



USAID
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QUARTERLY REPORT #11: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013
USAID-ACCESO



December 2013

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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 under-nutrition 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. Seven additional local organizations are also under sub-contracts; these are 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).

The project began start-up activities in April 2011, fielded senior technical staff in May 2011 and the majority of the field team by the end of 2011. This is the eleventh quarterly annual report for USAID-ACCESO, summarizing the principal activities carried out from October to December 2013.

Key activities carried out during the quarter include the integration of all of the technical components, development and delivery of the technical assistance and training programs, consolidation of technical assistance delivery, expansion of market-based production programs, implementation of basic production packages, development and implementation of nutrition and health assistance program, technical support to small off-farm businesses, programs to open and expand finance options to USAID-ACCESO clients, formalization of organized groups, establishment of renewable energy and water conservation projects, forming and organizing disaster mitigation groups, installation or repair of community potable water systems, and data and results sampling.

Results and status of indicators for the current quarter include:

- Increased rural MSMEs access to inputs, practices, and technologies to improve market participation: as of December 2013, the project is providing training and technical assistance to 35,597 clients, including 30,980 poor and extreme poor household clients (28,404 extreme poor, 2,576 poor), in 2,741 communities in 130 municipalities in the six departments. 21 percent of the project clients are female. To date, almost 56,000 training events have been carried out (including 7,975 during the quarter), with 48,756 individuals receiving training, including 15,181 women (31 percent). As of December, project clients have also received a total of 488,372 technical

assistance visits from project technicians and specialist, including 71,142 recorded during the current quarter.

- This quarter, the project supported coffee growers in developing harvesting systems, drying systems, quality maintenance, and sales contacts. Training activities continued to increase the implementation of production systems to reduce the problems with rust and borer. Some lead coffee growers have diversified their coffee production areas with calendarized plantings of cucumber, green bean, and cabbage, and are experiencing successes with these new crops.
- Continued and expanded delivery of technical assistance and training to basic grain and small-scale coffee producers on soil preparation practices, the use of lime applications, seed selection, increasing planting densities, implementing weed control, and improving fertilization use. During the quarter, 595 hectares of coffee were planted, 299 hectares of corn, and 285 hectares of beans. 373 hectares of vegetables were planted, plus 50 hectares of tree fruits.
- The total area under production receiving project assistance is 44,638 hectares. Overall, coffee accounts for 18,329 hectares, basic grains for 22,683 hectares, fruits and vegetables with 3,057 hectares, and tree fruits with 569 hectares.
- Private sector investment during the quarter totaled \$0.34 million, for a total to date of \$7.89 million (project clients and others). 1,017 individual investments were recorded in the quarter for a total of 17,335 individual investments made to date.
- As a result of project activities that eliminate barriers to rural MSME competitiveness and increase access to financing, 97 additional MSMEs accessed market-based financing, for a total to date of 4,817 MSMEs. The proportion of female participants in the project with access to productive economic resources (loans) now stands at 17.9 percent (860). Loans reported during the quarter were for \$0.69 million, for a total to date of \$8.68 million.
- During the quarter three public-private sector alliances were developed (44 to date) and 11 companies/organizations began providing business development and extension services to project clients (199 to date). 221 producer organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations have received technical assistance and training. 118 small farmer associations have been formally established as business, and while no new ones received registration papers this quarter, 124 are now in the process of registration.
- Five value chain/sector constraints were resolved and one policy reform implemented during the quarter for a total of 22 barriers and six policies to date.
- The prevalence of underweight children under 2 years old in the communities supported by the project continues to decrease, from a baseline of 22 percent in August 2011 to 14.2 percent as of December 2013. The number of children under 2 involved with the project averages 4,330. The promotion of improved feeding practices for children under 2 (diversified food groups, nutrient balance, quality, quantity, food preparation, demonstrations of child feeding practices related to frequency and quantity), improved hygiene practices, and the introduction of the healthy household program, is having a positive effect on the overall health status of entire families.
- 31 municipal governments are effectively implementing natural resource management policies and 61 vulnerable communities now have adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity. While no new municipalities or communities reached the required number of practices to be counted, an additional 26 municipalities and 14 communities are in process.
- USAID-ACCESO installed 235 rural renewable energy projects during the quarter, for a total of 1,884 to date (including 1,172 eco-justa stoves, 553 solar dryers and 102 bio-digesters). The University of Florida project has installed 280 renewable energy projects to date.

The FY 2014 work plan and PMP were also developed during the current quarter. High level targets and selected indicators were adjusted taking into consideration the speed of change at the household level, external factors, and achievements to date. These are subject to approval by USAID.

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.

The original high-level targets and other indicators were adjusted in the current quarter based on progress to date, taking into consideration the speed of change at the household level and external factors, including the coffee crisis. These are under review by USAID.

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. Additional information and details are provided in the December 2013 PMP Excel file presented in association with this report.

3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

USAID-ACCESO aims to lift 30,000 families in six departments in Western Honduras above the poverty line, with a minimum of 18,000 from extreme poverty, while also achieving improvements in the nutrition and health indicators of both women and children. The poverty reduction targets are being achieved through income generation at the household level via on and off-farm economic development activities and employment. They apply to 30,000 families, or approximately 10 percent of the total population in the six departments. The nutrition targets on the other hand, apply to the total population of the six departments. The implementation strategies were designed with these differences in mind. The project also provides technical assistance at the household and community level on disaster mitigation, natural resource management, finance, renewable energy, and policy. Implementation strategies have been developed to ensure full coordination and integration of all technical components to meet the principal poverty reduction and nutrition targets. The following section provides a summary of strategies, systems, and selected activities under the principal technical components.

3.1. PROJECT CLIENTS

The principal project clients are households in poverty and extreme poverty. These families normally live on subsistence farming of corn and beans and/or small-scale coffee farms. In addition to low incomes, they are characterized by low yields; zero technology; do not consider farming as a business; poor or non-existent infrastructure; no access to technology, finance, or markets; a high dependence on government or NGO support; poor living conditions; and high levels of nutrition and health problems. To lift the families out of poverty, they need to generate income, which small-scale corn, bean or coffee production alone will not provide.

In order to enter into higher value crop production, households first need to ensure their basic grain supply, while the project needs to obtain the families' confidence to make changes. The project shows farmers basic technologies to double or triple corn and bean yields with no additional cost of production. The grains for self-consumption are then guaranteed while freeing up area for production of other crops with higher farm-gate value. The increased yields demonstrate the technologies' ability and provide the confidence to enter in new crops. At the same time, the nutrition and health component works with selected families to change and improve the household living conditions, food preparation, eating habits, hygiene, and child care. For those families with (or interested in) small-scale livestock such as cattle or chickens, support is also provided to increase milk and egg production for self-consumption, again with no or minimal additional costs. Family plots are also being established to supplement the dietary requirements. This integrated approach and technical support at the household level provides multiple solutions and options to a complicated problem, for which solving only one area will not produce the required results. It should be noted that the majority of project clients have to be recruited prior to the basic grain planting seasons, rather than on a continuous basis throughout the year.

3.2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DELIVERY

The USAID-ACCESO team is made up of 210 full time positions (December 2013), which is broken down as follows:

Management	3	Disaster mitigation/NRM	2
Production	124	M&E	19
Value Added	11	Admin/Accountants/IT	16
Marketing	4	Donations	3
Business Skills & Finance	10	Renewable energy	1
Nutrition & Health	19	Policy	1
Communications	1		

The team is technical based. 146 technicians are directly related to income generating activities. All field activities are coordinated through 30 zone managers (agronomists) and six department managers. To reach the target population of 30,000 families each agronomy position is providing ongoing technical assistance to an average of 300 families. As a result, technical assistance and training activities in production and animal husbandry are given in a group format, where the technician rotates the farm visits between growers in the same group. These are not formal groups but grouping of growers around buyer and market production programs, various crops and logistics.

Training and technical assistance in the related areas for economic development follow a similar system, including marketing, postharvest, business skills, finance, and renewable energy. Nutrition technicians also work under similar systems with training in group format and household visits playing a major role in fomenting change. Technical support to off-farm business is normally directed to the individual MSMEs with specific training being given both direct and in group format.

To speed up the implementation and expand outreach, USAID-ACCESO has made many alliances with municipalities, private-sector buyers, input and equipment suppliers, NGOs, donors, government, and others. Most have funds and donations to support the poor and extreme poor, but most do not provide integrated solutions or quality technical assistance and training. For example, some municipalities donate fruit trees and some NGOs donate irrigation equipment, but on their own, neither will help families move out of poverty. USAID-ACCESO is able to bring together the different players to provide the integrated solutions.

The team with zone managers, roving technical specialists, and 12 community technical teams is actually structured with 11 sub-contractors under Fintrac's management. However, unlike many other projects, Fintrac provides overall management and direction of all zones, activities, and technical areas. The structure ensures all project technicians report to Fintrac managers, who set targets, provide oversight, training, support, and direction. In this way, the project operates under one umbrella, moves in one direction, speaks the same language, and is fully integrated and focused on the households and the targets. While some sub-contractors would prefer more independence, multiple sub-contractors operating independently would not be able to achieve this level of integration.

3.3. INCOME GENERATION COMPONENT

The poverty line in Honduras has been established by the government as a minimum of \$2.42/day/person, while families with incomes below \$1.81/person/day are considered to live in extreme poverty. To take individuals above the poverty line requires an annual income of \$883/year – a six-person family requires a minimum of \$5,298/year to move above the poverty line. With basic technologies, maize generates a net income of around \$319 per hectare while beans can generate around \$433 per hectare. While the yields and incomes increase with technology adoption, farmers would still require 5 hectare plots to generate the required income levels. High value horticulture production with the basic production technologies generates between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per hectare depending on the crops. Growers would need to have access to at least 0.5 hectares of land, with year round water supply to produce two crops a year and at least \$5,000 of annual working capital to cover production costs. Most client farmers have less than 0.5 hectares of land, grow coffee, corn, and beans with zero technology, and do not have access to water, finance, or markets.

As a result, USAID-ACCESO is working with progressive strategies to generate income from multiple sources, and over time, introduce basic technologies to increase yields of basic grains and coffee, enter into production programs for higher value crops, diversify crops and markets, and generate off-farm income where possible. Small-scale household production plots and chicken, egg and milk production provide additional nutrient sources that do not need to be purchased and in some cases, can be developed into a small business to generate additional income. While it is projected that 75 to 85

percent of income will need to come from high-value crop production, other income sources have been factored in and generated.

Off-farm activities with small-scale operations (MSMEs) are frequently groups or persons. In most cases, these small businesses alone do not generate sufficient income to lift families out of poverty, but they can contribute to the overall family income. Pickled vegetables, plantain chips, tortillas, and crafts are good examples, but even with improvements in quality, reduced costs, and legalization, income generation is limited when split between numerous members or owners. Bakery, dairy and honey products are normally exceptions, where the margins are sufficient to generate higher levels of income. Efforts have been made to try to match project support to MSMEs with support to the same family members for on-farm production activities.

3.4. PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

Subsistence level growers of basic grains and coffee are introduced to some basic production practices that double or triple traditional yields. For corn and beans, four of five basic practices are introduced with no or minimal addition input costs, but which do require more work.

Corn and beans

- Basic land preparation and contouring where necessary
- Seed selection (with existing types)
- Specific planting distance with one seed per hole (high density)
- Fertilizer applications are applied in solution with more frequent applications (where fertilizers are used, the total volume of fertilizer used is equal to or less than that used traditionally)
- Weed control

Initially, most growers do not move completely to these practices, but instead “test” a small area in their production and then make comparisons. As mentioned previously, with increased yields the grower gains confidence in the basic technologies and, in subsequent plantings, can reduce the land area needed to obtain sufficient grains for self-consumption. The freed up area can then be used for higher value crops - for planting in the rainy season, or year round if irrigation is possible. Given that technologies are introduced gradually, the crops selected are usually those that can still perform without full technology, are not expensive to produce and can withstand rural roads in (normally) poor conditions. These usually include carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, squash, potato, plantain, and others. Market driven production programs have been established with both formal and informal buyers; growers are introduced to these and normally start production with 1 or 2 tareas (1 tarea is equivalent to 1/23 of a hectare or 435 square meters). This again requires significant efforts in planting coordination between growers to ensure sufficient volumes are available at harvest to be able to fill pick-ups or trucks to minimize unit freight cost.

Coffee (existing plantations)

Basic production practices introduced for coffee production include:

- Liming soils
- Diluted and more frequent fertilizer applications (where fertilizers are used)
- Plant pruning (after harvest)
- Control of soil-borne insects
- Shade management

With the implementation of three or four of these practices, productivity can be doubled on existing plantings. Practices are also being implemented to dry more coffee on farm to increase incomes through added value and improved quality. However, it was known that most project coffee farmers will not

generate sufficient income from coffee alone and in these cases the project is promoting improved corn production systems, crop diversification, and other income sources.

The majority of project growers work with corn or coffee. Before the growers can be moved into higher value products, the project works to improve their existing operations to develop the confidence to introduce new crops or other income generating activities. At this point, crops are selected based on market needs, logistics, cost, production conditions, and water availability. Normally, the lower cost and less technically challenging crops are selected including carrot, cabbage, plantain, watermelon, and passion fruit. A large program with yellow corn production for the local industry was carried out in the previous planting season (FY 2013, Q3), which required the use of basic production practices (this activity will be expanded in FY 2014, Q3). Growers with interest, experience, and working capital enter into crop and income diversification activities, which include a wide range of crops.

3.5. NUTRITION AND HEALTH COMPONENT

As mentioned previously, the nutrition targets relate to the entire population in the six departments. A selection was made of priority communities based on the nutrition statistics (from the Ministry of Health) and the possibility of economic development activities (principally on-farm activities). In the majority of cases, communities with the highest nutrition problems were selected, under the basic premise that if these statistics can be improved the overall averages will also improve. This component is actually working in 211 communities, and while most are also involved in economic development activities with the project, it is not the case in all of them as not all communities have the necessary agronomic conditions.

When the project started, the Ministry of Health was implementing the Atención Integral a la Niñez en la Comunidad (AIN-C) program through service providers or directly. Through a system of health volunteers, the AIN-C carried out monthly weighing of children under two years old, provided basic advice and messages, and tabulated the statistics for the Ministry of Health. In most cases the detailed data was not being utilized to determine the cause of problems nor was assistance provided at the household to prevent problems. Initial data analysis showed that at least half of the underweight children were due to preventable illnesses, with the remainder being due to lack of balanced diet, calories, nutrients, and vitamins. Since January 2012 the AIN-C program has not been implemented by the government. USAID-ACCESO is working with AIN-C volunteers in target communities and is providing additional training to the volunteers, including them in the economic development activities, and expanding the activities to the household level. This includes BDS with the construction of eco-justa stoves.

Solutions to the basic problems cannot be achieved with messages and basic training as changes are needed in culture, diet, and habits. The nutrition component implementation systems are similar to those used in economic development. A wide range of training activities are carried out in groups, from the preparation of fortified foods and meals, to ensuring a balanced diet, basic hygiene and using locally available food items. Training activities are reinforced with household visits to determine problems and implement recommendations and procedures. In order to be successful, repeated training and visits are needed until the improvements form part of day-to-day activities.

The sources of preventable illnesses are determined and where possible, eliminated. The project has an integral “healthy household” activity to eliminate smoke from cooking fires, cover dirt floors and walls with a cement mix, ensure clean water and light inside the house, use waste disposal methods, keep animals outside (particularly chickens and pigs), and eliminate disease vectors. Once solutions to these problems are implemented they are usually permanent and do not require constant re-enforcement.

Activities also include the planting of home plots, with crops that are needed to supplement the nutritional needs. These are crops that do not require the purchase of expensive hybrids seeds or

pesticide applications to ensure production and from which planting materials can be taken from the plants themselves. They include both short and long term crops such as sweet potato, malanga (taro), banana, plantain, passion fruit, avocado, orange, mandarin, and locally available “weeds” high in iron (amaranthus, chipilin, juniapa – which already exist in many zones but are not available year round, nor considered as foods). These plots range from 100 to 400 square meters and are not commercial plots. They involve land preparation, beds, plantings distances, weeding and several of the basic practices used under commercial production systems, but this is to ensure production volumes, not commercial viability. They are normally managed by the women of the household, but men are also becoming involved. Some of these plots have also been planted in schools and centers where AIN-C meetings are held, for use by the volunteers and mothers with the training activities.

In FY 2014 activities will be expanded to include support to selected new Ministry of Health service providers. This will include training in USAID-ACCESO’s implementation methodology, technical materials, and the healthy household program. This will aim to improve the nutrition indicators across a larger population base, in addition to the project prioritized communities. It is hoped that discussions with CRS and the WFP to invest in additional Nutritional Training Centers (NTCs) will result in them committing funds to enable the expansion of the training facilities into additional communities. Additional emphasis will also be given to ensure sustainability of the household plots and egg production activities. Despite the relatively small scale of these activities and the initial benefits, some households have not continued, and require more continuous technical support.

3.6. INTEGRATION OF THE TECHNICAL COMPONENTS

The integration of technical components is key to developing solutions and options for the households. Examples include:

- Production & Nutrition – household plots
- Nutrition & Renewable Energy – installation of eco-justa stoves, bio-digesters, natural light in houses using transparent roof sheets
- Nutrition & NRM – community potable water & clean community programs
- Nutrition & Processing & Value Addition – recipe development for short-term processing and storage
- Nutrition & Animal Husbandry – milk and chicken egg/meat production
- Production & Disaster Mitigation – improving market access by preventing floods, landslides, road damage
- Production & Finance – access to credit for market based production
- Production & Processing & Business Skills – recordkeeping, cost controls for income generating activities
- Renewable Energy & Processing – solar dryers
- Production / NRM / Health – use of microorganisms for decomposing coffee pulp

Project production technicians are also involved in giving basic nutrition messages during production trainings. Nutrition technicians are learning the basics for household production plots. Both men and women participate in nutrition and health activities.

3.7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

3.7.1. M&E UNIT

As of December 2013, the USAID-ACCESO M&E team consists of one M&E manager, three regional M&E specialists, 12 field-based M&E technicians, and three full-time data entry people. Part-time data entry people are also hired when necessary. In addition to the designated M&E team, each project field

technician is required to report on their own activities (and results in certain cases), which accounts for around 5 percent of their time.

3.7.2. CIRIS

The Client Impact and Results Information System (CIRIS) is Fintrac's proprietary database software used to monitor all project activities and results. Activities such as technical assistance, plantings, training events, technologies in use and meetings are entered directly into the system by field staff, while more complex surveys covering outcome and impact indicators are collected and entered by designated M&E staff. Nearly all figures in this report are derived from primary information entered into CIRIS.

3.7.3. SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION

Details were provided in the September 2013 annual / quarterly report on household clients sampling and data collection systems for the high level and selected low level indicators.

Indicators relating to marketing which were reported based on sampling data in September 2013 are now not reported in the PMP as the sampling is carried out annually. These include:

PMP #4: Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities

PIRS #12: Number of brokers providing market linkages

WP # 5: Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements

PIRS # 13: Number of MSMEs that have been verified to meet market standards

These indicators are based on definitions which include multiple deliveries from multiple suppliers and multiple buyers. With more than 30,000 household clients, more than 150,000 individual plantings, more than 500 buyers, and many crops with multiple harvests, there have been hundreds of thousands of individual sales transactions carried out during implementation to date. For FY 2014, there will be at least 125,000 individual sales transactions. In FY 2013, ACCESO hired a telephone/data entry person to collect data in these areas to supplement those collected in the field. In the end, client sampling data was used. Going forward for the 09/2014 targets, sampling will also be used. This means that results against targets on a quarterly basis cannot be reported. Various methods are currently being tested which will help to provide a quarterly estimate for these indicators.

4. 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 the project to meet the intermediate (IR) and sub-intermediate results (sub-IR) established in the contract, and presents the project's progress in achieving milestones and output indicators. The IRs are as follows:

- 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*).

