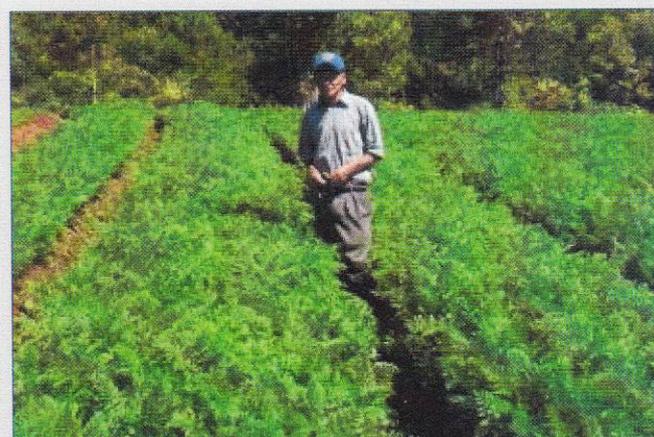
Three memorandums of understanding were signed with commercial input and equipment providers. These links give project clients access to technology, technical assistance, discounted prices, and promotions from DISAGRO, DURECO and SEREMA.

In February, the project signed a contract with AHDESA to provide technical assistance on the construction and installation of 500 eco-friendly stoves. These stoves reduce health risks associated with smoke and reduce firewood use, saving time, money and forest resources.

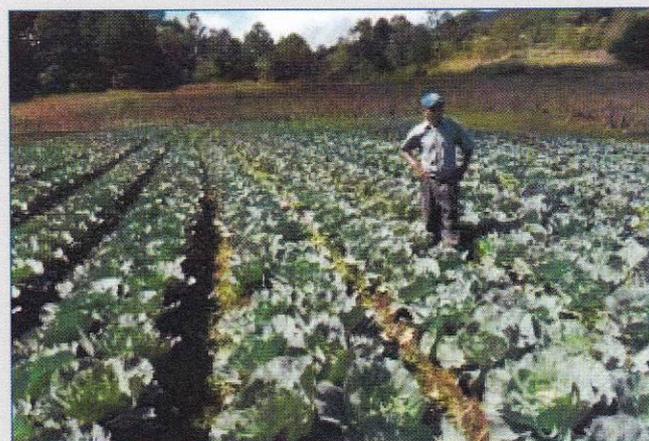
More than 200 client households in Intibucá are using certified snow pea seeds for this year's harvest. These producers are part of a calendarized planting program with an exporter for shipment to the United States.

### PROJECT VISITS

In February, the project met with three specialists from the International Food Policy Research Institute who will measure the project's impact in target areas. During their weeklong visit, the specialists went to six departments and were able to witness firsthand the integration of all project components. In addition, USAID/Honduras' Mission Director, William Brands, visited USAID-ACCESO clients in Santa Bárbara.



Carrot and cabbage production by USAID-ACCESO client households in San José, Guajiquiro, La Paz.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

### USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, February 2012

Department	Client Households	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	1,885	5,627	178
Intibucá	2,032	11,484	136
La Paz	1,628	7,791	310
Lempira	2,491	13,361	304
Ocotepeque	1,702	7,648	182
Santa Bárbara	1,646	7,420	263
Others	24	97	96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,408</b>	<b>53,428</b>	<b>1,469</b>

\*Includes: MSMES, buyers, input and service providers, Municipal Corporations, counterpart organizations, among others

*This monthly update was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The 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.*