4.1. PROJECT CLIENTS

As of December 2013, a total of 35,597 clients were registered with the project and receiving technical assistance (reduced slightly from 35,725 clients in September 2013). Details on the number of clients during implementation are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Project Client Breakdown

CLIENT TYPE	April-Sept 2011	Oct-Sept 2012	Oct-Sept 2013	Total Sept 2013	Updated Dec 2013
HH Extreme Poverty	3,722	11,420	13,193	28,338	28,277
HH Poor	375	1,014	1,192	2,602	2,564
HH Non Poor	762	1,163	1,868	3,769	3,738
HH-MSMEs Extreme Poverty	21	98	5	127	127
HH-MSMEs Poor	2	8	5	13	12
HH-MSMEs Non Poor	15	22	5	42	36
MSMEs Microenterprise	57	176	212	441	461
MSMEs Small Enterprise	10	48	9	70	61
MSMEs Medium Enterprise	1	3	3	7	6
MSMEs Large Enterprise	1	-	1	2	2
Others	103	149	61	313	313
Grand Total	5,069	14,101	16,555	35,725	35,597

As of December 2013, the total number of client households which started with the project with baseline incomes below the poverty line is 30,980 (28,404 extreme poor, 2,576 poor). In addition the project is working with 3,774 non-poor and 843 business enterprises and others.

The project is working in 2,741 communities in 130 municipalities in the six departments.

Table 2. Number of municipalities and communities with project presence

Department	# Municipalities	# Communities
Copán	23	442
Intibucá	16	419
La Paz	19	404
Lempira	28	617
Ocatepeque	16	295
Santa Bárbara	28	564
Total	130	2,741

4.2. RURAL MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE GROWTH INCREASED (IR 2.1)

USAID-ACCESO's main activities and interventions are targeted toward achieving increased household incomes through 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 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).

4.2.1. RURAL MSMES ACCESS TO INPUTS, PRACTICES, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR MARKET PARTICIPATION IMPROVED (SUB-IR 2.1.1)

The greatest impact on the livelihoods of USAID-ACCESO-assisted households occurs 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, the ability to continue generating incomes and resilience to climatic conditions, pest and diseases, and price fluctuations. To achieve this goal, a range of activities are being implemented 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 and the logistics requirements; develop private sector alliances; use of the small grants program accompanied with technical assistance; and increase the technology transfer capacity, knowledge and process of local NGOs, agricultural schools, and the private sector.

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

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the reporting period and the year to date is provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Rural MSME Access to Inputs, Practices and Technology for Market Participation

Indicator	Year 1. May to Sept. 2011	Year 2. Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	Year 3. Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013	Total Sept. 2013	Total Dec. 2013
WP #1: Number of individuals who have received government-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	7,723	15,671	21,110	44,504	48,756
WP #2: Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries:	13,571	134,840	267,955	416,366	488,372
WP #12: Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools):	63	142	50	255	296
WP #10: Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project	285	417	132	834	843
PIRS #6: Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (\$ millions)	0.079	3.018	4.451	7.548	7.894
WP #11: Number of female individuals in training activities ¹	2,202	5,729	5,711	13,642	15,181
PIRS #7: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of government assistance	-	4,592	14,270	18,862	Not reported

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) for years 1, 2, 3, and the current quarter compared to targets is provided in Table 4.

Table 4. Rural MSME Access to Inputs, Practices and Technology for Market Participation

PIRS/WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Total Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
WP #1: Number of individuals who have received government-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training:	-	7,723	15,136	15,671	20,000	21,110	43,394	44,504	2,500	4,252
WP #2: Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries (LOP Target 378,400):	-	13,571	103,200	134,840	108,000	267,955	256,411	416,366	25,000	71,142
WP #12: Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools)	-	63	75	142	50	50	255	255	20	41
WP #10: Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project	-	285	322	417	103	132	805	834	5	9
PIRS #6: Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (\$millions)	-	0.079	4.320	3.018	7.000	4.451	10.097	7.548	1.600	0.343
WP #11: Number of female individuals in training activities (LOP Target 8,300):	-	2,202	2,100	5,729	2,000	5,711	7,729	13,642	700	1,539
PIRS #7: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of government assistance *	-	-	4,410	4,592	7,000	14,270	11,592	18,862	2,400	Not reported

* tracked annually in client sampling survey

WP #1: Number of individuals who have received government-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training / WP # 11: Number of female individuals in training activities

During the quarter a total of 4,252 individuals have been registered under agricultural sector productivity or food security training activities, against a target of 2,500. As of September 2013, 44,504 individuals had received training, against a target of 43,394. The accumulated total as of December 2013 is now 48,756 (33,575 male, 15,181 female). A breakdown by technical component is provided in Table 5 (individuals may receive training in different technical areas and as a result the total presented is higher than the 44,504 and 48,756). As would be expected, production accounts for the highest percentage (61 percent), followed by business skills (8 percent), and nutrition and health (6 percent). Names and identification numbers for each participant are taken from training logs and entered one by one in the CIRIS M&E program; identification numbers are then used to determine the number of individuals. Individuals may have participated in one or multiple training events.

Table 5. Summary of Individuals Trained by Activity Area (Accumulated of September 2013)

Activity Area	Accumulated Sept. 2013			Accumulated Dec. 2013		
	# Males	# Females	Total	# Males	# Females	Total
Animal Production	1,639	803	2,442	1,789	873	2,662
Business Development Services	22	5	27	22	5	27
Business Skills	3,207	1,521	4,728	3,480	1,604	883
Certifications	696	162	858	717	166	883
Disaster Mitigation	640	294	934	702	344	1,046
Finance / Credit	234	82	316	239	84	323
Forestry	180	46	226	250	67	317
Information Technology	484	193	677	483	196	679
Market Information / Marketing	480	94	574	491	104	595
Natural Resources Management	1,051	340	1,391	1,138	387	1,525
Nutrition & Health	713	2,600	3,313	730	2,957	3,687
Postharvest	1,703	342	2,045	1,893	405	2,298
Processing	438	1,530	1,968	468	1,608	2,076
Production	26,757	8,321	35,078	28,697	9,114	37,793
Project	877	413	1,290	880	416	1,296
Renewable Energy	655	307	962	919	349	1,268
Research	37	24	61	37	23	60
Total	39,813	17,077	56,890	42,917	18,702	61,619
<i>Only individuals with National ID numbers are included. Individuals can receive trainings in more than one area</i>						

For reference purposes, a total of 7,795 training events were carried out up to December 2013 with 63,352 participants (19,686 female and 43,666 male). To date, production training accounts for the highest percentage of participants (70 percent), followed by nutrition and health (11 percent), and business skills (6 percent). Participant numbers and sex are recorded directly in the CIRIS M&E program; names and identification numbers are not recorded.

Table 6. Training Events and Participants (by technical area)

Technical Area	Accumulated Sept. 2013*				Accumulated Dec. 2013			
	# Events	Male	Female	Total	# Events	Male	Female	Total
Animal Production	1,116	6,377	3,703	10,080	1,360	7,465	4,387	11,852
Business Skills	2,945	17,509	9,519	27,028	3,178	18,796	10,244	29,040
Certifications	194	2,137	495	2,632	203	2,207	518	2,725
Finance / Credit	216	2,173	926	3,099	233	2,262	1,048	3,310
Food Safety	1	11	1	12	1	11	1	12
Forestry	81	922	224	1,146	97	1,024	260	1,284
Health & Nutrition	3,295	4,408	46,441	50,849	3,865	4,670	53,943	58,613
Information Technology	68	514	350	864	68	514	350	864
Market Information	229	2,292	611	2,903	257	2,532	624	3,156
Monitoring & Evaluation	11	234	37	271	11	234	37	271
Postharvest	655	5,726	1,587	7,313	914	7,573	2,091	9,664
Processing	1,490	2,067	10,197	12,264	1,652	2,289	10,859	13,148
Production	36,272	254,159	68,354	322,513	42,269	289,674	76,948	366,622
Project	250	2,558	1,166	3,724	251	2,579	1,209	3,788
Renewable Energy	401	2,685	767	3,452	757	4,815	1,136	5,951
Research	6	61	59	120	6	61	59	120
Specialty Coffee	6	277	6	283	21	378	11	389
Natural Resource Management	514	6,003	2,199	8,202	548	6,320	2,382	8,702
Natural Disaster Management & Mitigation	242	3,407	1,645	5,052	276	3,782	1,866	5,648
Grand Total	47,992	313,520	148,287	461,807	55,967	257,186	167,973	525,159

* September 2013 numbers updated to include those reported after this date.

WP #2: Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries:

During the quarter, a total of 71,142 technical assistance visits were made, against a target of 25,000. A breakdown by technical component is provided in Table 7. As of December 2013, 488,370 technical assistance visits had been made against a target of 256,411. The majority of these are under the production component (78 percent) and nutrition and health (6 percent).

Table 7. Technical Assistance Visits by Technical Component

Component	Accumulated Sept. 2013	Oct. to Dec. 2013	Accumulated Dec. 2013
Certifications	1,012	93	1,105
Renewable Energy	2,552	2,630	5,182
Finance / Credit	1,599	153	1,752
Forestry	1,104	282	1,386
Business Skills	16,033	3,358	19,470
Marketing	2,862	499	3,361
Natural Resource Management	5,148	754	5,902
Disaster Mitigation/Management	3,389	607	3,996
Nutrition and Health	22,641	4,667	27,308
Postharvest	5,281	2,429	7,710

Table 7. Technical Assistance Visits by Technical Component

Component	Accumulated Sept. 2013	Oct. to Dec. 2013	Accumulated Dec. 2013
Processing	16,564	2,736	19,300
Production	329,789	50,775	380,564
Animal Production	8,898	2,159	11,057
Project Implementation/Results	277		277
Total	417,228	71,142	488,370
<i>* An additional 862 technical assistance visits were reported for September 2013.</i>			

WP #12: Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools):

During the quarter 41 technical materials were produced (against a target of 20). To date, 296 technical materials have been produced (Table 8). Materials include 127 bulletins, 123 technical presentations, 25 Excel tools, plus manuals, posters, surveys, and toys.

Table 8. Number of Technical Materials Produced by Component

Technical Area	Accumulated Sept. 2013	Accumulated Dec. 2013
Animal Production	16	16
Business Skills/Finance	81	81
Disaster Mitigation	21	21
Forestry	8	8
Marketing	10	10
NRM	12	13
Nutrition & Health	10	10
Postharvest	18	18
Processing	9	9
Production	67	107
Renewable Energy	3	3
Total	255	296

WP #10: Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project

A total of 843 off-farm and processing MSME are receiving technical assistance and training from the project against a target of 805. An additional nine were included in the current quarter. These include 530 small- and micro-scale companies, 308 rural banks, and 5 others.

PIRS #6: Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (\$ millions)

During the quarter a total of \$0.343 million of private sector investment has been made against a target of \$1.60 million (excludes USAID-ACCESO investments). Total private sector investment as of December 2013 was \$7.894 million, against a target of \$10.097 million. This is below the target, but is still a significant investment in fixed assets. Investment by area is provided in Table 9. A total of 1,017 individual investments were made during the quarter (17,335 individual investments as of December 2013), with the majority in production, processing, animal production, nutrition and health, and renewable energy. Additional details are provided in the PMP 12/2013 Excel file.

Table 9. Private Sector Investment in Fixed Assets (\$)

AREA	Accumulated Sept. 2013				Accumulated Dec. 2013			
	Client	Project	Other	TOTAL Non-Project	Client	Project	Other	TOTAL Non-Project
Alliances	6,300		63,000	69,300	6,300		65,000	71,300
Animal Production	650,525	542	53,277	703,802	659,583	242	53,215	712,797
BDS	727			727	727			727
Business Skills	150		3,491	3,641	150		3,491	3,641
Certifications	2,960			2,960	2,960			2,960
Forestry	1,450		990	2,440	1,450		1,253	2,703
Health & Nutrition	604,941	313,374	91,502	696,444	622,653	319,184	90,344	712,996
Information/ Other	250			250	250			250
Marketing	11		1,684	1,695	11		1,684	1,695
Natural Disaster Mngt	22,967	25,103	131,630	154,597	26,477	35,889	133,310	159,787
Natural Resource Mngt	96,627	80,775	95,859	192,486	96,692	102,918	118,584	215,276
Postharvest	55,008	8,815	28,037	83,044	55,208	8,815	28,037	83,244
Processing	861,464	706	62,008	923,472	872,336	881	62,467	934,803
Production	3,973,220	644,611	445,718	4,418,938	4,156,716	647,821	486,970	4,643,686
Project	111,017	690	1,507	112,523	111,017	690	1,507	112,523
Public Services	3,928			3,928	5,744			5,744
Renewable Energy	119,040	109,571	58,334	177,374	167,414	147,694	62,639	230,054
Grand Total	6,510,583	1,184,187	1,037,036	7,547,619	6,785,686	1,264,435	1,108,499	7,894,185

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

As of September 2013 a total of 18,862 farmers applied new technologies or management practices as a result of project assistance, against a target of 11,592. Under this indicator the farmer has to implement a minimum of five technologies or practices. This was measured as part of the M&E sampling process carried out in August 2013 and extrapolated for the project clients which started receiving technical assistance prior to March 2013. Results for this indicator will be reported in September 2014 from sampling to be carried out in August 2014 (Section 3.7.3).

- The project is promoting basic production technologies for corn, bean, and coffee, with additional technologies for high-value crops. Crop selection is 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, they start with small plots and the project technicians guiding them in every step of the production process, but in all cases, basic technologies are introduced.
- The main crops receiving project assistance are coffee (the majority under production with some new plantings), basic grains (to secure food supply) and higher value fruits and vegetables (for income generation). Plantings made as of December 2013, together with those for each FY are provided in Table 10. This will continue to increase as the project's investments in irrigation

become fully operational and expand over the next year, and growers (and neighbors) see the initial results.

Table 10. Hectares Assisted as of December 2013*

Value Chain	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)	Total to Sept. 2013**	Oct. to Dec. 2013	Total to Dec. 2013
Fruits and Vegetables	387	890	1,176	2,684	373	3,057
Coffee	13,716	1,769	2,351	17,734	595	18,329
Grains	2,029	5,396	14,792	22,096	587	22,683
Tree Fruits	509	83	165	518	50	569
TOTAL	16,641	8,138	18,485	43,032	1,606	44,638

* Areas reported in previous reports in Years 1 and 2 have increased due to the entrance of new clients and their reporting of established coffee and fruit trees, now under project assistance.

** In September 2013 a total of 43,263 hectares were reported for households who were active clients at the time of the report. Data generated with active clients in December 2013 resulted in a drop in the total planted area by 321 hectares to 43,032 hectares.

- A total of 1,606 hectares were planted by 3,235 client households during the quarter. Crops with the largest plating area include coffee, corn, bean, potato, cashew, onion, and cabbage. Details of the accumulated area planted up to September 2013 and for the current quarter are presented in Table 11.

Table 11. Crops with the highest planting areas during the quarter (hectares)

PRODUCT	Total Sept. 2103	Oct. to Dec. 2013
Coffee	17,734	595
Corn	17,206	299
Beans (dried)	3,625	285
Potato	624	125
Onion	134	42
Cabbage	138	23
Plantain	244	19
Pasture	108	16
Corn (on the cob)	100	15
Tomato	109	14

* Areas reported are for active clients at the time of the report preparation.

USAID-ACCESO is working to diversify on-farm income sources, including beef cattle. The new cattle outgrower program established with a meat processing plant and six small-scale farmers with five cattle each resulted in average net incomes of \$800. The project provided technical assistance and training in a wide range of activities, including stabling, feeding, and pasture production. This is an example of how incomes can be supplemented with small-scale operations. A second phase will be carried out, with certain modifications and corrections, with the aim of achieving \$1,500 net income for the five cows.

SELECTED PRODUCTION SNAPSHOTS

- Eight project growers in Cane, La Paz, initiated production of 9.8 hectares of Kabocha squash during the quarter for export to the US via a local exporter based in Comayagua. Contracts for financing of inputs and materials were signed between project growers and the exporters for supply of plastic mulch, and with Agro-Servicio del Rancho for supply of fertilizers and other inputs. Harvest will begin in the following quarter with projections of 2,500 boxes of 40 pounds each to be sold at a negotiated price of \$0.12 per pound. Negotiations are ongoing for the export of oriental vegetables used as rotation crops as well.
- During the quarter, two crop competition events were carried out in Copan and La Paz for corn growers with the highest productivity. Growers received a variety of prizes from input suppliers, municipalities, FAO, cooperatives, and USAID-ACCESO. A female grower obtained the highest productivity rate in Copan with 144 quintales per manzana. In La Paz, the highest productivity rate was 120 quintales per manzana. An additional event is scheduled for Lempira in early January 2014.
- 40 growers in Pozas Verdes, Macuelizo, Santa Barbara, are now benefiting from the services of an electric corn dryer donated by SAG to the community many years ago, which was recently repaired and reactivated with the help of USAID-ACCESO specialists and technicians. Benefits from this type of dryer directly impact clients' income, as they are able to plant their corn in timeframes that allow harvest during windows of opportunity for better prices. The dryer is now being utilized at 50 percent its capacity and additional growers will be invited to benefit from its use. Project staff has identified additional dryers in other communities in the process of restoration and repairs.
- French bean production for export has continued to grow during the quarter. 34 growers in Ocotepeque and Copan now have a total of 12.3 hectares under production for export through an agreement with UNISPACE of Guatemala. Projections are to reach 30 hectares under production by March 2014 with programmed plantings averaging 4 hectares for harvest per week. As area under production continues to grow, project technicians and specialists continue to reinforce technical assistance and training to growers on topics related to postharvest, in order to minimize quality loss on arrival of the product in Guatemala.
- As of December 2013, 3,662 growers throughout all six departments have a total of 1,674 hectares under drip irrigation technology. 28 percent of the area under irrigation technology was installed with direct USAID-ACCESO assistance, 33 percent by partner institutions and 39 percent by client growers. During the upcoming quarter this coverage will expand significantly as new irrigation systems are currently under installation in all departments in coordination with SAG and municipalities.
- As of December 2013, a total of nine new *agrotiendas* are operating in Lempira (six), Santa Barbara (one), Intibucá (one) and La Paz (one). During the reporting period, project business skills/finance specialists worked with a total of 18 establishments in Lempira and Santa Barbara in preparation for qualifying as *agrotiendas* over the next quarter.

SELECTED VALUE ADDED SNAPSHOTS

- “Café Mi Gloria” is a woman owned business in San Nicolas, Santa Barbara. They process, package, and sell coffee purchased from her two sons who are also USAID-ACCESO clients. Since March 2013, Café Mi Gloria has been receiving technical assistance and training to improve product quality and packaging. As a result of project services, Café Mi Gloria has implemented changes to packaging that resulted in an increase of sales from 80 pounds per month to 400 pounds per month, which translates into approximately \$780 per month (L. 16,000). The company has also been able to diversify their market and now sells to hotels across the country.
- Taking into account that October to December is high season for poultry sales, project specialist increased technical assistance and training during this period to MSMEs involved in poultry management/processing. The technical assistance provided, including assistance for obtaining Sanitary and Phytosanitary permits from SENASA, has impacted directly on sales of most poultry MSMEs. “Granja Avícola San Jose” achieved a significant increase in sales compared to previous periods - total gross sales of \$154,337 during the quarter - \$25,000 more than the gross sales for the quarter ending June 2013. The increased sales and net income enabled a \$6,300 investment in cold room facilities, thus increasing the business processing capacity.

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

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the current quarter and overall to December 2013 is provided in Table 12.

Table 12. Private Sector Alliances and Integration

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #30: Number of organizations / companies providing business development / extension services to MSMEs (LOP Target 465):										
	23	-	70	78	175	20	253	188	10	11
PIRS #32: Number of public-private partnerships formed (LOP Target 65):										
	12	3	33	23	24	15	50	41	6	3

PIRS #30: Number of organizations / companies providing business development / extension services to MSMEs

This quarter, 11 organizations/companies began providing business development extension services to project clients (against a target of 10), for a total of 199 to date. As of September 2013, a total of 189 organizations and companies were providing business development or extension services to project MSMEs. These include input and equipment suppliers, cooperatives, foundations, and others (details are provided in the ACCESO PMP Excel file 12/2013).

PIRS #32: Number of public-private partnerships formed / PIRS #33: Number of private sector alliances developed

During the quarter three public-private alliances were signed (against a target of 6) for a total of 44 to date. As of September 2013, a total of 41 public-private partnerships had been formed. In addition, 18

letters of agreement have been signed to date. Copies of all alliances and letters of agreement are available on the [project's intranet site](#).

Note: The 2012/2013 PMP work plan merged the indicators relating to public-private sector alliance and private sector alliances into one indicator under public-private sector alliances. The new target set was at the sum of the two original targets.

Table 13. Public-Private Sector Partnerships

Date	Organization/Company	Activity
Jul. 2011	SwissContact	Santa Bárbara, La Paz, Intibucá: honey production training.
June 2011	VECO MA	Intibucá: produce consolidation
Sept. 2011	Bomhosa	All six departments: equipment supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Sept. 2011	MexiChem	All six departments: equipment supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Nov. 2011	ADHESA	All six departments: eco-justa stoves.
Nov. 2011	DICONSA	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Feb. 2012	SEREMA	All six departments: equipment supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Feb. 2012	DURMAN	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Feb. 2012	DISAGRO	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Mar. 2012	Bayer	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Mar. 2012	SEAGRO	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Mar. 2012	ODECO	
Apr. 2012	Agritrade	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Jun. 2012	COAPIGOR	Santa Bárbara: allspice production & exports.
Jun. 2012	ILAMEX	Santa Bárbara: allspice production & exports.
Jun. 2012	Productos Pantheods	Intibucá: vegetable packer.
Jul. 2012	Original Maya	Intibucá, Copán, Lempira: vegetable exporter.
Jul. 2012	Hermandad de Honduras	Copán: technical assistance to growers.
Aug. 2012	AGROS Internacional	Santa Bárbara: technical assistance to growers.
Sep. 2012	Frozen Foods/Grupo Madeesma	Intibucá, Santa Bárbara, Copán: baby corn processor and exporter.
Sep. 2012	Bioplanet	All six departments: moringa seed provider.
Sep. 2012	COHORSIL	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Sep. 2012	DUWEST	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Oct. 2012	D'Leite	Santa Bárbara, Copán, and Lempira: oriental vegetable exporter
Oct. 2012	CAMOSA	All six departments: equipment supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations
Jan. 2013	TECHO Honduras	La Paz: low-cost housing
Jan. 2013	Programa Educativo El Maestro en Casa	Intibucá: greenhouse operations and training
Jan. 2013	Agroindustrias del Coral	Copán: cattle production program
Jan. 2013	Croplife	All six departments: safe pesticide use training
Feb. 2013	Syngenta	All six departments: input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations; training in safe pesticide use; support to healthy household program.
Feb. 2013	UNAH/CUROC	Copán: student internships
Mar. 2013	UNITEC (+SIC)	All six departments: company registrations
Mar. 2013	AHPROABA / DUWEST	All six departments: outgrower program, marketing, inputs and finance (corn)

Table 13. Public-Private Sector Partnerships

Date	Organization/Company	Activity
Jul. 2013	Beneficio Santa Rosa	Copán, Lempira, Ocotepeque: coffee buyer, training
Jul. 2013	Supermercados La Antorcha	All six departments: buyer of horticultural and MSME products, promotion and training.
Aug. 2013	EYL Comercial	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Sep. 2013	Boncafe	Intibucá, Copán, Lempira, Ocotepeque: coffee buyer, training, specialty premiums
Sep. 2013	FENAGH	Project wide: support on policy activities
Oct. 2013	Pineapple growers/buyers/SAG	Pineapple value chain – Copán and Ocotepeque
Nov. 2013	Water Engineers for the Americas	Intibucá. Technical support and cost sharing for potable water system
Dec. 2013	Municipality of Candelaria, Lempira	Lempira. Cost sharing for irrigation system installation.

Letters of agreement

Jun. 2011	IHMA
Jun. 2011	PRONADERS
Sep. 2011	Ministry of Health
Oct. 2011	Vision Mundial
Nov. 2011	SOLARIS
Jan. 2012	Ministry of Work and Social Security
May 2012	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 14 – Ocotepeque
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 04 – Copán Ruins
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 10 – Intibucá
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 12 – Marcala
May 2012	Instituto Polivalente San José Cupertino
Dec. 2012	Banadesa
May 2013	Registro Nacional de la Personas / SAG
Jul. 2013	Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal (Nor-Occidental)
Jul. 2013	Municipality of Jesús de Otoro, Intibucá
Aug. 2013	COPECO
Sep. 2013	Municipality of Talgua, Lempira

Grower organization and the development of market-driven production programs

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the reporting period and the year to date is provided in Table 14.

Table 14. Grower Organization and Market-Driven Production Programs

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sep. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sep. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sep. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #31: Number of producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (LOP Target 210)										
	20	40	70	150	20	31	210	221	10	0
WP #3: Number of small farmer associations formally established as businesses (LOP Target 55)										
	-	-	4	0	150	118	150	118	30	0

PIRS #31: Number of producer organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations receiving USG assistance

USAID-ACCESO is developing activities with organizations and associations, particularly community-based organizations, in order to increase outreach and improve the quality and quantity of services. By working with community level organizations, the project generates client confidence. In many cases, problems and opportunities are identified through a participatory process by the communities themselves. During the quarter, no additional organizations were incorporated into the project (target of 10), with the accumulated total remaining at 221 organizations enrolled as USAID-ACCESO beneficiaries. These include 179 water/irrigation associations, 16 community-based organizations, 24 grower associations, and two others. Many of the water and irrigation boards were set up with project assistance.

Organization and promotion of local agriculture fairs and “green markets” continues to expand. Examples include:

- Ocoatepeque: four weekly agriculture fairs operating in San Francisco de Valle, Mercedes, San Geronimo, and San Marcos de Ocoatepeque; weekly sales average \$2,200 with around 100 growers participating.
- Lempira: fresh produce markets established in San Sabastian and San Manuel de Colohete, involving 260 growers with bi-weekly sales averaging \$5,000 (support was also provided to these in defining the operational regulations). Selected growers in La Union have established a “roving” sales system where 19 growers make weekly sales averaging \$1,400.
- Copán: individual sales points set up in Cabañas, San Nicolás, Talgua, and San José; weekly market in La Entrada with 15 growers,
- Santa Bárbara: individual sales points set up in Quimistan and Colinas.

All have involved coordination and support from the local municipalities. In some cases, new MSMEs have been established and new income generated. Agriculture fairs have also been carried in other departments to stimulate interest. This activity will continue to expand.

WP #3: Number of small farmer associations formally established as businesses

USAID-ACCESO business skills, policy, production, and marketing specialists work together to identify the needs and requirements of groups of growers to formally register as businesses. In addition to the work with the growers themselves, input from the project’s policy component has shortened processes and reduced costs, and has improved the efficiencies of the registration process. Alliances were initially made with UNAH and SIC, but this was not formalized; a formal alliance was then made with UNITEC and SIC to assist in the legalization of the businesses. During the quarter, new registrations were not obtained (against a target of 30). As of September 2013, documents had been sent for registration of 71 businesses, while 53 were in the process of document assimilation. During the quarter, all documents were sent for registration for the 53 businesses. A total of 124 businesses are now in the process of registration. To date, a total of 118 have obtained registration.

- Grower Association: 3
- Rural banks (cajas rurales): 102
- Companies with multiple services: 13

Groups currently being provided assistance under this activity total 242, covering 4,871 members and an average of 20 members per group.

Increasing the technical capabilities of agricultural schools and local NGOs

As project implementation evolves, coordination with local actors continues to increase. NGOs, local governmental organizations, and agricultural, technical, and social promotion schools participate in many project training events and activities, and in some cases, specialized training courses have been developed to meet their specific needs.

During the reporting quarter, USAID-ACCESO continued close working relationships with more than 15 technical schools and universities from all project regions. As of September 2013, more than 435 students had done internships with the project in areas such as processing, business skills and finance, production, and health and nutrition, IT, and administration. These came from 37 different schools, technical colleges, and universities received a total of 3,025 weeks of on-the-job technical training. Twenty have been at the university level (Zamorano, UNAH, Universidad Metropolitana and UNA). Other schools have been trained in executing community cleaning campaigns and others are participating in the food preparation workshops. Coordination has been carried out with the World Food Program (WFP) in training the mothers who prepare the *merienda escolar* in select communities within the project regions. In the current quarter, an additional 79 students from 14 institutions did their internships with the project, totaling 618 weeks.

More than 40 counterpart organizations, including private sector companies, NGOs, and projects have participated in project-sponsored activities. These include: Aldea Global, ANDESAIN, Caritas, CASM, CESAL, CEPUDO, CHF Honduras, Child Fund, CODESSE, COMUCAP, COOMUPL, COPRAFEL, Catholic Relief Service, Escuela San Pablo, EDUCAR, Escuela Agrícola Pompilio Ortega, FAMA, FAO, FIDA, FIDE, FOPRIDEH, Fundación Adelante, FUNDAHRSE, Fundación Banhcafe, Fundahmicro, Fundación Vida, Funder, Red Cross, Heifer, IHCAFE, OCDIH, ODECO, Veco-MA, Oxfam, PILARH, Save the Children, SOCODEVI, Swiss Contact, World Food Programme, and World Vision. An additional 40 government and donor institutions, and projects, have also participated in USAID-ACCESO activities. Representatives from government organizations receiving USAID-ACCESO training include PRONADERS, DICTA, and selected municipalities and municipal organizations.

Note: most of the NGOs under subcontract to Fintrac have also increased their capabilities – especially on accounting and administration – with changes and improvements being made to meet USAID regulations and documentation requirements.

4.2.2. RURAL MSMEs ACCESS TO NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED (SUB-IR 2.1.2)

Development of buyer linkages and logistics

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component is provided in Table 15.

Table 15. Rural MSME Access to New Market Opportunities

Indicator	Year 1 (May to Sept. 2011)	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)	Total Sept. 2013	Oct. to Dec. 2013
WP #4: Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker (LOP Target 10,932):					
	35	1,403	5,486	6,924	Not reported
PIRS #12: Number of brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs (LOP Target 500):					
	10	19	41	70	Not reported
WP #6: Number of market surveys conducted (LOP Target 24):					
	1	5	3	9	0

Table 16. Rural MSME Access to New Market Opportunities

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
WP #4: Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker:										
	300	35	1,968	1,403	3,500	5,486	4,938	6,924	750	Not reported
PIRS #12: Number of brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs:										
	25	10	125	19	200	41	229	70	25	Not reported
WP #6: Number of market surveys conducted:										
	6	1	12	5	12	3	18	9	0	0

WP #4: Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker

This indicator is now not being reported quarterly based on census data (*Section 3.7.3*). Results toward this indicator will be determined in the next sampling survey for September 2014.

Activities carried out during the quarter that will contribute to this indicator include the expansion of the calendarized vegetable production programs for local supermarkets, formal and informal intermediaries who sell to the supermarkets, and green bean sales to Guatemala.

Activities under the same vein, but that will not contribute to the target include yellow corn and coffee sales (as there is only normally only one harvest and sales – the indicator requires at least two recorded sales events to at least one broker).

During the next quarter, the project will look at using short term technical assistance with client sampling being carried out via telephone, in order to provide ongoing quarterly data. This will be supplemented by crop planting date/harvest date information available on most clients through the CIRIS M&E system.

PIRS #12: Number of brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs

This indicator is now not being reported quarterly based on census data (*Section 3.7.3*). Results toward this indicator will be determined in the next sampling survey for September 2014.

USAID-ACCESO marketing specialists continue to monitor new product and market opportunities, as well as recommending crops, varieties, and value-added products for calendarized production programs and commercial trials. Calendarized production programs are being implemented in each of the six departments for both the local and export markets, and will 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 processed and off-farm products, including sweets, baked goods, pickles, sauces, plantain chips, raw sugar, honey, wines, crafts and others. Trials for new products with good export potential are currently underway in Intibucá (stevia) and Lempira (chia).

During the next quarter, the project will look at using short-term technical assistance to carry out client sampling via telephone to provide ongoing quarterly data. This will be supplemented by crop planting date/harvest date information available on most clients through the CIRIS M&E system.

Due to low production volumes (small plots, partial technologies) and difficulties competing in the large markets in the main and secondary cities (poor roads, long distances, high transport costs, low volumes), USAID-ACCESO has developed local farmers markets and distribution routes for sales to local markets, *pulperias* (home shops), and intermediaries in the same zones where they are produced.

This reduces transport costs and speeds up payment time, especially given the low volumes, limited transport logistics, and poor roads. But most do not count toward these indicator targets.

Another key activity carried out is the development of new and expansion of existing local produce fairs (*ferias del agricultor* or *mercaditos verdes*). As the growers are selling themselves, this activity does not specifically contribute to the indicator target.

WP #6: Number of market surveys conducted

To date, nine market surveys have been carried out for potential products (three from the current reporting period), including allspice, cardamom, and processed onions, gherkins, eggplant and zucchini, and essential oils from pimento leaf, pimento berry and cardamom. Allspice and cardamom are being exported. Informal market surveys were carried out for a range of crops in El Salvador (via market visits) and with exporters and importers for fresh herbs, snow peas, sugar snap peas and French beans. This indicator is behind the target of 18, but focus has been given on the local and regional markets and expanding existing export crops such as oriental vegetables and sweet potato.

In the next quarter, three market surveys are programmed (following positive field production trials), for stevia, chia and turmeric.

Production and systems implementation to meet buyers' quality and standards

WP #5: Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the quarter and accumulated to date is provided in Table 17.

Table 17. Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements

Indicator	Year 1 (May to Sept. 2011)	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)	Oct. 2012 to Jun. 2013	Jul. to Sept. 2013	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)	Accumulated Sept. 2013	Oct. to Dec. 2013
WP #5: Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers							
	-	550	-	1,521	1,521	2,071	Not available

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) for years 1, 2, 3, and the current quarter against targets is provided in Table 28.

Table 18. Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
WP # 5: Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers										
	-	-	599	550	925	1,521	1,475	2,071	100	Not available

This indicator is now not being reported quarterly based on census data (Section 3.7.3). Results towards this indicator will be determined in the next sampling survey for September 2014.

The indicator is counted when actual sales to a specific market demanding a particular quality or standard take place. In order for micro and small businesses (including farmers) to build sustainable relationships 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 marketing, postharvest, and certification specialists provide direct technical assistance to farmers so they can achieve this goal. Additional training is provided by the actual buyers themselves, who visit the farms and participate in training and technical assistance activities or provide feedback to growers when produce is delivered.

These buyers include collection centers, cooperatives, supermarkets, processors and exporters. Details of those recorded to date are provided in the PMP 12/2013 Excel file.

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 farmers meet quality standards and safety regulations.

Examples of activities to initiate new or expand existing market-driven production programs for the year include:

- Multiple meetings, discussions, and field visits with major local buyers of yellow corn (ALIANSA). 2,929 project growers were involved in the yellow corn production program with 1,066 hectares. This was carried out from April to June 2013 and many growers have now harvested, while others are expected to harvest in the upcoming quarter. USAID-ACCESO marketing staff facilitated the development of more than 1,700 formal agreements between growers and members of the agroindustry for the marketing of this crop. To date 2,045 quintals have been sold to the local industry. This is below the original projection as most growers sold the corn locally (in their communities) or have stored for self-consumption. This was the first time yellow corn had been produced locally under contract the small farmers. This activity offered experience in formal marketing agreements with a relatively low-risk crop. It was also tied in with the business skills component to link the production with financing through various seed and input suppliers. During the quarter, discussions were held with the industry and the program will be expanded for the 2014 corn planting season.
- In FY 2013, negotiations and field visits were carried out with Bon Café and local buyers in all zones for purchase of coffee directly from USAID-ACCESO growers. Formal market alliances were developed with Bon Café and Beneficio Santa Rosa. 6,300 quintals of coffee were sold under the market alliance with BonCafé during the 2012/2013 season (163 growers with total gross sales income of \$650,000). While this activity was carried out under a partner fund to identify special coffees, similar activities are being carried out with other buyers in each region. The experience with BonCafé has motivated coffee growers and the ground work was being done to double the number of growers that will sell coffee directly to BonCafé during the 2013/2014 harvest. During the quarter, sales to BonCafé were initiated with project clients in Intibucá and Lempira.
- Discussions continued with the Department of School Meals from the Ministry of Development and Social Services on supplying produce for school meals in the departments of Intibucá, Santa Bárbara, Copán, and Ocotepeque. The municipalities of these departments were to organize procurement committees to enable project market specialists to link growers through formal sales agreements. The committees were never formed, but some project clients are selling produce direct to the municipalities for the *merienda escolar*. Of 52 municipalities involved, around six are buying from project clients. During the current quarter discussions were re-initiated with the WFP with the idea of project growers selling produce for the *merienda escolar*, including leafy green for fortified tortillas.
- In FY 2013, USAID-ACCESO and representatives from Global Village met with UNISPICE Guatemala, a major exporter of snow peas, sweet peas, French beans, and brussel sprouts to European and US markets. The meeting led to a trial production program. Representatives from UNISPICE visited growers in Ocotepeque to assess the trial plantings of French beans. During

the initial phase, close to 50,000 pounds were exported to Guatemala through UNISPIECE and project growers planted 18 hectares through the end of September 2013 at a sales price of \$0.41 per pound. The quarter the program expanded to include growers in Lempira and Copán.

- During FY 2013, five of the six departments initiated a market driven cashew planting program. In Lempira groups of women and individual growers initiated nurseries for the production of cashew seedlings for up to 70 hectares of planting area. As of September 2013, close to 6,000 plantlets had been grafted. During the quarter 37 hectares of cashew were planted for a total of 60 hectares to date. The first harvests are expected in September 2015.
- Continuous negotiations for increasing delivery volumes of fruits and vegetables to supermarkets were held, including La Colonia, La Economica, Colonial, Los Andes, La Antorcha and Hortifruti (Wal-Mart). Project growers are directly supplying all of these supermarkets. Examples include:
 - La Paz: Hortifruti, with growers with finance organized with Fundabancafe; La Colonia, via *Vegetales Lencas* with finance organized with *Agro-Servicio Del Rancho*;
 - Lempira: 15 growers with a total of 1 *manzana* of calendarized granadilla (passion fruit family) are selling 3,000 pounds of fruit a week to a formal intermediary at \$0.80 a pound. An additional 1 *manzana* under calendarized plantings will enter harvest next quarter. Expansion of French bean production area from 0.3 to 10 hectares with finance organized with *Agropecuaria Agrosem*.
- Supermarkets are not and cannot be the only market outlet. New or expanded buyer-seller agreements were made with many intermediary buyers in all six departments (both formal and informal) for a wide range of products, including baby corn, papaya, passion fruit, tomato, potato, carrot, broccoli, cauliflower, radish, onion, and cabbage.

During the quarter calendarized production programs expanded as project-supported drip irrigation systems were installed and become operational. These include calendarized plantings of eggplant, sweet corn, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, cucumber, tomato, radish, beets, passion fruit, plantain, lettuce, cabbage, nataly pepper, Tabasco pepper, sweet potato, green bean, red onion, French bean, and potato. Market driven production programs will continue to expand in the next year. The yellow corn production program under contract will also increase. While this program does not provide significant earnings for the growers it does require the implementation of basic production practices, which will then allow some of the growers to initiate lucrative vegetable production.

Emphasis continues to be placed on serving and developing local markets within each of the six departments, and municipal markets such as Dandy and Central de Abastos de San Pedro Sula. Production to meet demands for supermarkets such as La Colonia, Wal-Mart, Madesma, Ebenezer, through distributors such as ASOFAIL-CICOM, ECARAI, ODECO, ECARAI, APROCEL, CAEOL, APRALIN, COPRAL, COPRAUL, Hermandad de Honduras, and Aldea Global was initiated, maintained or expanded. During the quarter new agreements were made with La Colonia for supplying new supermarkets in San Pedro Sula, which will purchase an average of 45 tons per week worth \$50,000. USAID-ACCESO is working with producers to meet these demands, but will likely be unable to do so in the short term.

Activities with MSMEs included a business fair in Gracias, Lempira, where the project brought together 16 MSMEs, representatives from four hotels and restaurants, and two financial cooperatives to develop triangulation agreements between production, markets, and finance. In Santa Bárbara, the project organized a gift fair in association with the local *Camara de Comercio* and SEPLAN in which 28 project-assisted MSMEs participated. The project continued working to expand market linkages for MSMEs in dairy products and a frozen passion fruit pulp producer.