## PRODUCTION

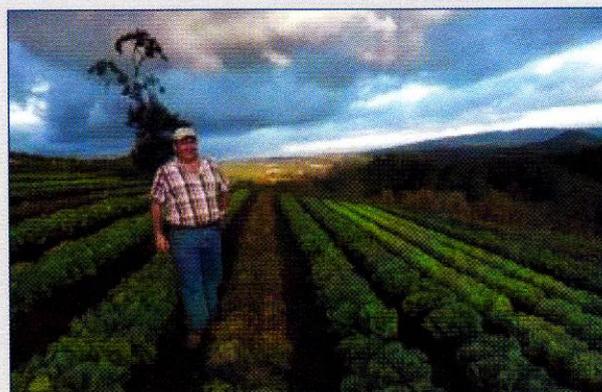
- An additional 53 hectares were planted with 32 different crops for a cumulative total of 7,648 hectares of production area. The new area includes 7.5 hectares of eggplant, 6.4 hectares of snow peas, and 3.38 hectares of sweet peas, which are part of export programs. Other crops include beans, potatoes, cabbage, and carrots to be sold in local supermarkets. Of the total area, 4,351 hectares are planted in coffee, 2,423 in basic grains, and 874 in horticultural crops (includes vegetables, fruit and ornamental plants).
- Trained 6,641 participants at 834 workshops in agricultural production. The majority of the trainings focused on five areas: **Basic Practices** (soil preparation, raised beds, calendarization, planting and transplanting); **Soil Conservation** (contour plowing); **Nutrition Programs** (fertilizers and soil amendment); **Irrigation Systems**, (design, installation and management); and **Integrated Pest Management**.
- Forty-eight training events with 522 participants took place in animal production. Participants received training in handling of cattle, pigs, and chickens with an emphasis on production of concentrated, low-cost food. Forty-eight participants were trained on commercial pollen and honey production. Animal production specialists are assisting the Nutrition and Health component with the construction of low-cost chicken coops made from readily-available recycled materials. Families can improve their diets with the extra protein from the chickens.
- Twenty-five field visits were carried out with 374 participants. Six snow pea demonstration plots were used to show best practices to client households participating in an export program. Participants also visited successful cucumber and chili pepper producers.
- Forty-nine participants were trained in postharvest handling in six training events. Topics included best practices for potatoes and plantains, and management and storage of grains. Eighty-eight technical assistance visits took place covering quality requirements for beans, snow peas, oriental vegetables, potatoes, and cucumbers for both local and export markets.

## ACCESS TO MARKETS

- The "Incentives for Agricultural Production and Marketing" fair began in San Marcos, Ocotepeque, with 19 participants from three communities. The participants have average weekly sales of 35,000 Lempiras (\$1,837) and are able to sell their products directly to consumers. They also visited other local markets to expand their network of buyers.
- Quality and packing specifications were established with COAPIGOR, an exporter of allspice; and for vegetable products that will be exported to the La Tiendona market in El Salvador.
- A contract was signed between an exporter and a packing plant in La Esperanza for the export of snow and sweet peas. This contract gives 200 client households access to a formal market.



Field day on production of snow peas, Intibucá.



Calendarized production of lettuce, Intibucá.



Green bean production, Santa Bárbara.

### Baseline profile of USAID-ACCESO families to date

- 7,882 of the 11,408 household clients (69%) are in extreme poverty and 786 household clients (7%) are poor.
- 6,823 of the 53,428 beneficiaries (13%) are children under 5 years in age; 14,717 (28%) are children between 6 and 14 years old; 26,260 people (49%) are between 15 and 49 years in age; 11 percent are adults over the age of 50.
- 52 percent of the beneficiaries are men (27,906) and 48 percent are women (25,522).



### BUSINESS AND FINANCE SKILLS

- Business and finance skills specialists held 137 events to train 1,118 participants. Seventy-three trainings with 379 participants focused on implementation and use of logbooks to help businesses keep track of their incomes and expenses, improving management and reducing costs. A total of 25 trainings with 352 participants were held on finance and access to credit, allowing clients to purchase necessary inputs.
- *Vaca Lechera* was launched to provide financing for clients between 16 and 29 years old who are also receiving technical assistance. There are currently 82 entrepreneurs interested in participating in this project, which aims to increase milk productivity and value. The funds for this project are part of the agreement signed between the Ministry of Labor and USAID-ACCESO, with the participation of the United Nations Development Program, municipal mayor's offices, and savings and loan cooperatives.
- Sixteen clients have received loans from the AgroFacil program, with an additional 29 clients in the approval process from three communities in Santa Bárbara. The initial loan is for 10,000 Lempira (\$525), which can increase when partial payments are made.
- Technical assistance is being provided to 23 financial service providers and 138 rural loan and savings associations.

### NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- Trained 2,031 participants at 152 events. The trainings included 45 trainings on breastfeeding and healthy foods for children under two; 17 on diet diversity; 16 on healthy household practices such as sealing dirt floors; and 11 on family planning.
- 601 technical assistance visits took place and to date 319 mothers' groups from the AIN-C strategy are receiving assistance. An initial group of 120 communities with malnutrition problems have been identified as beneficiaries for family plots. Production and health technicians will help establish these family plots with nutritious crops to help diversify diets and make sure households are consuming healthy foods.