Other marketing and promotional activities included 16 kitchen school events in La Colonia supermarkets, where shoppers were exposed to recipes for increasing the use of products supplied by project growers, including broccoli, cauliflower, beetroot, sweet potato, chayote and eggplant. These products were chosen because of the lower rate of rotation on the supermarket shelves.

Constraints to the marketing program include the small production lots, limited irrigation infrastructure, low volumes, and complex, expensive logistics. Project clients are mainly located in zones with poor roads and transportation costs to reach the main cities are high. For these clients, crops not only have to be selected based on agronomic and cost factors, but also on logistic and transport costs. Low-value, low-weight products are not normally profitably when transport costs are factored in.

Implementation of business certification programs

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the quarter and to date is provided in Table 19.

Table 19. Implementation of Business Certification Programs

Indicator	Year 1 (May to Sept. 2011)	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)	Oct. 2012 to Jun. 2013	Jul. to Sept. 2013	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)	Accumulated Sept. 2013	Oct. to Dec. 2013
PIRS #13: Number of MSMEs that have been verified to meet market standards for their products							
	35	882	36	800	836	1,753	Not available

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) for years 1, 2, 3, and the current quarter against targets is provided in Table 20.

Table 20. Implementation of Business Certification Programs

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Total to Date (Sept. 2013)		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #13: Number of MSMEs that have been verified to meet market standards for their products (LOP Target 2,000)										
	-	35	300	882	500	836	1,417	1,753	75	Not available

This indicator is now not being reported quarterly based on census data (*Section 3.7.3*). Results toward this indicator will be determined in the next sampling survey for September 2014.

USAID-ACCESO specialists are providing support to vegetable growers to enter formal markets with quality and food safety standards and obtain farm and product certifications. Project specialists are also assisting coffee growers meet the requirements for a range of certifications, including Rainforest Alliance, UTZ, 4C, Certified Organic, and Fair Trade. Growers participating in the yellow corn program will also have to comply with strict market quality standards and specific delivery and logistics compliance.

Details of the MSMEs meeting market standards for buyers are provided in the ACCESO PMP 12/2013 Excel file.

USAID-ACCESO has worked with many buyers to develop quality standards for several crops, including passion fruit and select vegetables for supermarkets, allspice for North American markets, and 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 Salvadoran buyers, cardamom for a European importer, potatoes for

the local market, Chinese eggplant for the export market, baby corn for the processing market, green beans to Guatemala, snow pea and sugar snap pea for the export and local supermarket buyers, and cucumber, loofah and coffee to local buyers for subsequent export, yellow and white corn for the local grain industry, stevia for a local processor, honey and *panela* for export.

Given the informal nature of local markets, there are very few buyers with specifications for fresh produce. For this reason, postharvest specialists, working with marketing specialists, have worked with informal buyers to develop basic standards and quality inspections to formalize some of the relations. This is in addition to the continued focus on helping clients meet buyer quality standards so they can enter more reliable formal markets with potential for expansion. Support has been provided to both buyers and growers in the development and use of product standards. Additional activities have been initiated with quality and standards for processed and other off-farm products, such as pickled vegetables, raw sugar, processed garlic, dehydrated herbs, dairy products, honey products, wood, and woven items. Specific activities carried out during the quarter include working with new growers supplying coffee to BonCafé and French beans to Guatemala.

Small-scale processed food operations that have been selling informally on the local village or town markets received assistance in upgrading their products and operations to enable them to enter slightly larger, more profitable markets. As this requires higher transportation cost and higher margins for those involved, the processors need to reduce the sales price. USAID-ACCESO provided technical assistance to improve efficiencies and reduce unit cost of production.

4.2.3. BARRIERS TO COMPETITIVENESS OF RURAL MSMES REDUCED (SUB-IR 2.1.3)

Increased access to finance

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the reporting period and the year to date is provided in Table 21.

Table 21. Barriers to Competitiveness of Rural MSMEs Reduced

Indicator	Year 1 (May to Sept. 2011)	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)	Accumulated Sept. 2013	Accumulated Dec. 2013
PIRS #14: Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing as the result of government assistance					
	315	1,577	2,826	4,718	4,817
PIRS #15: Value of agricultural and rural loans made to MSMEs (\$ millions)					
	0.200	1.554	6.072	7.826	8.679
PIRS #11: Number of MSMEs implementing sound business management practices					
	-	695	4,498	5,193	Not available

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) for years 1, 2 and 3, against targets is provided in Table 22.

Table 22. Barriers to Competitiveness of Rural MSMEs Reduced

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #14: Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing as the result of government assistance										
	215	315	863	1,577	1,000	2,826	2,892	4,718	300	97
PIRS #15: Value of agricultural and rural loans made to MSMEs (\$ millions)										
	0.32	0.200	1.26	1.554	1.730	6.072	3.484	7.826	0.500	0.691
PIRS #11: Number of MSMEs implementing sound business management practices										

Table 22. Barriers to Competitiveness of Rural MSMEs Reduced

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
	-	-	1,696	695	3,750	4,498	4,445	5,193	500	Not available

SELECTED BUSINESS SKILLS AND FINANCE SNAPSHOTS

- With the technical assistance from project specialists, Coraguil, a wood processing cooperative located in San Marcos de La Sierra, Intibucá, has developed its organizational and administrative capacity to qualify for investments through CATIE. An agreement between Coraguil and CATIE will be signed at the beginning of the upcoming quarter for investments totalling \$32,000 in industrial machinery for wood processing, infrastructure improvements, and other equipment. This investment will benefit the small businesses of 85 active members of Coraguil of which close to 70 percent are USAID-ACCESO clients.
- PALISAL, an agroforestry cooperative in El Obispo, Yamaranguila, Intibucá, with the assistance of project specialists, signed an agreement with CATIE for \$19,000 to set up a revolving fund for lending to its members. With the technical assistance and training from USAID-ACCESO business and finance specialists, PALISAL managers were able to develop a financial product appropriate for the needs of wood processing/transformation businesses in the region. This product was promoted in the first EXPO Agroforestry Financing Fair held in Yamaranguila. Up to 20 project client households will be accessing loans for investment in equipment for their businesses in upcoming quarters through the cooperative's revolving fund.
- New alliances between project client growers and off-farm MSMEs, and financial intermediaries such as CACIL, AGROSEM, COMIXMUL, CADELGA, BANADESA, and World Vision, were established this quarter. Project finance specialists assisted 10 businesses in Santa Barbara develop business profiles, which were submitted to Proyecto Horizontes del Norte for financing (Horizontes del Norte provides non-reimbursable funding for up to 75 percent of the total cost of investment of the proposed business plan). All 10 profiles have been approved and development of full proposals should be completed during the upcoming quarter.

PIRS #14: Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing as the result of government assistance

During the quarter, 97 MSMEs accessed market-based finance with project assistance (against a target of 300). The total to date is 4,817 MSMEs with 6,905 loans, broken down by sex:

Total:	6,905
Male:	5,706 (83 percent)
Female:	1,199 (17 percent)

PIRS #15: Value of agricultural and rural loans made to MSMEs (\$ millions)

During the quarter, USAID-ACCESO clients accessed \$0.691 million in loans against a target of \$0.5 million. To date, loans total \$8.679 million. 257 different finance sources have been used including rural village banks, input stores, cooperatives, buyers, NGOs, and municipalities. These are the formal loans. There are many informal loans, particularly between family members and intermediary buyers. Traditional banks do not normally work with this segment. Data broken down by sex:

Total:	\$8,678,943
Male:	\$7,719,604 (89 percent)
Female:	\$959,339 (11 percent)

Average loan size is \$1,286 with a minimum loan size of \$6 and a maximum of \$300,000; 15 percent of loans are less than \$100, 59 percent are loans of less than \$500, and 94 percent are loans less than \$5,000. More details on loans and lenders are provided in the Excel PMP file 12/2013.

PIRS #11: Number of MSMEs implementing sound business management practices

This indicator is now not being reported quarterly based on census data (*Section 3.7.3*). Results towards this indicator will be determined in the next sampling survey for September 2014. As of September 2013, 5,193 MSMEs were implementing sound business practices.

To count as an MSME toward this indicator, the MSME has to implement a minimum of three of the following business management practices:

- Access to credit
- Annual accounts (internal or external)
- Annual audits (internal or external)
- Break-even point analyses
- Budgeting (operative / investment)
- Business operations
- Cash flow operations and control
- Credit scoring
- Financial indicator analysis
- Financial links
- Inventory controls
- Legal procedures/documentation
- Payroll systems and controls
- Promotional activities (materials, trade shows)
- Recordkeeping
- Sales records and control
- Tax management

Policy and value chain sector constraints identified and eliminated

Prioritized policies and value chain/sector constraints were identified through a short-term consultancy finalized in December 2011. This activity identified the needs and feasibility of adjustments, changes, and additions in prioritized areas of agricultural policy in force, and in selected administrative procedures and requirements to produce, market, process, and export agricultural products and derivatives, which are needed to remove obstacles or barriers that affect the growth and competitiveness of USAID-ACCESO clients in the domestic and foreign markets.

The most important problems identified related to policies or regulations, and were found primarily in the area of access to credit, access to technologies and agricultural extension services, market access and business practices, food safety and plant/animal health, the coffee value chain, access to land or titles, and institutional aspects of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG).

In terms of administrative barriers, the most significant problems identified were related to the high costs, requirements for registrations, and procedures for exports or imports agricultural products and inputs.

Of the policy barriers identified, 11 were prioritized in seven areas, in addition to 11 prioritized administrative barriers. To date, more emphasis has been given on policy activities than the barriers, given the amount of time and work required to change, develop, and implement policies.

Table 23. Status: Policy and Value Chain Sector Constraints

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #16: Number of value chain / sector constraints identified and resolved (LOP Target 40):										
	-	-	15	1	24	16	25	17	5	5
PIRS #17: Number of policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed for which implementation has begun with USG assistance (LOP Target 4):										
	-	1	1	2	1	3	4	5	0	1

PIRS #16: Number of value chain / sector constraints identified and resolved

Five value chain/sector constraint were resolved this quarter against a target of five (for a total to date of 22 barriers against an overall target of 30). The following value chain/sector constraints have been resolved as a direct result of USAID-ACCESO assistance:

- Official Recognition of Potato Production Manual to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services – presented by SAG-DICTA (current quarter).
- Official Recognition of Onion Production Manual to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services – presented by FHIA (current quarter).
- Official Recognition of Cocoa Production Manual to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services – presented by FHIA (current quarter).
- Official Recognition of Carrot Production Manual to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services – presented by USAID-ACCESO (current quarter).
- Simplification of the RTN applications from the DEI for companies and individuals (current quarter).
- Legalization process for MSMEs.
- Simplification of export permit processes to regional markets of agriculture products.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H/ACA Trust Fund for Farmers' Credit Access (via Policy Measures to Expand Credit Service to Farmers).
- Normative evaluation and classification of the loan portfolio issued by the National Banking and Insurance Commission (via policy measures to expand credit service to farmers).
- Agricultural Insurance operated by BANADESA (via policy measures to expand credit service to farmers).
- Streamlined process for the establishment and operation of water administration boards.
- Streamlined process for the registration of poultry farms engaged in the production of poultry meat and eggs.

- Official recognition of corn production manual under integrated crop management in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Official Recognition of Bean Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) to finance projects in the cattle value chain.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) to finance projects in the chicken value chain.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) to finance projects in the coffee value chain.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) to finance projects in the agricultural inputs value chain.
- Development of credit access mechanism for small producers assisted by USAID-ACCESS with trust funds managed by BANADESA.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H/ACA Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) for the qualification of new financial intermediaries.
- Executive Order to facilitate access to credit to MSMEs without collateral.
- Socialization of objectives, use and operation of the mobile guarantee register.

While this activity is slightly behind target, there five more in process of being resolved: plantain and oil palm production manuals with SAG; accreditation of natural and legal persons to provide agricultural inspection services with SAG-SENASA; fund development for the control and disposal of pesticide packaging with SAG and Croplife; and a coffee chain rehabilitation plan with IHCAFE. With the additional policy reforms, other constraints are expected to be resolved.

PIRS #17: Number of policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed for which implementation has begun with USG assistance

During the quarter, USAID-ACCESO helped pass one additional policy for a total of six policy reform procedures to date.

- National Policy of *Cajas de Ahorro y Crédito* (approved by Council of Ministers) (current quarter).
- Country Investment Plan for the Agricultural Sector.
- Copyright law for protection for plant materials.
- Sector policy paper (FENAGH & COHEP) of actions to eliminate political and administrative barriers that limit sector growth.
- Regulation of Agricultural Mutual Guarantee Fund (Fagre) to facilitate access to credit to MSMEs.
- Policy Measures to Expand Credit Services to Farmers (approved by Council of Ministers).

Example activities and achievements obtained during the quarter include:

Barrier: simplification process for the constitution and operation of water management boards

- Activities:
 - Meetings with representatives of the Regulatory Authority for Drinking Water and Sanitation (ERSAP), the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Legal Clinic of the Central American Technological University (UNITEC) to review the progress of the legalization of Water Management Boards.
 - Reviewed and revised the documentation required to initiate the legalization of 21 Water Management Boards in Lempira and Ocotepeque.

- **Results:**
 - Procedures and formats established and agreed with UNITEC, Ministry of Interior, and ERSAP to reduce the steps, time, and costs related to the legalization of Water Management Boards.
 - Reviewed by UNITEC and accepted by the Ministry of Interior the information required to start the process of gathering documents for legalization of 21 Water Management Boards in the departments of Lempira and Ocotepeque.

Barrier: formalization of crop production manuals

- **Activities:**
 - Meetings with officials of the SAG Planning Unit and DICTA to integrate individual potato production manuals prepared by DICTA and ACCESO.
 - Meetings with officials of the SAG Planning Unit and DICTA, for preparation and submission of manuals to the members of the AD-HOC Commission for cacao, onion, carrot and potato.
 - Review of minutes of previous meeting and the agenda of the next.
 - Participation in the AD-HOC Commission meeting.
- **Results**
 - AD-HOC Commission approved manuals and for onion and cocoa production presented by FHIA, potato production presented by DICTA, and carrot production presented by USAID-ACCESO.

Barrier: operational guidelines of the MCA-H/ACA Trust for Farmers' Credit Access (ACA)

- **Activities:**
 - Socialization of the new operational guidelines of the fund to increase the use of available resources and the qualification of new financial intermediaries.
 - Attendance at two meetings of the Management Committee ACA ESCROW to analyze the documents submitted by the Pinalejo and Comproil Cooperatives to qualify as financial intermediaries ESCROW resources.
- **Results**
 - Preliminary approval by the ESCROW ACA Management Committee to qualify the Pinalejo Cooperative as a financial intermediary (on presentation of financial statements audited by IHDECOOP).

Barrier: accreditation of natural and legal persons to provide services in agricultural health (SENASA)

- **Activities:**
 - Three meetings with officials and technicians of SENASA to obtain observations and comments on the draft prepared on “Regulation on Accreditation of natural and legal persons to provide health services delegated by SENASA”.
 - Formation of inter-institutional technical working group with representation from public institutions and the private sector to review and provide final approval of the regulation.
- **Results**
 - A new version of the accreditation regulations was developed by USAID-ACCESO to include amendments submitted by SENASA regarding the establishment of a unit responsible for compliance with the provisions of the regulations and on issues related to charging fees to borrowers. Pending final approval.

Barrier: streamlined process for the registration of poultry farms engaged in the production of poultry meat and eggs

- Activities:
 - Inter-institutional collaboration agreement between SAG and USAID-ACCESS to speed up and simplify procedures to accomplish the inspection and registration of small poultry farms served by the project.
 - Meetings with representatives of the National Poultry Program (PAN) to define the improved procedures and develop an inspection schedule.
 - Inspection of 74 poultry farms located in the departments La Paz, Intibucá, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Copán and Santa Bárbara.
- Results
 - Implemented streamlined procedures for the inspection and registration of 74 small poultry farms in the departments of La Paz, Intibucá, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Copán and Santa Bárbara.
 - PAN granted registration records for 25 small poultry farms, allowing them to continue operating and be supplied with chicks and chickens for the production of chicken meat and eggs.

Policy: National Policy of Rural Village Credit and Savings (*Cajas Rurales de Ahorro y Crédito*)

- Activities
 - Participation in five meetings of the technical committee on rural village savings and credit, coordinated by SAG-PRONADERS, in order to discuss and provide comments on the first draft document of the National Policy on Rural Village Savings and Credit.
 - Presentation to the National Committee of Rural Village Savings and Credit of an Executive Agreement prepared by ACCESO for financial capitalization and inclusion in the National Policy.
 - Socialization activities of the National Policy on Rural Village Savings and Credit in Santa Bárbara, with participation of 50 representatives of rural village savings and credit banks supported by USAID-ACCESS and representatives of 25 others supported by FAO.
- Result:
 - National Policy on Rural Village Savings and Credit approved by Executive Council of Ministers Decree.

SMMEs

- Activities:
 - Meetings with representatives of the Secretary of Industry and Commerce and the Legal Section of the Central American Technological University (UNITEC), in order to monitor the process of approval of applications for legalization of MSMEs.
 - Payment made by six MSMEs for TGR-I receipts required by DEI to complete the registration process.
- Results
 - 242 applications now made, of which 118 have been legalized and registered, and 124 whose documents have been transferred to the stage of registration and legalization.

PIRS #GNDR 2: Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources.

This indicator was added in for Year 3 (October 2012 to September 2013).

- Value of loans during the quarter total \$690,995, of which \$24,653 were to women (equivalent to 4 percent).
- Value of loans to date total \$8,678,943, of which \$959,339 were to women (equivalent to 11 percent).
- The number of new individuals receiving loans this quarter total 97, of which 22 were women (equivalent to 23 percent).
- The number of individuals receiving loans to date total 4,817, of which 860 were women (equivalent to 18 percent, against a target of 17 percent).
- The number of loans this quarter total 167, of which 27 were to women (equivalent to 16 percent).
- The number of loans to date total 6,905, of which 1,119 were to women (equivalent to 17 percent).

Applied research and development programs developed

Activities under the research activities have been completed. Final reports are pending from FHIA and EAP Zamorano.

4.3. HONDURAN BIODIVERSITY & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVED (IR 2.2)

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 in collaboration with community groups to improve overall natural resource management practices at the community, micro-watershed, and municipal levels. 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. The status of results to date is provided in Table 24.

Table 24. Status: Natural Resources Conserved

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #8: Number of additional hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance										
	-	-	2,981	8,321	3,000	7,693	11,321	16,014	500	Not available
PIRS #10: Number of companies (including farms) that have made conservation-friendly changes in their business practices										
	-	-	4,410	356	8,750	351	9,106	707	2,500	Not available

Implementation of natural resource management practices on farm

PIRS #8: Number of additional hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance.

This indicator is now not being reported quarterly based on census data (Section 3.7.3). Results towards this indicator will be determined in the next sampling survey for September 2014.

During FY 2013, 7,693 hectares of production were placed under improved technologies or management practices, against a target of 3,000 hectares. As of September 2103, 16,014 hectares are

under improved technologies, against a target of 11,321. This indicator was calculated with data from the client survey and extrapolated to the clients registered with the project up to March 2013. 14,030 hectares were managed by male clients (88 percent) and 1,984 by female clients (12 percent).

PIRS #10: Number of companies (including farms) that have made conservation-friendly changes in their business practices.

This indicator is now not being reported quarterly based on census data (Section 3.7.3). Results towards this indicator will be determined in the next sampling survey for September 2014.

During FY 2013, 346 companies made conservation-friendly changes, against a target of 8,750. As of September 2013, 707 companies had made the changes, against a target of 9,106. This indicator was calculated with data from the client survey and extrapolated to the clients registered with the project up to March 2013. To be counted toward this indicator the company has to implement a minimum of five changes (from the predefined list). This is behind target because the five changes requirement was included after the target was set. USAID-ACCESO type clients cannot make all of the required changes over a short period of time.

USAID-ACCESO incorporates on-farm natural resource management activities to maintain healthy soils, prevent contamination, and conserve water as part of the good agricultural practices package. The following practices are being promoted on a regular basis in all regions covered by the project:

- **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.

Implementation of natural resource management practices at community and municipal levels

During the life of project, USAID-ACCESO will work with at least 20 municipalities to develop and implement natural resource management policies. The USAID-ACCESO natural resource management team has developed activities with 64 municipalities. These municipalities were selected based on existing project presence, rates of poverty and child malnutrition, and high vulnerability to environmental disaster. Many NRM practices have now been implemented by these municipalities and community involvement is high. Assisted municipalities have made significant progress and are in different stages of the process, from awareness to implementation.

The project is currently working with 64 municipalities in this area, of which 31 municipalities have achieved the project criteria for successful implementation. During the quarter some municipalities began implementing new practices, but remain below the threshold of four of the six activities required to be counted.

Table 25. Status: NRM Practices at Community and Municipal Levels

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sep. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS # 9: Number of Local Municipal Governments effectively implementing natural resource management policies										
	-	-	7	7	10	24	17	31	2	0

Per the indicator's precise definition, a municipality is counted once implementation of four out of six of the following NRM practices have begun:

- Coffee waste
- Solid waste disposal
- Forest fire prevention
- Legalization of water producing zones
- Watershed protection / reforestation
- Basic sanitation and water treatment

SELECTED DISASTER MITIGATION AND NRM SNAPSHOTS

- Thirty CODEL's in Lempira, La Paz, Copan, Ocotepeque and Santa Barbara, were equipped with training materials and manuals for training of community members in disaster mitigation activities. Equipment for timely responses to forest fire, landslides and other disaster emergency cases were provided. With this equipment and training materials, CODEL's will be able to increase community capacity to provide timely response to natural disasters.
- Thirteen water supply systems in equal number of communities in Intibucá, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Copan, and Santa Barbara were improved through technical and financial assistance from USAID-ACCESO. As a result, more than 900 households now have access to quality water for consumption and basic personal and household hygiene.
- During the quarter, project staff continued the promotion of activities to reduce the contamination from coffee waste. The use of microorganism to treat coffee pulp continues to be promoted among both large-scale beneficiaries and small-scale farm operations. With the technical assistance of project specialist, the municipalities of San Isidro in Intibucá and Erandique in Lempira established microorganism "banks" during the reporting period, making this technology available to coffee growers in the area. The technology reduces contamination, eliminates odors from oxidation ponds, avoids the proliferation of vectors, and provides a source for the production of organic fertilizer.
- Installation of chlorination systems (tablet) and training in their use in the communities of Bajillal and Linderos, Guajiquiro, La Paz and Arcamón in San Marco de Caiquín, Lempira – ensuring safe potable water.
- Improvements were made to potable water conduction and distribution network systems in Santa Catarina, Intibucá; Bajillal and Linderos in Guajiquiro, La Paz; Barrio Nuevo in Erandique Lempira; Arcamón in San Marcos de Caiquín, Lempira; Cueva Honda, Sinuapa and Cipresal, Ocotepeque, Ocotepeque; Copante and San Marquitos, Tomalá, Lempira; Las Juntas, Florida, Copán; La Majada, Zacapa and Piedras Azules, San Luis, Santa Bárbara.

The 31 municipalities that have achieved and are implementing four or more practices, as of September 2013 are:

- Intibucá: San Isidro, Jesús de Otoro, Intibucá, Yamaranguila, San Marcos De La Sierra.
- La Paz: Santa Elena, Guajiquiro, Opatoro.
- Lempira: La Unión, Tomalá, Erandique, La Iguala, San Manuel De Colohete, Tambla, Guarita, San José Guarita.
- Ocotepeque: Belen Gualcho.
- Santa Bárbara: Trinidad, Santa Bárbara, Quimistan, Las Vegas, Nueva Frontera, Protección, San Pedro De Zacapa.
- Copán: La Unión, San José, Santa Rosa, Trinidad, Santa Rita, Florida, Dulce Nombre.

Each of these municipalities is now implementing at least four NRM practices. An additional nine municipalities are currently implementing three criteria, 21 are with two, and one municipality is implementing one NRM practice.

4.4. CAPACITY TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE STRENGTHENED (IR 2.3)

Two main activities tracked in the PMP are being developed under this component:

Table 26. Status: Disaster Vulnerability Reduced

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Accumulated Sept. 2013		Oct. to Dec. 2013	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #28: Number of communities in high vulnerability municipalities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity										
	-	-	15	11	20	50	31	61	2	0
PIRS #29: Number of rural micro-generation clean/renewable energy projects established										
		4	351	724	100	1,094	828	1,822*	25	342**
* total of 1,822 includes 1,649 of USAID-ACCESO and 173 of University of Florida										
** total of 342 includes 235 of USAID-ACCESO and 107 of University of Florida										

4.4.1. DISASTER VULNERABILITY REDUCED (SUB-IR 2.3.3)

Development and implementation of disaster mitigation plans

PIRS #28: Number of communities in high vulnerability municipalities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity

During the life of project, USAID-ACCESO will work with at least 40 communities to develop and implement adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity. The USAID-ACCESO disaster prevention team has developed activities with 75 communities. These communities were selected based on existing project presence, rates of poverty and child malnutrition, and high vulnerability to environmental disaster. Many disaster prevention and mitigation practices have now been implemented by these communities and community involvement is high. Assisted communities have made significant progress and are in different stages of the process, from awareness to full implementation.

The project is currently working with 75 communities in this area, of which 61 communities are implementing the required practices. No additional communities achieved the target during the quarter.

Work under this component includes support to communities with high vulnerabilities in disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. Reducing communities' disaster vulnerabilities will ultimately put USAID-ACCESO-assisted households in a position to increase their incomes or reduce losses during disasters.

Systems to reduce vulnerability to disasters are being implemented at the farm level with the introduction and implementation of the basic production practices. Activities under this component are targeted to reduce vulnerability to disasters at the community level. USAID-ACCESO is utilizing the small grants mechanism for select projects.

Of note this quarter was the equipping of 22 CODELs with the basic tools and materials for adequate operation and associated training activities. These included 12 CODELs in 8 municipalities in Copán, 6 CODELs in 5 municipalities in Ocotepeque, 2 CODELs in 1 municipality Lempira, and 2 CODELs in 1 municipality in Santa Bárbara.

Per the indicator's precise definition, a community is counted once implementation of six out of eight of the following activities has begun:

- Plans for local prevention and response (PLPR)
- Personnel trained to prepare and update PLPRs
- Risk mapping
- EDAN Capacity
- Early warning systems implemented
- Identification and management of emergency centers
- First aid systems
- Simulation exercises

The 61 communities which are implementing six or more practices are as follows:

La Paz:

- Yurula: Tierra Colorada, Zacate Blanco, Cipres.
- Guajiquiro: Bajillal, Linderos.
- Opatoro: Florida Opatoro, El Sauce, Las Mercedes, Las Delicias, San Antonio, El Paraíso, El Matazano, San Manuel, Barrio Suyapa, Buenos Aires, Valle de Ángeles.

Intibucá:

- San Isidro: Macuelizo.
- Intibucá : Belen Manazapa.

Lempira:

- La Iguala: Llano Largo.
- San Manuel de Colohete: Nuevo Cedro, Poza Verde, Rancho Obispo.
- Tomalá: Copánate, San Marquitos.

Santa Bárbara:

- Santa Bárbara: Las Crucitas, El Zapote.
- Trinidad: El Higuito.
- Protección: Nuevas Delicias
- San Pedro De Zacapa: La Majada, La Isla

Copán:

- Santa Rita: Londres, El Rabinal, El Último Vado,
- San Juan de Opoa: Los Linderos.
- Florida: Las Juntas, Pueblo Nuevo
- Santa Rosa: El Mogote, El Derrumbo, Sector San Miguel.
- Dolores: Vega Redonda.

- San José: Buena Vista, El Porvenir.
- Dulce Nombre: El Limón, El Zapote.
- San Agustín: Cerro Negro

Ocotepeque:

- Belén Gualcho: El Paraíso, Tejeras, Belén Centro, Suyapa, El Calvario, El Magueyal, San Antonio.
- La Labor: Llano Largo, Pashapa, Santa Lucia, Rio Chiquito, El Azufrado, El Ingenio, Cerro Grande, San Antonio,
- San Marcos: Rio Hondo

Each of these communities is now implementing at least six disaster prevention and mitigation practices. An additional community is currently implementing five practices, three communities with four practices, four communities with three practices, one community with two practices, and five communities with one practice.

*Installation of renewable energy technologies***PIRS #29: Number of rural micro-generation clean/renewable energy projects established**

USAID-ACCESO's renewable energy component is focusing on promoting low-cost renewable technologies for individual rural households and selected nutrition training centers. Priority project support is being given to investments that provide energy for individual households and health training centers and clinics.

During the quarter, 235 renewable energy projects were installed by USAID-ACCESO, against a target of 25. To date, 1,884 projects have been installed by USAID-ACCESO. In addition, the University of Florida renewable energy program also coordinates with USAID-ACCESO to install systems with ACCESO clients. The status for both is provided in Table 27.

Table 27. Installation of Renewable Energy Projects (at household level)

Renewable Energy - Type	USAID-ACCESO		USAID Trilateral University of Florida	
	Accumulated Sept. 2013	Oct to Dec. 2013	Accumulated Sept. 2013	Oct to Dec. 2013
Solar Dryers	336	217		
Bio-digesters	102	10		
Eco-justa cooking stoves	1,168	4	168	107
Solar panels	42	2	5	
Ram pump	1	2		
Total	1,649	235	173	107

This activity is being carried out in close coordination with both the production and nutrition components. Solar dryers are being installed in key areas with coffee production with drying systems being implemented to add value and generate additional income; they are also being used to dry corn and beans, allspice, loofah, and cashew. This activity will continue to expand in FY2014. Biodigesters are being installed with households who work under the production component with cattle (mainly for milk production). The gas produced with the biodigester is being used for cooking and for lights (the latter being completely new in Honduras). The *eco-justa* cooking stoves are being installed in households prioritized by the nutrition component, focusing principally on those households with children under two years old. In addition to the installation, the project is giving training on use and maintenance of all the systems to ensure that they are operated correctly. *Eco-justas* are also being installed in the nutrition training centers established by the project. Additionally, trainings have been directed to staff of NGOs and municipalities on the installation of the renewable energy systems.

Of note this quarter is the installation of two hydraulic ram pumps in Piedras Azules and San Luis, Santa Bárbara. A total of 83 families in these two communities now have permanent access to potable water as a result of these systems. The previous system operated on a gasoline pump which was too expensive to repair, maintain and operate. USAID-ACCESO donated the ram pumps and the community purchased and installed the conduction pipes.

USAID-ACCESO works 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. This includes the collaborative activities carried out with the University of Florida/USAID Trilateral Agreement, where the project technicians work closely with USAID-ACCESO and install renewable energy projects with USAID-ACCESO client households and nutrition training centers. To date, this has focused on the installation of *eco-justa* stoves and solar panels in USAID-ACCESO nutrition training centers. The activities have been expanded to include the solar dryers being recommended and used by USAID-ACCESO clients (for coffee, corn and other products).

4.5. USE OF QUALITY MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCREASED (IR 4.1)

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).

The status of indicators tracked by Fintrac under this IR was presented in September 2013. Data related to underweight children is given in Table 28.

Table 28. Status of Nutrition and Health Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (Aug. 2011) ¹	Sept. 2012	Difference		% reduction/increase from baseline		% Oct. to Dec. 2013
			Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	
PIRS #19: Prevalence of underweight children under 5 ² (Target Sept. 2013/LOP -5% (-20%)):							
	22.00%	16.74%	-5.26%	-7.44%	-23.92%	-33.77%	-35.30%
¹ PIR# 19 baseline from AIN-C data for the communities with USAID-ACCESO nutrition intervention.							
² PIR#19 data collected monthly with health monitors for the communities with USAID-ACCESO nutrition interventions; data collected by health monitors only for children under 2 years old.							

PIRS #19: Prevalence of underweight children under 5

Attendance to growth monitoring sessions dropped significantly this quarter because of the coffee harvest in the mountainous areas: 4,204, 4,103 and 3,905 for October, November and December respectively. As of December, 556 (14.2 percent) children under two years old were reported as under the third percentile, of which 249 (44.8 percent) were growing adequately. To expand coverage, two key strategies will be implemented as of January 2014:

1. Community mobilization to identify and add all children less than two years of age in the community: project technicians will mobilize community to identify all children who are not attending growth monitoring sessions as well as newborns and other who are not registered in the group.
2. Expand to new communities: new communities will be identified based on presence of a decentralized health service provider in the community, existence of trained community health volunteers, presence of the USAID-ACCESO agriculture production component, and geographic location within the area of a nutrition and health technician.

Table 29. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 2 Per Department

Department	# children < 2 years				# children under 3 ^o percentile				Percentage			
	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013
La Paz	634	603	669	671	123	102	73	67	19.4	16.9	10.9	10.0%
Intibucá	629	793	750	736	185	191	124	117	29.4	24.1	16.5	15.9%
Lempira	1,260	1,177	979	752	293	165	136	128	23.3	14.0	13.9	17.0%
Copán	424	950	838	883	112	162	145	127	26.4	17.1	17.3	14.4%
Ocotepeque	419	636	427	380	92	113	84	89	22.0	17.8	19.7	23.4%
Santa Bárbara	887	595	630	483	131	63	64	28	14.8	10.6	10.2	5.8%
Total	4,253	4,754	4,293	3,905	936	796	626	557	22.0	16.7	14.6	14.2%

Table 30. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 2 Years Old Per Month

Month/Year	# Children < 2 years old	# Children under the 3 ^o percentile	%
Aug-11	4,253	936	22.0
Mar-12	4,419	834	18.9
Apr-12	4,700	892	19.0
May-12	4,944	902	18.2
Jun-12	4,664	879	18.8
Jul-12	4,972	950	19.1
Aug-12	4,895	916	18.7
Sep-12	4,754	796	16.7
Oct-12	4,835	780	16.1
Nov-12	3,815	703	18.4
Dec-12	3,615	649	18.0
Jan-13	3,911	645	16.5
Feb-13	3,903	634	16.2
Mar-13	4,042	648	16.0
Apr-13	4,191	682	16.3
May-13	4,207	649	15.4
Jun-13	4,299	649	15.1
Jul-13	4,260	663	15.6
Aug-13	4,403	651	14.8
Sep-13	4,296	626	14.6
Oct-13	4,204	607	14.4
Nov-13	4,103	508	12.4
Dec-13	3,905	556	14.2

Project implementation strategies for the treatment and prevention of malnourished children less than 2 years of age will continue to be emphasized during the upcoming periods in all six departments. To sustain progress achieved in the reduction of malnutrition, project technicians will make adjustments in the implementation of several activities during the remaining life of the project, in addition to community mobilization to improve coverage.

- **Household visits:** technicians will work closely with community members, health committee members, health volunteers, and other community members to identify households with children less than two years of age who are not attending group sessions for growth monitoring. This includes children recorded on group records as well as children who are not. In addition to the regular home visits to refresh mothers' knowledge of food preparation and feeding practices for the malnourished child and ensure they are being put into practice, household visits will be conducted by the community health volunteer and the technician to educate mothers on growth monitoring sessions and to record them. In addition to improving coverage, this strategy will provide technicians with the opportunity to increase knowledge transfer to community health volunteers and motivate them for the conduction of household visits.
- **Counseling on child nutrition, training and demonstrations for food preparation:** this is done during household visits, at the Nutrition Training Centers (NTC) and at the community health volunteers' homes. As of January 2014, project technicians will begin to coordinate with school teachers the participation of adolescent girls in fourth, fifth and six grades in training sessions held in the NTCs and will ensure they are included in training and technical assistance activities delivered at the home level during household visits.
- **Activities to ensure food availability/diet diversity at the household level:** family plots have been successful in the homes of most community health volunteers and NTCs housed in

schools. This however, has not been the case in the majority of households with children less than two years of age who need these food sources most. After a successful first cycle, many have not replanted because mothers need more guidance, technical assistance, and training to ensure proper agriculture practices are implemented in the production of promoted crops for the family plots. Agriculture production technicians existing workload does not allow sufficient time to also cover family plots. Nutrition technicians will identify individuals at the community level with the capacity to provide basic technical assistance and training to these mothers and ensure the sustained production of selected crops. This person will also provide oversight of the animal production activities (mainly the household chicken gardens). Where possible, mothers will be invited to participate in trainings and technical events conducted by the agriculture production technicians.

Many mothers leave their homes to harvest coffee, and leave children to be cared for by others or take them along exposing them to longer periods of hunger in addition to limited access to proper food sources for the child. The nutrition and health specialists are exploring strategies to improve proper child feeding during coffee harvest season through collaboration with providers of *Nutributter*, a nutrient rich food supplement and other providers of fortified food sources such as rice and lentils. This is however, unlikely to be sustainable, and other long term solutions will be needed.

PIRS #22: Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of children less than 6 months

The percentage of children receiving exclusive breastfeeding has decreased from 95.3 percent in September 2013 to 89.1 percent in December 2013. Project specialists have identified discrepancies in the concept of exclusive breastfeeding among community health volunteers and begun standardizing the concept as well as the questions asked to collect data during the monthly meetings. It is expected that in the upcoming quarters this number may continue to decrease as training of community volunteers regarding the concept and data collection is completed throughout all six departments.

Table 31. Prevalence of Exclusive Breastfeeding of Children Under 6 Months

Department	# children < 6 months				# children with exclusive breastfeeding				%			
	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013
La Paz	132	88	177	160	115	85	177	140	87.12	96.59	100	87.50
Intibucá	80	128	146	132	67	117	127	117	83.75	91.41	86.99	88.60
Lempira	285	148	160	127	269	141	154	124	94.39	95.27	96.25	98.00
Copán	93	147	159	169	90	143	146	159	96.77	97.28	91.82	94.80
Ocotepeque	80	103	100	78	77	103	97	74	96.25	100	97	98.80
Santa Bárbara	NA	74	131	80	NA	74	131	51	ND	100	100	63.70
Total	670	688	876	746	618	663	840	665	92.24	96.37	95.3	89.10

PIRS #27: Modern contraceptive prevalence rate

The modern contraception prevalence rate among mothers of children under two years of age who attend growth monitoring sessions increased from 56 percent in September 2013 to 62.5 percent in December 2013. As in September 2013, Santa Bárbara continues to be the department of highest prevalence and Intibucá the lowest.

**Table 32. Prevalence of Use of Modern Contraceptive Methods
Oct-Dec 2013**

Department	# children < 24 months			# mothers using modern contraceptive methods			%		
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
La Paz	682	650	671	317	319	214	46.5	49.1	31.9
Intibucá	680	738	736	440	411	299	64.7	55.7	31.1
Lempira	910	860	752	505	626	645	55.5	72.8	85.7
Copán	910	860	752	514	528	496	59.9	60	56.2
Ocatepeque	910	860	752	266	258	271	62.3	64.6	71.3
Santa Bárbara	620	576	483	527	486	416	85	84.4	86.1
Total	4177	4203	3745	2569	2628	2341	61.5	63.5	62.5

WP #8. Percentage of children less than two years old with two consecutive low monthly measurements

Data from March 2012 through December 2013 of children less than 2 years old in project communities with “persistent inadequate growth” (two consecutive low monthly measurements) is provided in Table 33.

Table 33. Percentage of children less than two years old with two consecutive low monthly measurements

Year	Month	TOTAL # Children	Sum of # Girls with “PIG”	Sum of # Boys with “PIG”	Sum of TOTAL # Children with “PIG”	% total	
2012	Mar	4,419	180	136	316	7.2%	
	Apr	4,700	241	165	406	8.6%	
	May	4,944	317	231	548	11.1%	
	Jun	4,678	272	213	485	10.4%	
	Jul	4,972	315	249	564	11.3%	
	Aug	4,922	294	233	527	10.7%	
	Sep	4,754	246	213	459	9.7%	
	Oct	4,778	214	180	392	8.2%	
	Nov	3,807	241	209	449	11.8%	
	Dec	3,615	214	185	397	11.0%	
	2013	Jan	3,903	176	135	307	7.9%
		Feb	3,974	177	163	339	8.5%
Mar		4,042	214	163	377	9.3%	
Apr		4,189	207	187	394	9.4%	
May		4,205	308	226	534	12.7%	
Jun		4,299	296	240	536	12.5%	
Jul		4,331	267	202	473	10.9%	
Aug		4,403	268	196	464	10.5%	
Sep		4,293	260	210	471	11.0%	
Oct		4,204	264	213	477	11.3%	
Nov		4,103	235	226	465	11.3%	

Table 33. Percentage of children less than two years old with two consecutive low monthly measurements

Year	Month	TOTAL # Children	Sum of # Girls with "PIG"	Sum of # Boys with "PIG"	Sum of TOTAL # Children with "PIG"	% total
	Dec	3,905	225	226	451	11.5%

Selected Activities

USAID-ACCESO beneficiaries are provided training in health and nutrition-related activities, complementary to assistance being provided in production systems and economic development where both components are present in the community. The project is working with nutrition activities in 211 communities in 54 municipalities, directly reaching a total of 2,843 households. Both men and women are receiving basic training in child care, prevention of illnesses, nutrition practices, keeping a healthy household, and family planning. Training subjects included exclusive breastfeeding for children under 6 months, hand washing, good household hygiene practices, safe water for human consumption, family planning, and consumption of vitamin- and nutrient-rich foods.