### VALUE ADDITION AND MICROENTERPRISE

- 745 participants were trained at 67 events. The workshops covered fruit and vegetable processing, pickled vegetables, canning, processing peas, and baked goods. Participants also learned good manufacturing practices, and how to establish hygiene and safety norms and fulfill legal requirements for processing plants.
- Processing and value addition specialists provided technical assistance to 117 micro-, 75 small-, and 12 medium-sized businesses. Emphasis is being placed on linking client households with buyers and generating employment.
- Client households are receiving training on food conservation for family consumption.

### PRINCIPAL GOALS OF ACCESO

- Bring 30,000 rural homes living in poverty and extreme poverty above the poverty threshold;
- Generate \$ 73.95 million in net profits for clients assisted by the project; and
- Create 10,425 permanent jobs in the assisted communities.



Training on food preparation for families, Santa Bárbara.



Baking training for a group of women, Lempira.

#### Trainings - February 2012

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	38	8
Business Skills / Finance	1,118	137
Natural Resource Management	282	21
Postharvest and Certifications	49	6
Processing and Added Value	808	73
Production	7,163	882
ACCESO Project	200	19
Market Information	10	1
Nutrition and Health	2,031	152
Other topics	11	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,710</b>	<b>1,301</b>



### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

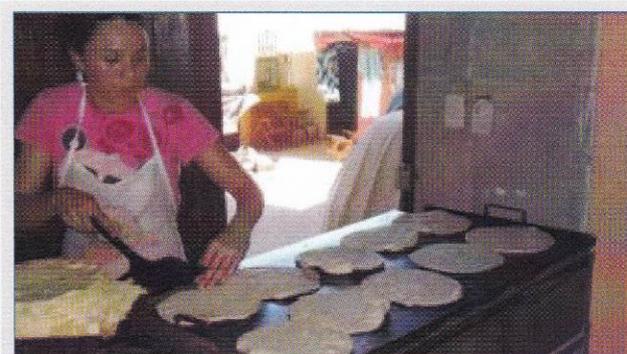
- 282 participants were trained at 21 events focused on water administration for human consumption, including protection of stored water, chlorination, and distribution network.
- The project is assisting 149 water boards. Eighty-eight participants from water committees were trained on administration and chlorination of municipal water networks. In addition, eight workshops took place with 68 participants on water monitoring for human consumption.
- These trainings and technical assistance visits have helped rehabilitate chlorination systems in the department of Copán, benefitting 293 families that now have access to drinking water.
- Twelve women were trained on waste management.

### NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

- Project specialists participated in evacuation training in Marcos de Ocotepeque.
- Technical assistance was provided in Lempira in the management of natural disasters and the activation of Municipal Emergency Committees (CODEM). Project specialists and members of CODEM from Yarula, La Paz visited areas that have been identified as vulnerable in the communities of Tierra Colorada, El Cipres, and Zacate Blanco.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

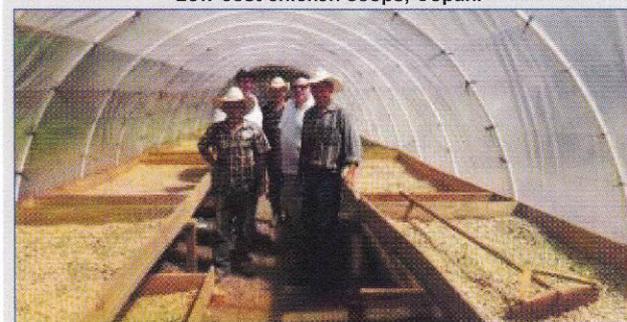
- Thirty-eight participants were trained at eight events on the construction and installation of low-cost biodigestors. The participants also received training on maintenance and operation.
- Sixty-three technical assistance visits took place to improve the functionality of solar panels and increase the power generated by turbines, and to increase the capacity of solar dryers.



Tortilla business, Ocotepeque.



Low-cost chicken coops, Copán.



Training on the use of solar dryers for coffee, Santa Bárbara.



USAID-ACCESO participates at a workshop about the annual plan for a municipal water board, Santa Elena, La Paz.