Examples of activities carried out during the quarter under this component included:

- Training health volunteers to improve capacities for data graphing and interpretation.
- Food preparation demonstrations to groups of mothers and caregivers to ensure diet diversity, nutrient contents, balance and portions, including the use of locally available foodstuffs. During the quarter, specialists and technicians held 570 training events with 7,764 participants (58,613 participants to date). Current quarter participants were 262 male and 7,502 female, for a total to date of 4,670 male, 53,943 female.
- 4,667 nutrition and health technical assistance visits this quarter (27,308 to date).
- The project is promoting and implementing activities to improve the availability of nutritious foods at the household level, selecting those families that present greater problems in this area. To date, more than 800 family plots have been established, designed to ensure the availability of nutritious foods year round, with crops that produce their own planting materials. Both the positive aspects of this activity and the issues to be addressed were discussed previously.
- Setting up nutrition training centers to expand outreach. Two nutrition centers were inaugurated this quarter, for a cumulative total of 22. All are equipped, installed, and are operational. These centers are used for monthly growth monitoring sessions conducted by health volunteers and for training activities with mothers and other caregivers. The remaining centers of the 40 projected are in the process of construction and equipping and are expected to be inaugurated by May. Many of the centers (and the food preparation techniques taught) are also used daily for the preparation of school meals with ingredients donated by the WFP and USDA (the latter in Intibucá by CRS). In communities where a NTC has not been established, demonstrations of food preparation and training to mothers are carried out at the homes of mothers and community health volunteers on a rotating basis. The operational centers, including those from the current quarter, are:
 - Copán: Cedrales, El Porvenir Segundo; Plan Grande; Yaruconte; Granadilla.
 - Ocotepeque: El Arco, Juhalaca, Copántillo
 - Intibucá: La Unión, Yamaranguila; Los Olivos; El Tabor; Pahizlal; San Pedro Lomas; Los Encinos; Belén Manazapa.
 - La Paz: Guascotoro; Guayabal; Santiago.
 - Santa Bárbara: Divisoria; El Jardín.
 - Lempira: San José del Ocotal; Agua Sarca; San Antonio; El Sinahi

- Developing a healthy home program. Focused initially on health volunteers and families with children less than 2 years old, changes are made at the household level (hygiene, stoves, floors, walls, water source inside the house, animals outside, etc.), which cause a major, quick and visual impact. A high percent of the low weights are caused by illnesses, most of which are preventable. A targeted household visit program has been developed to train, change, and ensure implementation of improved practices. The healthy household program activities are being carried out in all prioritized communities. A total of 1,447 *eco-justa* stoves have been installed, mainly in households with children under the age of 2 (these include 275 installed by the University of Florida). A low cost solution has been developed for covering dirt floors and walls with cement to reduce problems with dust, insects, and lack of hygiene. As this was developed and initiated by the project, some improvements have been made to the process during implementation. Some of the original floors do need repair, particularly those from the early stages and those done by unskilled labor. Most rural houses that have piped water have access outside in the garden; activities have begun to bring water inside of the kitchen. Low-cost household water filters have been distributed among families with children under the age of two. The project's natural resource management component has complemented this activity with land fill construction for solid waste management and systems for residual water treatment, both at the household level, and establishing chlorination systems of community water systems in many communities. In addition to the construction of eco-stoves, other activities this quarter included potable water connections in kitchens, improvement of floors and walls, and the installation of transparent roof sheets to enable light entry.

5. SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

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 Community Technical Units (CTUs) were operational. The final CTU was finalized in January 2012.

Project staff turnover during the past year has been high, particularly at the junior level. With relatively low salaries and low annual increases, it is difficult to retain staff; after they have been trained by the project, they are frequently taken up by other organizations who offer improved salaries and less work pressure to accomplish targets. During the reporting period, project management continued to work closely with subcontractors to identify reasons for staff turnover and ensure proper measures are put in place to address the issues. During the last two quarters 15 field staff had to be replaced. Some initiatives to improve staff motivation and promote job satisfaction among all levels of staff are in place and will be expanded during upcoming quarters.

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:

- Participation on FTF Agricultural Indicators Webinars.
- Data analysis and preparation of inputs for quarterly and annual reports.
- Registration of annual results on FTFMS.
- Updating FTFMS with 2014 and 2015 project goals.
- Programming data collecting forms on tablets and field testing.
- Ongoing registration of new EOH forms and trainees lists collected on field.
- Support provided to Laura Kulh (Tuft's University PhD student) in her research on "Innovation and Technology Transfer for Agricultural Adaptation: A Case Study of the USAID-ACCESO project".
- Elaboration of new reports to provide follow up (CIRIS linked).
- Updating the project's PMP.
- Preparation of progress reports for Subcontractor's feedback and follow-up.
- Ongoing feedback and training on CIRIS management, especially for new hires.
- Participation in departmental meetings, presenting CIRIS reports and providing critical feedback on project progress.
- Ongoing training was provided on M&E systems and data collection.
- Ongoing performing maintenance to CIRIS database.
- Participation in meetings with technical production staff to evaluate performance against results, and to prepare strategies to improve data entry and quality in CIRIS.
- Follow up and testing of the Fintrac CIRIS N&H database programming and data entry.

5.3. SMALL GRANTS, SUBCONTRACTS AND ALLIANCES PROGRAM

The small grants fund activities were expanded throughout the year and in the last quarter, especially with irrigation installation and community health related activities. Activities during the past year focused on the development of technology and partner funds in marketing, production, postharvest, nutrition and health, and disaster mitigation. It should be noted that large-scale irrigation projects, needed for the economic development component, were initiated in the previous year and will continue through the upcoming year as these activities require that growers comply with certain requirements for eligibility such as: demonstrated commitment by their actions, has passed through at least one crop cycle, followed recommendations and are committed to change traditional practices. Contributions through cost sharing are secondary to these requirements.

- # Technology fund / grants to households:
 - Accumulated to September 2013: 12,841 grants.
 - Accumulated to December 2013: 13,080 grants.
 - Current quarter: 239
- Nutrition & health grants:
 - Accumulated to September 2013: 11 grant activities
 - Accumulated to December 2013: 13 grants activities.
 - Current quarter: 2
- Disaster mitigation/NRM:
 - Accumulated to September 2013: 9 grant activities
 - Accumulated to December 2013: 9 grant activities
 - Current quarter: 0
- Renewable energy:
 - Accumulated to September 2013: 1,649 grant activities (with project funds)
 - Accumulated to December 2013: 1,884 grant activities (with project funds)
 - Current quarter: 235

A summary on the small grants and sub-contracts made is provided in Table 33.

Table 33. Small Grant and Subcontracts Program

Activity	Area	Date	#	Status	HH total to date	Orgs/ MSMEs
Installation of Photovoltaic Systems (33)	R. Energy	Nov-11	TF 2011-01	Completed	32	1
Solar Dryers (300)	R. Energy	Nov-11	TF 2011-02	Completed	287	
Installation of Small Scale Biodigesters (120/240)	R. Energy	Jan-12	TF 2011-03	Ongoing	91	
International Marketing Jumpstart (20)	Marketing	Nov-11	TF 2011-04	Ongoing		4
Installation of MSME Training Kitchen (400)	MSME	Nov-11	TF 2011-05	Completed		
Construction of Eco-Stoves (Éco-Estufas) (500)	Nutrition	Nov-11	TF 2011-06	Completed	500	
Herb Seeds (230)	Production	Dec-11	TF 2011-09	Completed	3	
Snow and Sugar Snap Pea Seeds (320)	Production	Jan-12	TF 2012-02	Completed	311	
Allspice Thresher and Cleaners for COAPIGOR (48)	Production	Mar-12	TF 2012-03	Completed		2
Irrigation Equipment (1,500)	Production	Mar-12	TF 2012-04	Completed	311	
Pea Packing Plant Equipment (200)	Production	Apr-12	TF 2012-05	Completed		1

Table 33. Small Grant and Subcontracts Program

Activity	Area	Date	#	Status	HH total to date	Orgs/ MSMEs
Weather Stations (6)	Production	May-12	TF 2012-06	Completed		6
Nutritional Training Centers - Equipment (40)	Nutrition	Apr-12	TF-2012-07	Completed	20	
Improving Rural Health Centre Capacity to Manage Under-Nutrition	Nutrition	Apr-12	TF-2012-08	Completed	20	
Bean Seeds (2,100)	Production	May-12	TF 2012-09	Completed	1,575	
Improved Diet Diversity in Households (Parcelas) (1,000)	Nutrition	Jul-12	TF 2012-10	Completed	1,074	
New Crop and Product Development	Production	May-12	TF 2012-11	Ongoing	704	6
Box Culvert Materials, Intibucá	NRM/ Disaster	Jun-12	TF 2012-12	Completed	1	
Irrigation Phase II (885)	Production	Jul-12	TF 2012-13	Completed	1,441	
Household Water Filters (600)	Nutrition	Jul-12	TF-2012-14	Ongoing	582	
Kitchen Water Connections (1,000)	Nutrition	Aug-12	TF-2012-15	Ongoing	624	
Construction of Eco-Stoves (Follow-Up) (500 + 80 CEN)	Nutrition	Sep-13	TF-2012-16	Ongoing	496	34
Biological Pest Control for Coffee (480)	Production	Sep-12	TF-2012-17	Completed	200	
Floor & Wall Improvements (1,000)	Nutrition	Oct-12	TF-2012-18	Ongoing	860	
Strengthening Market Associations (12)	Marketing	Oct-12	TF 2012-19	Ongoing	1	
Agromercados Agricultural Fair	Marketing	Oct-12	TF 2012-20	Completed		7
Yellow corn seed (4,000)	Production	Nov-12	TF 2012-22	Completed	2,355	
Crop Competitions	Production	Nov-12	TF 2013-23	Ongoing	3	
Water Systems Improvement	NRM/ Disaster	Nov-12	TF 2012-21	On-going		27
Training Workshops	Misc	Jan-13	TF 2013-24	Ongoing	112	
Training Materials and Equipment for CODELs (60)	NRM/ Disaster	Feb-13	TF 2013-25	Ongoing		
Road Rehabilitation Opatoro	NRM/ Disaster	Feb-13	TF 2013-26	Completed	118	1
Irrigation Systems - Phase III (1,449)	Production	Jun-13	TF 2013-27	Ongoing		
Greenhouses – El Maestro en Casa-Intibucá (1)	Production	Feb-13	TF 2013-28	Completed		1
Home Improvements Follow Up (1,000)	Nutrition	May-13	TF 2013-30	Ongoing	408	
Improving Diet Diversity Through Access to Animal Protein (318)	Nutrition	May-13	TF 2013-31	Completed	318	
Water Tanks & Latrines (380)	NRM/ Disaster	May-13	TF 2013-32	Ongoing		
Improving Diet Diversity Through Access to Animal Protein-Goats (13)	Nutrition	Jul-13	TF 2013-33	Completed	13	
Solar Coffee Drier Technology- Phase II (600)	Production	Jun-13	TF 2013-34	Ongoing	311	
Value added equipment (40)	MSME	Jul-13	TF 2013-35	Ongoing		
Health & Nutrition Equipment and Training	Nutrition	Dec-13	2013-36	Approved		
Yellow Corn Harvest & Marketing Support	Production	Dec-13	2013-37	Approved		
FHIA. Research and Development for Increased Productivity	Production	Nov-11	PF 2011-02	Completed		
ICADE. Disaster Mitigation (EDAN) Training (90)	NRM/ Disaster	Apr-12	PF 2012-02	Ongoing	285	
UNITEC. MSME Formalization & Training (200)	MSME	May-12	PF 2012-03	Ongoing	128	

Table 33. Small Grant and Subcontracts Program

Activity	Area	Date	#	Status	HH total to date	Orgs/ MSMEs
Agroindustrias Del Corral. Cattle Production Program (40)	Production	Nov-12	PF 2012-04	Completed	6	
Boncafe. Specialty Coffee Program (600)	Production	Nov-12	PF 2012-05	Completed	163	
R&D for Nematode activity in drip irrigation systems and soil	Production	Nov-12	PF 2012-05	Completed		
Bakery Workshops (Ana Dilet Manzanares) (75)	MSME	Nov-11	FPC 2011-01	Completed	60	
El Gourmet Katracho Promotional Cooking Events	Marketing	Aug-12	FPC 2012-01	Completed	109	
Potable Water Studies for Two Communities - Santa Bárbara (Marvin Trejo)	NRM/ Disaster	Sep-12	FPC 2012-02	Completed		4
Potable Water Studies for Two Communities- Intibucá & Lempira (Rigoberto Sandoval Reinbold)	NRM/Disaster	Sep-12	FPC 2012-03	Completed		4
10 Mitigation Studies (Oscar Carbajal)	NRM/Disaster	Sep-12	FPC 2012-04	Completed		12
Legalization of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) (Bufete Eduardo Pinto Chinchilla) (81)	MSME	Jun-13	FPC 2013-06	Ongoing		
El Gourmet Katracho Promotional Cooking Events- Part 2	Marketing	Sep-13	FPC 2013-07	Ongoing		
Multidimensional Poverty Study by TECHO	Nutrition	Dec-13	FPC 2013-08	Approved		

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; production of garden-grown vegetables to generate food for the family; and fruit tree production. 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. Selected gender related activities and numbers include:

- 21 percent of the project's client households are registered as women clients (7,211 clients). Note – these are not necessarily women headed households. These are the persons registered as receiving direct assistance from the project. The household can contain men, but they are not receiving assistance or are not the principal project client in the household. 95 percent of client household are “men and women” (not necessarily a couple), while 2 percent are women only and 3 percent are men only.
- 15,181 of the 48,756 individuals that have received project agricultural sector productivity or food security training are women (31 percent).
- Fintrac's gender specialists are making plans to repeat the focus groups with client households to determine the progress on roles, responsibilities, division of labor and decision making for household expenses and investments.

5.5. IFPRI

IFPRI has been contracted by USAID to carry out selected M&E activities and impact evaluations. As of September 2013, IFPRI has conducted the baseline survey and the midterm evaluation among USAID-ACCESO client households. USAID-ACCESO's involvement with IFPRI has been as follows:

- Participation in an IFPRI presentation on baseline data.
- Comments provided on baseline data report.
- USAID-ACCESO client data provided when requested in 2012 and 2013.

USAID-ACCESO has not seen the mid-term report; no correspondence or meetings were held with IFPRI during the current quarter.

5.6. COMMUNICATIONS

Activities during the quarter included:

- Participation in technical programs on the government channel, including corn production, pest and disease control and marketing.
- Project participation in numerous exhibitions and trade events including coffee, fresh produce, gifts, finance and cooking demonstrations/product promotion.
- Preparation of project "infographic" posters.
- Preparation of short technical videos, promotional materials, and product catalogs.
- Preparation of four USAID-ACCESO Snapshots (41 to date).

Field Visits

Various field visits were organized for staff and visitors from USAID and other local and international organizations. These included:

- Various field visits from the Minister of Agriculture, including the USAID-ACCESO corn productivity competition in Copán, drip irrigation system inauguration in Intibucá.
- Various field visits with USAID/Honduras representatives, including the USAID-ACCESO corn productivity competition in La Paz, project activities in Lempira and Ocotepeque (including preparation for proposed visits from the Ambassador and AID Director), and project activities in La Paz (including for proposed visits from the WFP Director).

Selected Activities with Government Ministries

USAID-ACCESO is collaborating with several government ministries and institutions, both informally and formally through signed memorandum. These include:

- SAG: wide range of activities including training of SAG technicians, organization of the USAID-ACCESO consultative committee meetings, ad-hoc committee for approval of technical production manuals, Ministerial meetings regarding policy activities and rural village bank financing; visits by the Minister to USAID-ACCESO field activities,
- SAG: donation of small scale drip irrigation systems to USAID-ACCESO clients.
- SAG: on behalf of project growers, USAID-ACCESO applied for large scale overhead irrigation systems (5 hectares each); all have been approved and are awaiting final documentation.
- Ministry of Health through coordination with health centers.
- SIC: registration of MSMEs.
- INFOP: joint training activities in agricultural production and processing.

- SEPLAN / FIDA Proyecto Horizontes del Norte. Meetings to access finance and support for 10 grower organizations assisted by USAID-ACCESO.
- COPECO: training events for CODELs.

While the project does not work through the government, the relationships and agreements with them facilitate implementation; expand outreach; promote information; technology and methodology exchange; and increase visibility.

USAID-Honduras / World Food Program Agreement

The World Food Program works in the same departments as USAID-ACCESO with a range of activities. Following a field visit to project sites in La Paz (December 2011) by the US Ambassador to the UN, the US Ambassador to Honduras, USAID/Honduras, Honduran Minister of Agriculture, and PMA representatives, an agreement was developed between USAID and the WFP to collaborate on the implementation of field activities. Following the signing of the agreement between USAID and WFP in May 2012, USAID-ACCESO and WFP have worked on a range of activities. Selected activities during the quarter included:

- WFP provided financial support for the development of EDAN courses carried out by USAID-ACCESO in the six departments. Work in this area will continue through coordination with the WFP in Santa Rosa de Copán, in addition to COPECO, the MITIGATE Project, the Higuato Intermunicipal Council, and ICADE. Activities will include training events aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of the municipalities in First Aid, Incident Command Systems, Climate Change Adaptation, among others.
- In the reforestation and resilience to climate change project that is operating in five municipalities in La Paz with the involvement of WFP, ICF, and MANLESIP, USAID-ACCESO provided technical assistance and training to technicians and community leaders in adaptation to climate change, environmental law, payment for environmental services, watershed management, handling of fruit trees, and soil conservation. (A UNA student working with USAID-ACCESO carried out their thesis within this project).
- USAID-ACCESO business skills and marketing components worked with the P4P program (Purchase for Progress) to include the Cooperative Justice Progress and Peace (a project client in Santa Bárbara) as a grain supplier to the WFP. After seven months of negotiations/discussions, a contract was signed for 60 MT of white maize and 15 MT of beans. USAID-ACCESO also assisted UNESSELL in Lempira to obtain a contract with PMA for 50 MT of beans (with USAID-ACCESO producers) and 300 MT of beans for all of the members of the cooperative. The terms of these contracts provide the cooperatives with 30 percent of the value at the time of signing, with prices based on market conditions.
- A meeting was held during the quarter with USAID and the new WFP director to determine possible joint activities, including funding of NTCs and project growers supplying vegetables to the school feeding program. These are expected to be followed up in the next quarter.

Municipal Governments

USAID-ACCESO has coordinated field activities with 80 municipalities of the 129 municipalities in the six departments:

Copán	10 of 23 municipalities
Intibucá	5 of 15 municipalities
La Paz	18 of 19 municipalities
Lempira	13 of 28 municipalities

Ocotepeque	14 of 16 municipalities
Santa Bárbara	20 of 28 municipalities

Student Training

USAID-ACCESO receives requests from schools, colleges, and universities to provide internships or on-the-job training to students, areas for work practices, and conditions for carrying out study thesis. During the quarter, 79 students from 14 institutions received a total of 618 weeks of on-the-job training. To date, 514 students from 38 different schools, technical colleges and universities have received a more than 4,000 weeks of on-the-job technical training from USAID-ACCESO. The main technical areas were in production, nutrition, business skills, processing and natural resource management. Schools and students have also been incorporated into community clean-up campaigns to remove garbage.

Local NGO and Organizations

USAID-ACCESO is working with more than 100 private and public organizations to coordinate activities and facilitate project implementation. Technical areas of collaboration included production, nutrition and health, renewable energy, natural resource management, and disaster mitigation. These range from grower organizations, cooperatives, local and international NGOs, donor projects, “mancomunidades,” and government institutions. Examples include Plan de Honduras, ASONOG, Caritas, Childfund, Red Cross, Fundación Banhcafe, Heifer International, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, COMRURAL, SwissContact, SOCDEVI and others.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSTRAINTS

Several administrative constraints have been presented in previous reports. These include:

- Staff turnover
- Tax exonerations
- Vehicle registration/exoneration
- Security
- Time for certain approvals

All of these points remain as previously reported and discussed.

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

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

- Initiate new and continue the development of existing market-driven production programs in all six departments for high-value cash crops to meet local and regional markets demand, including potato, carrot, broccoli, cauliflower, peppers, garlic, French beans, Asian vegetables, plantain, onion, and cucumbers.
- Continue procurement and installation of irrigation infrastructure for producers in all six departments.
- Continue production of yellow corn under contract with local processors.
- Continue training and technical assistance to coffee growers on basic production practices, with particular emphasis on prevention and control of coffee rust.
- Continue implementing technology investment fund small grants projects for productive infrastructure.
- Continue delivery of technical assistance to off-farm MSME's to improve efficiencies, reduce production cost, improve food safety, product packaging and market promotion.
- Continue and expand the animal production initiatives in Copán and La Paz.
- Begin negotiations with selected municipalities for the sustainability of selected project productive activities among growers.
- Continue technical assistance in postharvest to all project growers, with specific emphasis on coffee growers under agreement with BonCafé, growers producing French beans under contract with UNISPIICE, and fruit producers and yellow corn growers selling to the local food industry.
- Finalize warehouse receipts projects (*pignoración*) with selected basic grain growers.
- Safe pesticide use and application training to *agrotiendas* and growers.
- Develop postharvest protocols and quality standards for a range of crops including strawberry, passion fruit, yellow corn, corn, plantain, potato, coffee, tomato, peppers, and eggplant.

Rural MSMEs access to new market opportunities increased

- Consolidate, formalize, and promote local farmers' fairs in new locations in all six departments.

- Increase the number of local buyers for increased market linkages and production programs.
- Expand the local distributor and retail outlet network in local towns for MSME sales with off-farm value added products.
- Expand out-grower programs for local exporters and processors.
- Expand calendarized production programs for local market buyers.
- Continue the legalization process of selected MSMEs.
- Continue support to selected MSMEs to increase their productivity and marketing capacity
- Continue the implementation of *Agrotiendas* in selected departments.

Barriers to competitiveness of rural MSMEs reduced

- Documentation to formalize local market fairs.
- Continue with SAG on the standardization of the technical production packages for plantain and oil palm.
- Continue and expand implementation of project clients' access to financial products developed with input providers, exporters, cooperatives, and other financial service providers in each of the six departments.
- Continue training and technical assistance to first and second tier rural banks.
- Expand the contracted research and development activities targeted to increase productivity for key crops.

Biodiversity and natural resources conserved

At the farm level

- Expand and continue 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

- Continue implementing projects funded under the small grant program for disaster mitigation, potable water, and basic sanitation projects.
- Continue promoting and implementing natural microorganisms as alternatives for coffee pulp treatment.
- Continue the rehabilitation of chlorinators.
- Continue assistance to water boards and community and municipal leaders in effluent treatment projects and management of water chlorinators.

Disaster vulnerability reduced

- Continue implementation of mitigation plans in 20 communities.
- Continue the implementation of projects funded under the small grant program for disaster mitigation projects (roads, flood prevention, landslide prevention, disaster mitigation capacity building).
- Continue disaster mitigation training to CODELS in coordination with COPECO.
- Establish alliances with new municipal authorities and continue training of Municipal Emergency Committees to strengthen their operational capacities.
- Continue the organization and strengthening of at least 30 Local Emergency Committees.

Renewable energy projects

- Continue to install and train on the concepts and critical points of design and installation of eco-stoves, biodigesters, and solar crop dryers in the six departments.
- Continue to train users and owners on the use and maintenance of improved stoves, biodigesters, and solar dryers.
- Continue the coordination of activities with the trilateral program USA/Honduras/Brazil in renewable energy activities.

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

- Continue with the expansion of the IEC strategy in targeted communities.
- Continue the instalment of safe water systems for families with children under the age of two.
- Continue providing assistance to client households for family plots for increased food availability.
- Continue equipment and operations of nutrition training centers.
- Continue promoting family planning, reproductive risk, and quality maternal and child health practices through basic messages.
- Expand training events in food preparation and diet diversity to ensure nutrient uptake.
- 500 households in targeted area with at least one household improvement.
- Continue and expand household visits to provide direct technical assistance to those families with children less than two years of age.
- Continue coordinating field activities with the health units and other service providers in targeted communities

Gender mainstreaming

- Continue to promote and follow up on gender inclusion activities in the day-to-day implementation of USAID-ACCESO.
- Monitor project activities' consistency with recommendations highlighted in the gender mainstreaming plan.
- Ensure training events and technical assistance delivery schedules and methodologies are promoting participation of women and youth.

Project management and administrative activities

- Continue developing formal alliances with selected counterpart institutions and private sector companies.
- Continue providing support, supervision, and oversight to implementation activities.
- Monitor PMP indicators for preparation of reports and guidance to implementation plans for the following quarter.
- Detailed review with individual field technicians of activities and targets.
- Identify and provide human resource development and motivational activities.
- Develop project closeout plan.

Monitoring and evaluation activities

- Maintenance of the CIRIS database.
- Assessment of data entered into CIRIS.
- Preparation of inputs for monthly and quarterly.
- Updating PMP monitor.
- Elaboration of progress reports for Subcontractors.

- Full usage of tablets to collect sample clients EOH and IFF data.
- Continue registering trainees lists on CIRIS.
- Begin registering the monthly child monitoring data in the newly developed Fintrac nutrition and health CIRIS.
- Follow up to meetings with technical production staff to evaluate performance and data entering.
- Provide management reports, on advancement of all project components, to department and zone managers for performance evaluation and decision making.
- Participate in project management meetings.
- Coordinate a field study with TECHO on “Poverty Assessment from a Multidimensional Perspective.”
- M&E management participation in a Fintrac M&E International Conference.

Small grants, subcontracts, and alliances program

- Continue the support and assistance in the procurement and distribution of services, equipment and supplies under the existing activities as well as new activities proposed.
- Continue the design and approval process for new initiatives identified in the areas of production, health and nutrition, value added, natural resource management and disaster mitigation.
- Renew local subcontractor agreements with OCDIH, Hermandad de Honduras, PILARH, CASM, Save the Children, COPRAFEL and IHCAFE.
- Implement recommendations from Fintrac’s internal audit to subcontractors.
- Ensure proper close-out procedures and documentation for completed projects.
- Monitor projects’ implementation in concurrence with small grants operational manual.
- New alliances with private sector companies and municipalities.

ANNEX I: PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

The PMP and work plan targets for each indicator is provided below, together with the overall status as of December 2013. These are 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 are collected via annual surveys. Note: this FY 2014 PMP/workplan is in the USAID review process.

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011)	YEAR 2 (FY 2012)	YEAR 3 (FY 2013)	STATUS	YEAR 4 TARGETS (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)				Year 4 Target	Total END OF Year 4	UPDATED LOP (Feb. 2015)	ORIGINAL LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 4 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2013)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2013)	Updated Status (12/2013)
	ACHIEVED Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	ACHIEVED Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	ACHIEVED Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013		Sept. 2013	Q1	Q2	Q3						Q4	Male				
1 Program Administrative Activities																			
Start-Up Activities																			
1.1	done															done			
1.2	1															done			
1.3	2															done			
1.4	cars/motorbikes															done			
1.5	done				on-going	on-going										done			
1.6	done				on-going											done			
1.7																done			
Communications & Reporting																			
1.8	1															done			
1.9	1															done			
1.10		1		1												done			
1.11	6	12	12	30	3	3	3	3	12	42	46	46	Reports			30		3	33
1.12	2	4	4	10	1	1	1	1	4	14	15	15	Reports			10		1	11
1.13	1	1	1	3	1				1	4	4	4	Workplans			3			4
1.14													1			1			
1.15		2		2	1			1	2	4	5	5	Meeting Minutes			2			2
2 Project Monitoring & Evaluation Activities																			
2.1	done															done			
2.2	done															done			
2.3	1											1	Plan			done			
2.4													Data			done			
2.6													Data			on-going			
2.7		1	1	2	1				1	3	4	4						done	
2.8	2	18	17	37	3	3	3	3	12	49	53	53	Publications			37		4	41
3 Small Grants Program																			
3.1		5,160	7,681	12,841	500	500	500	500	2,000	14,841	14,841	14,841				12,841		239	13,080
3.2		4	7	11					0	11	11	11				11		2	13
3.3		4	5	9					0	9	9	9				9		0	9
3.4	4	724	921	1,649	25	25	25	25	100	1,749	1,749	805				1,649		235	1,884
3.5		5,896	8,614	14,510	525	525	525	525	2,100	16,610	16,610	16,610				14,510		476	14,986

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011)	YEAR 2 (FY 2012)	YEAR 3 (FY 2013)	STATUS	YEAR 4 TARGETS (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)				Year 4 Target	Total END OF Year 4	UPDATED LOP (Feb. 2015)	ORIGINAL LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 4 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2013)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2013)	Updated Status (12/2013)	
	ACHIEVED Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	ACHIEVED Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	ACHIEVED Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013		Sept. 2013	Q1	Q2	Q3						Q4	Male					Female
High Level Targets																				
GOAL: Increased Rural Household Incomes																				
PIRS # 1	Number of households living in poverty moved above the poverty line	1,183	1,053	2,236					5,264	7,500	10,000	30,000	Households	4,211	1,053	2,236		0	2,236	
PIRS # 2	Number of rural households living in extreme poverty moved above the poverty line ¹	834	796	1,630					4,370	6,000	7,500	18,000	Households	3,496	874	1,630		0	1,630	
PIRS # 3	Value of new net income of participant rural farmers and MSMEs	7,100	-6,937	0.163					25.00	25.16	30.00	73.95	US\$ Million	22.50	2.50	0.163		-6,937	-6,774	
PIRS # 4	Number of jobs attributed to FTF implementation	2,332	243	2,575					400	2,975	3,250	10,425	FTEs	320	80	2,575		243	2,818	
Increased Agricultural Productivity																				
PIRS # 5	Value of incremental sales (collected at farm/firm level) attributed to FTF implementation	12,400	-4,388	8,012					50.00	58.01	68.00	133.65	US\$ Million	45.00	5.00	8,012		-4,388	3,624	
IR 2.1: RURAL MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (MSME) GROWTH INCREASED																				
Sub-IR 2.1.1: RURAL MSMEs' ACCESS TO INPUTS, PRACTICES, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR MARKET PARTICIPATION IMPROVED																				
Implementation of updated production technologies (on-farm and off-farm)																				
WP # 1	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	7,723	15,671	21,110	44,504	2,500	3,250	3,250	1,000	10,000	54,504	55,500	55,500	Individuals	8,066	1,935	44,504	0	4,252	48,756
WP # 2	Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries	13,571	134,840	267,955	416,366	25,000	29,500	29,500	28,000	112,000	528,366	550,000	378,400	Extension Visits			416,366	864	71,142	488,372
WP # 12	Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools)	63	142	50	255	20	15	10	10	55	310	310	225	Technical materials			255	0	41	296
WP # 10	Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project	285	417	132	834	5	5	0	0	10	844	844	805	MSMEs	4	6	834	0	9	843
PIRS # 6	Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation	0.079	3,018	4,451	7,548	1.60	2.00	2.00	1.96	7.56	15.11	17.00	21.60	New private sector investment (Millions)			7,548	0.004	0.343	7,894
WP # 11	Number of female individuals in training activities	2,202	5,729	5,711	13,642	700	900	700	200	2,500	16,142	16,200	8,300	Female Individuals			13,642	0	1,539	15,181
PIRS # 7	Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	4,592	14,270	18,862	2,400	3,000	3,079	1,000	9,479	28,341	28,500	22,050	MSMEs	7,583	1,896	18,862		n/a	18,862	
Private sector alliances and integration of private sector equipment, input and service providers																				
PIRS # 30	Number of organizations / companies providing business development / extension services to MSMEs	0	78	110	188	10	15	10	5	40	228	250	465	organizations / companies providing services to MSMEs			188	0	11	199
PIRS # 32	Number of public-private partnerships formed	3	23	15	41	6	8	8	2	24	65	65	65	PPP formed			41	0	3	44
PIRS # 33	Number of private sector alliances developed	merged to PIRS # 32											PSAs Formed							
Grower organization and the development of market driven production programs																				
PIRS # 33	Number of producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance	40	150	31	221	10	18	17	5	50	271	271	210	Organizations / associations / CBOs receiving assistance			221		0	221
WP # 3	Number of small farmer associations formally established as businesses	0	118	118	30	35	30	5	100	218	225	55	Associations formally established as businesses			118		0	118	

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011)	YEAR 2 (FY 2012)	YEAR 3 (FY 2013)	STATUS	YEAR 4 TARGETS (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)				Year 4 Target	Total END OF Year 4	UPDATED LOP (Feb. 2015)	ORIGINAL LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 4 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2013)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2013)	Updated Status (12/2013)	
	ACHIEVED Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	ACHIEVED Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	ACHIEVED Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013		Sept. 2013	Q1	Q2	Q3						Q4	Male					Female
SUB-IR 2.1.2: RURAL MSMEs' ACCESS TO NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED																				
Development of buyer linkages and logistics																				
WP # 4	Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker	35	1,403	5,486	6,924	750	750	1,000	1,000	3,500	10,424	10,932	10,932	MSMEs	3,150	350	6,924	0	6,924	
PIRS # 12	Number of brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs	10	19	41	70	25	25	35	35	120	190	225	500	Brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs			70	0	70	
WP # 6	Number of market surveys conducted	1	5	3	9	0	1	1	1	3	12	12	24	Market Surveys			9	0	9	
Production and systems implementation to meet buyers quality standards																				
WP # 5	Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers		550	1,521	2,071	100	300	350	200	950	3,021	3,250	2,996	MSMEs	808	143	2,071	0	2,071	
Implementation of business certification programs																				
PIRS # 13	Number of MSMEs that have been verified to meet market standards for their products	35	882	836	1,753	75	250	300	125	750	2,503	2,750	2,000	MSMEs			1,753	0	1,753	
SUB-IR 2.1.3: BARRIERS TO COMPETITIVENESS OF RURAL MSMEs REDUCED																				
Increased access to finance																				
PIRS # 14	Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing as the result of USG assistance	315	1,577	2,826	4,718	300	700	600	400	2,000	6,718	7,000	4,314	MSMEs accessing finance	1,600	400	4,718	2	97	4,817
PIRS # 15	Value of Agricultural and Rural Loans made to MSMEs	0.200	1.554	6.072	7.826	0.50	1.15	0.98	0.65	3.28	11.11	11.50	6.33	Value of loans (millions)	2.62	0.66	7.826	0.162	0.691	8.679
PIRS # 11	Number of MSMEs implementing sound business management practices		695	4,498	5,193	500	750	1,250	750	3,250	8,443	8,482	8,482	MSMEs	2,600	650	5,193	0	5,193	
PIRS # 16	Number of value chain / sector constraints identified and resolved		1	16	17	5	5	7	6	23	40	40	40	Constraints			17	0	5	22
PIRS # 17	Number of policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed for which implementation has begun with USG assistance	1	2	2	5						5	5	4	Policies, regulations or administrative procedures passed			5	0	1	6
PIRS # GNDR-2	Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (ADDED FY 2012-2013)			17.4%	17.4%					19%	19%	20%	20%	Percentage			17.4%		17.9%	17.9%
Applied research and development programs developed																				
XX	R&D projects and Activities identified	1	8	2	11					0	11	11					11			11

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011)	YEAR 2 (FY 2012)	YEAR 3 (FY 2013)	STATUS	YEAR 4 TARGETS (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)				Year 4 Target	Total END OF Year 4	UPDATED LOP (Feb. 2015)	ORIGINAL LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 4 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2013)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2013)	Updated Status (12/2013)
	ACHIEVED Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	ACHIEVED Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	ACHIEVED Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013		Sept. 2013	Q1	Q2	Q3						Q4	Male				
IR 2.2: Honduran Biodiversity and Natural Resources Conserved and IR 2.3: CAPACITY TO ADAPT AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE STRENGTHENED																			
Implementation of NRM practices on farm																			
PIRS # 8		8,321	7,694	16,014	500	750	833	500	2,583	18,597	19,000	14,904	Hectares	2,325	258	16,014		0	16,014
PIRS # 10	0	356	350	707	2,500	3,500	3,500	2,500	12,000	12,707	15,000	22,050	Companies (including farms)	10,800	1,200	707		0	707
Implementation of NRM practices at community and municipality levels																			
PIRS # 9		7	24	31	2	2	2	2	8	39	39	20	Local Municipal Governments			31		0	31
SUB-IR 2.3.3: DISASTER VULNERABILITY REDUCED																			
Development and implementation of disaster mitigation plans and systems																			
PIRS # 28		11	50	61	2	2	0	0	4	65	65	40	Communities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity			61		0	61
Installation of renewable energy technologies																			
PIRS # 29	4	724	921	1,649	25	25	25	25	100	1,749	1,749	805	Projects established			1,822		342	2,164
IR 4.1: USE OF QUALITY MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCREASED																			
PIRS # 18											-20%	-20%	% reduction from baseline						
PIRS # 19		33.8%	-33.8%	33.8%				-5%	-5%		-20%	-20%	% reduction from baseline	-5.0%	-5.0%	-33.8%		-33.8%	-33.8%
PIRS # 20											-20%	-20%	% reduction from baseline						
PIRS # 21				60.6%					30%		30%	30%	% increase over baseline					60.6%	60.6%
PIRS # 22		4.5%	3.3%	4.47%				5%	5%		20%	20%	% increase over baseline			4.47%		3.32%	3.32%
PIRS # 23			-0.4%						-5%		-5%	-5%	% reduction from baseline			-0.4%		-0.4%	-0.4%
PIRS # 24			7.4%						-10%		-20%	-20%	% reduction from baseline			7.4%		7.4%	7.4%
PIRS # 25			4.3%						20%		30%	30%	% Change in HDDS			4.3%		4.3%	4.3%
PIRS # 26												20	Health Facilities						
PIRS # 27		103.6%	103.6%	103.6%					2.5%		10.0%	10%	% Increase over baseline	2.5%	2.5%	11.2%		103.6%	103.6%
WP # 8		9.7%	11.0%	11.0%									%			11.0%		10.6%	10.6%
WP # 9																			

ANNEX II: SNAPSHOTS & MONTHLY SUMMARIES



USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SNAPSHOT

Potato Association Sells to Leading Supermarket

USAID-ACCESO provides technical assistance to groups of farmers to increase income and market shares.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Pánfilo Meza, leader of the El Rodeo potato association, prepares to wash his harvested potatoes for sale to a national supermarket chain.

“We used to work the traditional way, now our harvest is different: the potatoes are bigger and better quality.”

Pánfilo Meza, Potato Producer

In the department of Intibucá, Honduras, potato production is one of the main sources of income for many families, but most are not producing up to their potential. USAID-ACCESO is working with potato farmers to enhance production through continuous on-farm training and technical assistance.

Working with small groups of farmers, project technicians introduce activities such as soil preparation, raised beds, drip irrigation systems, and calendarized planting programs in which each farmer plants and harvests 0.35 hectares every week to ensure a constant supply for the market.

Postharvest specialists also teach farmers best practices for efficient product handling, classification, washing, and packing to ensure the harvested crop meets quality standards for formal markets.

Since 2011, USAID-ACCESO has supported a potato production association in the community of El Rodeo (*Asociativa de Campesinos de Producción El Rodeo*). This group has 25 members and is led by Pánfilo Meza.

Before working with the project, the farmers planted their potatoes using traditional methods that did not take into account plant spacing or proper fertilizer application, but since incorporating the good agricultural practices they learned from USAID-ACCESO, they have increased their average yields by 230 percent.