#### USAID-ACCESO CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or if you are interested in receiving assistance, you can request it from the following contacts:

La Paz	Cristóbal Montalván	9978-7117
Intibucá	Denis Ramírez	9996-8903
Lempira	Ali Valdivia	9996-9360
Ocotepeque	Eddy Flores	9949-6747
Copán	Hugo Ávila	9923-6826
Santa Bárbara	Leopoldo Aguilar	9997-0130



## SAFE WATER IN COMMUNITIES HAS A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON THE HEALTH OF USAID-ACCESO FAMILIES

Management of natural resources contributes significantly to financial development and sustainable improvements in health and living conditions. With this in mind, USAID-ACCESO develops activities that focus on adequate and permanent management of natural resources.

In order to ensure sustainability, USAID-ACCESO works in collaboration with community organizations, producer groups, and municipalities to create technical and administrative systems and the necessary bylaws that will guarantee functionality and surveillance of activities.

One of the most important activities under this component is improving water systems, from the source to the faucet. Improvements should be based on the quantity and quality of water and the most efficient way to manage water use in poor, rural communities.

Project achievements to date include:

- Mitigation activities, such as filter cleaning, to avoid contamination of micro basins in Santa Catarina and San Marcos de la Sierra, Intibucá; Catulaca, Lempira; and Cabañas, Tierra Colorada, and Yarula, La Paz. These activities benefit more than 1,200 families.
- Technical assistance in construction and rehabilitation of hypochlorators in Santa Rita, Copán and Copante and Tomalá, Lempira. Improvements and repairs made to hypochlorators in several other communities, benefitting a total of 3,200 families in the assisted areas. There are currently five systems under construction in the departments of Ocotepeque and Copán.
- Assessment of water distribution networks conducted in several communities. Technical solutions were provided to make the necessary repairs.
- Comprehensive evaluations and diagnosis of water systems in 16 communities. Developed an action plan for 2012-2014 in collaboration with the municipal water committee, the municipality, FAO, ACRA, and ADEC in Santa Elena, La Paz.
- Developed or assessed municipal bylaws linked to water-related topics to guarantee that communities in Lempira, Santa Bárbara, and Intibucá have safe water. The municipal bylaw on water quality in Jesús de Otoro, Intibucá was revised and approved.
- Conducted trainings on how to calculate water charges with more than 20 water boards, guaranteeing sustainable maintenance of public water systems.

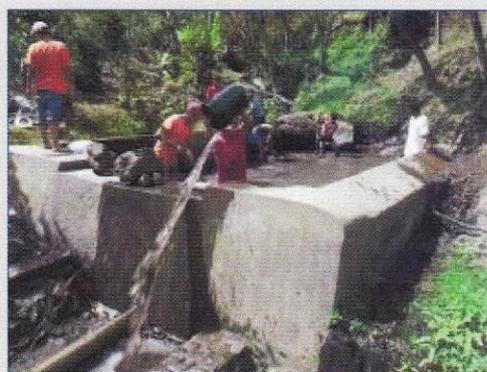
### Next Steps

Most of the activities to date have focused on analyzing the current situation of water systems in the project-supported communities and on improving equipment and systems to ensure good water quality and effective delivery. The process moving forward will be focused on:

1. Training water committees on system maintenance, cost analysis, and management.
2. Developing and approving municipal bylaws to ensure water boards carry out their obligations.
3. Improving the distribution network (from tank to household).
4. Providing safe water for homes.
5. Managing residual waste water.

**Natural resources specialists and the USAID-ACCESO technical team provide technical training and assistance in the following areas:**

- Assessing community drinking water systems and improving water quality and availability.
- Managing solid and residual waste and domestic waste water.
- Developing natural resource management plans.
- Assisting with reforestation of water sources.
- Reducing migratory agriculture.
- Introducing efficient stoves to reduce lumber use.
- Assisting programs that reinforce local ordinances.
- Assisting water boards improve their management systems.
- Introducing environmentally friendly techniques such as low-cost greenhouses, contour plowing, and composting.



Maintenance of water intakes in San Marcos de la Sierra, Intibucá.



Training on chlorination of water systems in Tomalá, Lempira.



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## MONTHLY UPDATE – MARCH 2012

### BACKGROUND

This is the twelfth edition of the USAID-ACCESO monthly update with information on current and future project activities. 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 will assist more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara. The project is working to lift 18,000 rural households out of extreme poverty and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.

### AGREEMENTS AND ALLIANCES

Two memorandums of understanding were signed with agricultural input providers Bayer and Seagro, providing clients access to improved technology and supplies. The project also signed a contract with the Christian Development Organization of Honduras (OCDIH), which works exclusively in Copán and Lempira, further expanding project reach.