“With the technical assistance from USAID-ACCESO, our [harvest] is different: the potatoes are bigger and better quality. We know can sell to supermarkets and earn more money,” Meza said.

Access to markets is a huge obstacle for smallholder farmers; most of them sell to middlemen at consistently low prices. Before forming the association, the producers sold to individual brokers at around \$0.43 per kilogram; they are earning more than double at \$0.97 per kilogram by selling to national supermarket chains, including Hortifruti y La Colonia.

With the additional income, Meza said that farmers can now pay for their children’s education, transportation, and health care. They are also exploring opportunities to invest in new crops to diversify their production.

USAID-ACCESO supports farmers through technical assistance, specifically in the implementation of good agricultural practices and calendarized planting programs to help them establish concrete relationships with local, regional, and international buyers, ensuring a reliable source of income.



USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SNAPSHOT

Farmer Field Visits Motivate Producers

USAID-ACCESO promotes the exchange of experiences among farmers who want to implement good production practices.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Johnny Molina, producer of corn, coffee and fruit in the community of Santa Ana, Santa Barbara department.

"I did everything the technician told me...I never had a cornfield like this. I feel so motivated because I'm learning a lot."

Johnny Molina

Rural Honduran farmers are often hindered by little technical knowledge and lack of access to financial resources and agricultural inputs, resulting in low yields and poor quality. Most farmers focus on one crop, generally corn or coffee, which makes them especially susceptible to price fluctuations, changes in market demand or pests and diseases.

USAID-ACCESO is working with smallholder farmers in western Honduras to introduce improved production practices and high-quality inputs. To increase buy-in, project specialists are taking small groups of producers to visit other ACCESO-supported farmers who have already seen vast improvements in their production. These field visits help motivate the new farmers to follow project recommendations.

Johnny Molina, of Santa Ana, Santa Barbara, was one of the farmers to make the field visits and, subsequently, begin planting corn, coffee, onions, chile, and passion fruit using many of the good agricultural practices he observed during the visits.

Before working with the project, Molina planted 0.7 hectares of corn that yielded 14 quintals, earning him only \$183. With the implementation of good practices such as land preparation, seed selection, plant spacing, fertilizer application, and weed control, he increased his yields by 875 percent, harvesting 123 quintals worth \$1,600.

"I used to only fertilize my corn sometimes," Molina said. "I did everything the technician told me...and now there is a big difference...I never had a cornfield like this, I feel so motivated because I'm learning a lot."

Molina plans to invest his net income of \$1,250 in additional inputs to expand his passion fruit and coffee production. He also wants to purchase better school supplies for his children and make some home improvements.

Field visits between producers have been implemented since USAID-ACCESO began in 2011; they provide essential support between producers in similar situations and locations. The visits confirm that project-promoted activities are reaping impressive results for small-scale farmers, translating directly to more nutritious food on the table and extra money in pockets.

USAID-ACCESO is currently working with 34,754 households on production and postharvest practices, introduction of new crops, and market linkages. Diversifying from traditional crops such as coffee and maize into high-value horticulture production provides new revenue opportunities, promotes economic growth and long-term sustainability, and helps improve food security and nutrition by introducing new and healthier fruits and vegetables into diets.



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SNAPSHOT

Drip Irrigation Transforms Coffee Production

USAID-ACCESO provides technical assistance in the implementation of good practices for planting and harvesting coffee.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

German Rivera installed a drip irrigation system on his small coffee plot in Jilote, Santa Barbara. Thanks to this and other good agricultural practices, Rivera is earning the same amount of revenue as producers with plots 10 times bigger.

“What I obtained before was very little and I invested always more; the technician showed me that first I had to plant in beds and install an irrigation system.”

German Rivera, Coffee Producer

Coffee is one of Honduras' most important economic and social agricultural crops, accounting for more than 20 percent of jobs in rural areas, both through direct cultivation and indirect employment from processing and transportation. But the industry has faced many difficulties because of plantation mismanagement and an outbreak of the coffee leaf rust disease.

USAID-ACCESO production specialists are providing technical assistance to coffee farmers, particularly with use of basic production practices to increase yields and revenue. Some growers have now taken this further and have installed drip irrigation technology. Constant access to water allows continuous production, not only for coffee crops, but also for new high-value crops such as tomatoes.

For German Rivera, the installation of a drip irrigation system has drastically improved his coffee production. Drip irrigation saves water by controlling the amount of water applied directly to the plants, and uses only that needed by the plants. Rivera also received technical assistance and training from production specialists who taught him to plant his coffee at the right density and in raised beds to maximize the benefits of the irrigation and fertigation systems.

Before project intervention, Rivera only harvested tomato on 0.13 hectares of land and earned less than \$600. “I harvested very little before and I always invested more [with no results], but the technician showed me that first I had to plant in beds,” he said.

With support from USAID-ACCESO and the new drip irrigation and fertilization system, Rivera yielded 17 quintals worth \$1,200 from his small two-year old coffee plot – the same amount other farmer's yield from plots nearly 10 times in size.

Next year looks to be even more productive: “I will yield at least 22 quintals from the 0.13 hectares, which will help me develop the property and expand into new crops,” he said.

With the implementation of good agricultural practices such as fertilization, soil preparation, raised beds, and drip irrigation, farmers and their families earn more money and can access healthier food. Rivera can also prevent and overcome problems caused by pests, diseases, and even climate change, which have affected coffee growers across the region.

USAID-ACCESO specialists continue to work with small-scale coffee producers in rural communities, promoting basic coffee and cultural practices that prevent disease and ensure food security for more than 30,000 households in western Honduras.



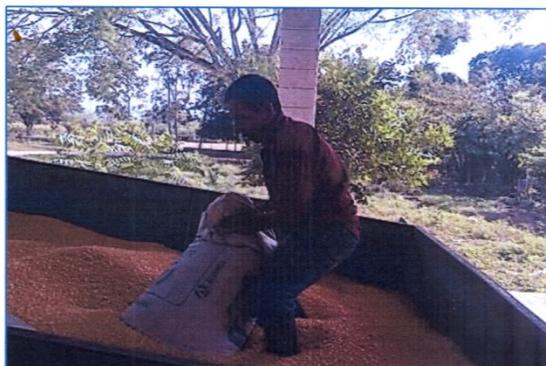
Monthly Bulletin *October 2013*

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,880 households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting production technologies and practices to increase incomes and improve the overall quality of life. The project is benefitting 186,054 people – 90 percent of whom live in poverty and extreme poverty conditions – through technical assistance and training in production, value-added processing, natural resource management, renewable technologies, disaster mitigation, and nutrition and health.
- During the month of October 243 new hectares were cultivated under project technical assistance reaching a total production area of 43,311 hectares, including: 17,906 hectares of coffee, 22,159 of basic grains, and 3,246 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area were: coffee, beans, sweet potato, onions, avocado, corn, banana, tomato, cabbage, and passion fruit.
- This month, USAID-ACCESO conducted the first delivery of yellow corn from small-scale producers in Santa Bárbara to national markets through ALIANSA, a Honduran distributor. The delivery of 665 quintals of corn was worth \$8,780. In the coming months, producers will be delivering additional harvested crops from the departments of Copán and Lempira.
- USAID-ACCESO opened a new nutrition training center in Goascoroto, La Paz. The center is located in a school where it provides nutrition and health education to local mothers on how to prepare healthy foods for children under two years old. The center also trains mothers who participate in the school lunch initiative.



All photos by Fintrac Inc.
ACCESS to new markets: Project clients participate in agribusiness fairs, displaying their products and establishing contact with buyers and input providers.



ACCESS to new opportunities: Producers growing yellow maize under contract are guaranteed a reliable market and fair prices.

USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, October 2013

Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,482	24,575	1,218
Intibucá	5,635	39,818	1,041
La Paz	5,784	29,578	980
Lempira	6,736	42,273	1,740
Ocotepeque	4,404	23,205	756
Santa Bárbara	6,829	26,605	1,385
Otros	0	0	716
TOTAL	34,870	186,054	7,836

*Includes: MSMEs, buyers, input and service providers, municipal corporations, counterpart organizations.

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USAID-ACCESO is assisting more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara to lift these rural households above the poverty line and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.



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ACCESS to technical knowledge: Copán producers visited producers in Ocotepeque to learn basic production practices.

VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to create new products from locally available resources to generate off-farm employment opportunities. This month, 416 participants attended 81 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices, and techniques to produce frozen chicken tacos, frozen beans, and other dairy and bakery products. Clients also learned how to construct eco-stoves.

Forestry specialists continued promoting legal tree felling and working with woodcrafters to build furniture, doors, chests, and other in-demand products for sale to local markets.



ACCESS to new options: a partnership with La Colonia supermarkets presented recipes and nutritious foods with harvested products from ACCESO producers.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 25,684 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 19,793 strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics, including basic practices for coffee and horticulture crops; soil preparation and management; pest, disease, and weed identification and control; transplant and planting; fertilization program management; nutrient balance; adequate use of agrochemicals; soil conservation; and contour plowing.

1,476 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene; 1,209 on processing; 732 on business skills such as production logs and controlling costs; 493 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 290 visits focused on natural resource management; and 890 on postharvest and certification.



ACCESS to new opportunities: Handling and sorting passion fruit for sale and commercialization to new markets in the community of La Entrada, Copán.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

In October, 51 participants attended eight training events on market information. The producers and buyers learned about quality standards and regulations, supply, and the negotiation process.

Marketing specialists coordinated tours of producers' plots to increase market exposure for small-scale farmers and deliver information about market routes and formal buyer requirements. This month, the project organized 156 visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, and transportation coordination.



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ACCESS to better nutrition and health: A mother feeds her baby at the inauguration of a new nutritional training center in the community of Guascotoro, La Paz.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 184 training events, giving 2,582 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 1,072 participants were trained in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 133 participants learned about nutritious food preparation and practiced recipes for natural juices, rice with vegetables, fortified tortillas, bean soup, and other vitamin-rich recipes made from low-cost and accessible ingredients. 343 participants learned “healthy household” practices: the concept of establishing healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

DRIP IRRIGATION

USAID-ACCESO agricultural production specialists provided technical assistance in the installation of drip irrigation systems to ensure continuity and high yields in production and increased revenue.

The drip irrigation technology maximizes water use by controlling the volume of water that is delivered directly to the plants through the drip systems. The also allow accurate, regular and cost effective delivery of fertilizers and biologicals controls to the plants. Constant access to water allows continuous production, healthier crops and crop diversification, all of which lead to higher incomes. By diversifying into crops such as tomato, onion, banana, lettuce, cabbage, carrots and other vegetables, families also increase diet diversity and food security.



ACCESS to technology: Intibucá producers and the Minister of Agriculture, Jacobo Regalado, inaugurate a drip irrigation system.

Trainings – October 2013

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	594	78
Business Skills / Finance	501	73
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	249	13
Postharvest and Certifications	801	74
Processing and Added Value	416	81
Production	17,910	2,351
Market Information	51	8
Nutrition and Health	2,582	184
ACCESO project	64	1
TOTAL	23,168	2,863

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Monthly Bulletin *November 2013*

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,813 households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting production technologies and practices to increase incomes and improve the overall quality of life. The project is benefitting 184,735 people – 90 percent of whom live in poverty and extreme poverty conditions – through technical assistance and training in production, value-added processing, natural resource management, renewable technologies, disaster mitigation, and nutrition and health.
- During the month of November, 235 new hectares were cultivated reaching a total production area of 43,740 hectares under project assistance, including: 18,056 hectares of coffee, 22,285 of basic grains, and 3,399 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area were: coffee, corn, sweet potato, beans, zucchini, cabbage, cashew, hot pepper, onions, and tomato.
- This month, USAID-ACCESO facilitated the first group of loans worth \$20,000 to 90 women growers in Intibucá who are part of a calendarized vegetable production program. Each loan of \$220 will be used to finance production on 1/23 hectare; crops include potato, carrot and passion fruit. The loans are repaid annually and can be renewed and increased based on repayment history for a maximum of six years.
- During November, the project presented yellow corn productivity awards in La Jigua, Copán. The highest yield was from a female farmer at 9,350 kilograms per hectare and the average yield by the top 10 growers was 7,922 kilograms per hectare. All of the growers implemented basic production practices and technologies to achieve these excellent yields. Traditional corn yields in the zone are 1,169 kilograms per hectare.



All photos by Fintrac Inc.
 Access to technical knowledge: Women producers from Lempira visit producers in Ocotepeque to observe best practices for French bean production.



Access to opportunities: The Secretary of Agriculture, Jacobo Regalado, participated in ACCESO's corn productivity competition in Copan.

Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,474	24,515	1,274
Intibucá	5,636	37,672	1,063
La Paz	5,771	27,983	967
Lempira	6,772	43,070	1,798
Ocotepeque	4,409	24,767	778
Santa Bárbara	6,802	26,727	1,424
Others	0	0	748
TOTAL	34,864	184,734	8,052

**Includes: MSMEs, buyers, input and service providers, municipal corporations, counterpart organizations.*

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USAID-ACCESO is assisting more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara to lift these rural households above the poverty line and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Access to technical knowledge: Producers from Matasano visit producers in Erandique, Lempira.

VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to create new products from locally available resources to generate off-farm employment opportunities. This month, 331 participants attended 59 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices, and techniques to produce frozen chicken tacos, frozen beans, and other dairy and bakery products. Clients also learned how to construct eco-stoves.

Forestry specialists continued promoting legal tree felling and working with woodcrafters to build furniture, doors, chests, and other in-demand products for sale to local markets.



ACCESS to new options: An artisan shows off her baskets at a local fair. USAID-ACCESO helps facilitate access to new markets and improved production practices.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 23,561 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 15,976 strengthened farmers' knowledge of agricultural production topics, including basic practices for coffee and horticulture crops; soil preparation and management; pest, disease, and weed identification and control; transplant and planting; fertilization program management; nutrient balance; adequate use of agrochemicals; soil conservation; and contour plowing.

1,967 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene; 961 on processing; 1,414 on business skills such as production logs and reducing costs; 737 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 255 visits focused on natural resource management; and 805 on postharvest and certification.



Access to technical support: USAID-ACCESO technicians teach good agricultural practices to bean producers in Colinas, Santa Bárbara.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

In November, 53 participants attended six training events on market information. The producers and buyers learned about quality standards and regulations, supply, and the negotiation process.

Marketing specialists coordinated tours of producers' plots to increase market exposure for small-scale farmers and deliver information about market routes and formal buyer requirements. This month, the project organized 175 visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, and transportation coordination.



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Access to better nutrition and health: a mother from a nutrition training center prepares fortified tortillas with moringa, beetroot and carrots.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 218 training events, giving 3,004 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 1,560 participants were trained in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 278 participants learned about nutritious food preparation and practiced recipes for natural juices, rice with vegetables, fortified tortillas, bean soup, and other vitamin-rich recipes made from low-cost and accessible ingredients. 299 participants learned “healthy household” practices: the concept of establishing healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

WOODCRAFTERS

USAID-ACCESO forestry specialists provided training and technical assistance to woodcrafters to improve the quality of their products to achieve better prices and access to more lucrative markets. Specialists taught producers best practices for processing raw materials to ensure high-quality finished products, including hardwoods and conifers. Woodcrafters also learned new techniques such as drying, gluing, and the appliance of lacquer and varnish. Besides training, the woodworkers began developing close relationships with foresters to source certified timber.



Access to knowledge: Woodworkers from the department of Intibucá present their work in Yamaranguila agroforestry fair.

Trainings – November 2013

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	902	135
Business Skills / Finance	1,049	105
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	455	28
Postharvest and Certifications	893	110
Processing and Added Value	331	59
Production	14,595	2,028
Market Information	53	6
Nutrition and Health	3,004	218
ACCESO project	-	-
TOTAL	21,282	2,689

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Monthly Bulletin *December 2013*

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,754 households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting production technologies and practices to increase incomes and improve the overall quality of life. The project is benefitting 184,799 people – 90 percent of whom live in poverty and extreme poverty conditions – through technical assistance and training in production, value-added processing, natural resource management, renewable technologies, disaster mitigation, and nutrition and health.
- During the month of December, 237 new hectares were planted reaching a total production area of 44,638 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 18,329 hectares of coffee, 22,683 of basic grains, and 3,626 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area were: coffee, sweet potato, corn, cashew, plantain, onions, beans, and passion fruit.
- This month, USAID-ACCESO organized the first gift fair in Santa Bárbara with support from the city’s chamber of commerce and industry and the Secretary of Planning. The event featured products developed with support from USAID-ACCESO, including wood products, ornaments, candy, and other food products.
- In December, the project recognized farmers in Marcala, La Paz with the highest yellow corn productivity at an award ceremony. The highest yield was achieved by Erwin Aguilar from Valle Paloma; he yielded 120 quintales per manzana. The average of the 10 most productive producers was 95 quintales per manzana. All the producers implemented the production practices and basic technologies they learned from USAID-ACCESO to achieve these excellent yields.



All photos by Fintrac Inc.
Access to technology: Monitoring pests and diseases of cilantro and avocado crops in the community of Las Vegas, Santa Barbara.



Access and recognition of opportunities: Winners from the yellow corn program with USAID-ACCESO technical staff from the department of La Paz.

USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, December 2013			
Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients *
Copán	5,463	24,120	1,282
Intibucá	5,634	37,124	1,062
La Paz	5,772	27,570	968
Lempira	6,680	44,798	1,850
Ocatepeque	4,404	24,866	789
Santa Bárbara	6,801	26,321	1,429
Others	0	0	744
TOTAL	34,754	184,799	8,124

*Includes: MSMES, buyers, input and service providers, municipal corporations, counterpart organizations.

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Access to technology: A farmer in Jesus Otoro, Intibucá installs a drip irrigation system in his field.

VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to create new products from locally available resources to generate off-farm employment opportunities. This month, 240 participants attended 35 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices to produce frozen chicken tacos, frozen beans, and other dairy and bakery products. Clients also learned how to construct eco-stoves.

Forestry specialists continued promoting legal tree felling and working with woodcrafters to build furniture, doors, chests, and other in-demand products for sale to local markets.



Access to new opportunities: Goods for sale at the first gift fair in Santa Bárbara included baskets, sweets, and plantain chips.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 14,433 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 9,853 strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics, including basic practices for coffee and horticulture crops; soil preparation and management; pest, disease, and weed identification and control; transplant and planting; fertilization program management; nutrient balance; optimal use of agrochemicals; soil conservation; and contour plowing.

1,056 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition and improving personal and home hygiene; 617 on processing; 835 on business skills such as production logs and reducing costs; 434 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 187 visits focused on natural resource management; and 607 on postharvest and certification.



Access to technical knowledge: Female farmers receive technical assistance during harvesting of their French bean crop in San Jerónimo Dolores, Ocotepeque.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

In December 129 participants attended 14 training events on market information. The producers and buyers learned about quality standards and regulations, supply, and the negotiation process.

Marketing specialists coordinated tours of producers' plots to increase market exposure for small-scale farmers and deliver information about market routes and formal buyer requirements. This month, the project organized 113 visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, and transportation coordination.



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ACCESS to better nutrition and health: Mothers meet to monitor health and weight of children under two years in the community of Agua Zarca, Lempira.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 116 training events, giving 1,495 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 648 participants were trained in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 83 participants learned about nutritious food preparation and practiced recipes for natural juices, rice with vegetables, fortified tortillas, bean soup, and other vitamin-rich recipes made from low-cost and accessible ingredients. 450 participants learned “healthy household” practices: the concept of establishing healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

BUSINESS SKILLS

835 technical assistance visits focused on improving business practices and access to credit. 452 participants attended 47 training events. This month, trainings focused on the use of agricultural log books for yellow corn producers under calendarized planting programs for formal markets.

The project continues to link producers with formal and informal financial institutions to improve access to credit. Specialists focused on developing and confirming international export opportunities for pumpkin and jalapeño.



Access to knowledge: Beneficiaries learn new processing techniques for aloe plants in La Esperanza, Intibucá.

Trainings – December 2013

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	659	90
Business Skills / Finance	452	47
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	149	13
Postharvest and Certifications	521	60
Processing and Added Value	240	35
Production	8,738	1,226
Market Information	129	14
Nutrition and Health	1,495	116
ACCESO project	-	-
TOTAL	12,383	1,601

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2013
USAID-ACCESO