### DRIP IRRIGATION TRAINING

Project staff held a drip irrigation training La Zona, Copán for area technicians, including staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Organization for Development of Corcuín, World Vision, and university students. Participants received training in fertilizer filtration and application; pressure measurement and dropper unloading; system cleaning and maintenance; and leak repair.

### PROJECT VISITS

Representatives from USAID/Washington, El Salvador, and Honduras visited project clients in La Paz, gaining firsthand exposure to the project's integrated approach and its impact on the lives of rural Honduran families.



A group of producers in Santa Bárbara with calendarized production of cucumber destined for local supermarkets.



Broccoli producer utilizes good agricultural practices, Intibucá.

### USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, March 2012

Department	Client Households	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	2,190	7,311	194
Intibucá	2,207	12,181	186
La Paz	1,780	8,627	378
Lempira	3,190	16,202	325
Ocotepeque	1,999	8,156	197
Santa Bárbara	2,040	7,812	303
Others	24	97	96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,430</b>	<b>60,386</b>	<b>1,679</b>

\*Includes: MSMEs, buyers, input and service providers, Municipal Corporations, counterpart organizations, among others.

*This monthly update was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The 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.*



## PRODUCTION

- An additional 41 hectares were planted with 35 different crops in March, for a cumulative total of 8,259 hectares of production area under the technical assistance program. The new crops planted include snow pea (2.7 ha), sweet pea (2.6 ha), eggplant (0.7 ha), and basil (0.4 ha), all of which are slated for export to the US. Crops planted for local markets included plantain, potato, carrot, cabbage, cucumber, and broccoli. To date, 4,812 hectares have been planted in coffee, 2,511 hectares in basic grains, and 936 hectares in horticulture crops.
- The project carried out 880 workshops on agricultural production with 7,119 participants. The trainings focused on good agricultural practices such as calendarized planting, soil preparation, raised beds, seed selection, seedling production, transplanting, plant spacing, and integrated pest management. Participants in coffee-related events received training in soil sampling, soil preparation and liming, nutrition programs, stumping and pruning.
- 241 participants were trained in 26 events on animal production, including training in beehive management for improved honey and pollen production, forage improvement, and animal feeding practices.
- Field technicians conducted 25 visits to help snow pea and eggplant producers prepare for export; to assist tomato producers install drip irrigation systems; and to introduce calendarized planting to cucumber and carrot producers.
- Technicians visited plots to demonstrate seed collection and washing, and held workshops on drip irrigation in commercial plots to demonstrate water pressure measurement, dripper discharge, and tape and pipe repair.
- Eighteen postharvest training events were held for 139 participants on pea export specifications, potato cleaning, grain drying, and storage using a warehouse receipt system. Twenty-four participants were trained in farm certification and systems procedures.

## ACCESS TO MARKETS

- Marketing and logistics specialists trained 48 participants on export requirements, market opportunities for garlic, and the importance of calendarized planting. 67 technical assistance visits were made to buyers and producers on quality specifications, buying procedures, and calendarized planting programs.
- Project clients sold their produce at two events: a fair in La Ceiba in honor of the Prime Minister of the Cayman Islands, and an annual assembly hosted by Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola (FHIA). Participating in such fairs is important for small producers. Not only do they have the opportunity to promote their products and services and make important business contacts, but they also have the opportunity to learn about competitors, customer preferences, and potential new markets.



Eggplant plantlets transplanted to field, Copán.



Integrated pest and disease identification, Santa Bárbara.



Women learn how to make value-added baked goods, Santa Bárbara.

### Profile of USAID-ACCESO families to date

- 8,961 of the 13,430 household clients (67%) are in extreme poverty and 875 household clients (7%) are poor.
- 7,780 of the 60,386 beneficiaries (13%) are children under 5 years in age; 16,666 (28%) are children between 6 and 14 years old; 29,582 people (49%) are between 15 and 49 years in age; 11 percent are adults over the age of 50.
- 52 percent of the beneficiaries are men (31,485) and 48 percent are women (28,901).



### BUSINESS AND FINANCE SKILLS

- Business and finance specialists trained 1,324 participants in 230 events on topics such as legal procedures for small businesses, financing requirements and the use of logs for farm records to increase productivity.
- Thirteen clients were trained in plan preparation to access financing from COMRURAL.
- 111 clients participated in seven training events on rural savings bank management.
- 268 technical assistance visits were made to service providers, micro, small, and medium businesses, and rural savings banks.

### NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- Trained 2,013 participants (1,725 women) in 132 training events. Trainings focused on proper feeding for children under 5 years old, management of household garden plots, diarrhea prevention in young children, and practices such as incorporating iron- and vitamin-rich foods such as bean soups and fortified tortillas to ensure diet diversity and help prevent anemia in mothers and children.
- Trainings to improve household hygiene focused on cleanliness, waste management, hand washing, and other basic hygiene practices. Project staff made 452 technical assistance visits this month to promote improved nutrition and health behaviors.
- A total of 85 participants received training on the benefits and installation of ecofriendly stoves.

### VALUE ADDITION AND MICROENTERPRISE

- 501 participants were trained in 43 events focused on new product development (garlic paste, baked goods, and canned vegetables) and food safety. 82 participants also received training on the development of added value production for potato and snow pea.
- 527 technical assistance visits focused on financial management, recordkeeping, and cost/price analysis.
- Technicians carried out training on forestry products, including techniques for extracting pine resin and producing wood chips, marketing and sales.

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- 123 participants were trained on community level environmental management; coffee processing waste management; household waste management; and procedures to legalize groundwater sources. Participants included municipal technicians, water board managers, and client households. Currently, the project is providing technical assistance to 154 water boards in six departments.



Women make plantain chips for sale to local markets, Ocotepaque.



Fortified tortillas provide important vitamins for the whole family



USAID-ACCESO's technicians introduce a quick test to determine water safety.

#### Trainings - March 2012

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	67	6
Business Skills / Finance	1,324	230
Disaster Mitigation	363	19
Postharvest and Certifications	139	18
Processing and Added Value	501	43
Production	7,119	880
ACCESO project	70	6
Market Information	48	3
Nutrition and Health	2,013	132
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,644</b>	<b>1,333</b>



## NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

- Project specialists are helping local emergency committees plan for and practice disaster prevention and response techniques. The project trained 240 participants in eight workshops on how to develop emergency evacuation plans. In one community USAID-ACCESO specialists held a landslide preparedness drill.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Trained 67 participants in 6 events on the use of photovoltaic systems to meet domestic energy needs; the installation and use of eco-stoves; and the installation, operation, and management of biodigesters.

### A CLOSER LOOK: Biodigesters

Biodigesters ferment manure and other organic matter to produce methane gas, which can be used as cooking fuel. A byproduct of this process is organic fertilizer which can also be used in household gardens and fields. The use of biodigesters will mitigate dependence on increasingly scarce forest resources by reducing the amount of firewood needed for cooking. Biodigesters will also reduce the incidence of respiratory health risks by replacing traditional firewood stoves that emit toxic smoke in the kitchen.

The biodigester promoted by USAID-ACCESO has the potential to produce up to one cubic meter of gas daily which can power a stove for six hours, or enough time to prepare at least three meals. Families are also using the gas to power biogas lamps, allowing them to engage in productive activities after sunset without affecting the stove's functionality.

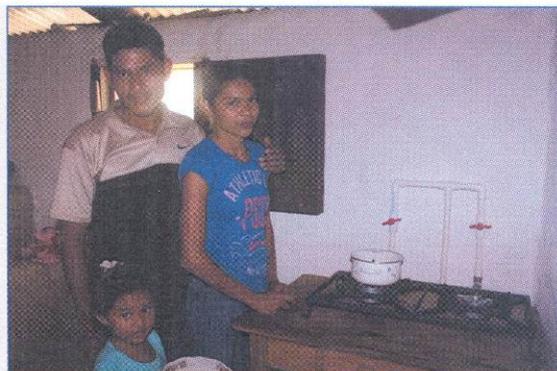
To date, USAID-ACCESO has installed biodigester systems and provided user training to 15 households in four departments. These biodigesters now serve as the primary source of energy for their homes.

Throughout the life of the project USAID-ACCESO will install a minimum of 890 renewable energy systems to improve clients' living conditions. Thirty-one solar panels, 15 solar dryers, and 40 eco-stoves have also been installed to date.

#### USAID-ACCESO CONTACT INFORMATION

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A family benefits by the advantages of the biodigestor, Copán



A biodigester in use at household level, Copán.



Group of women processing pickled products, Santa Bárbara.



QUARTERLY REPORT #04 (JANUARY TO MARCH 2012)  
**USAID-ACCESO**