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**Agriculture and Nutrition Global Learning and Evidence Exchange**

**(AgN-GLEE)**

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For additional presentations and related event materials, visit: [http://spring-nutrition.org/agnglee-lac](http://spring-nutrition.org/agnglee-lac)
AgN-GLEE Case Study: Honduras

USAID-ACCESO IMPLEMENTATION
Training of Extension Workers

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Guatemala. March 2013
PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Location**: six departments in Western Honduras (129 municipalities)
- **Time Frame**: April 2011 - February 2015
- **Beneficiaries**:
  - 30,000 poor and extreme poor households
  - Parents, pregnant and lactating women, children under two years old
PROJECT OVERVIEW - TARGETS

• Lift 30,000 rural families above the poverty line – 18,000 from extreme poverty
• Generate US$ 74 million in net income for project assisted clients
• Create 10,425 permanent employment positions in the assisted communities
• 20% change over baseline in health and nutrition indicators for children < 5 years in the ZOI
• New capital investments of more than $21.6 million
• More than 4,300 persons obtaining credit
• +others…..
PROJECT OVERVIEW

• Integrated and complete interventions
• Commercial markets drive the production activities
• Agriculture as a business: use basic technologies, diversify crops, products, markets and services to reduce risks
• Develop additional income sources from off-farm activity and employment
• Client households require programed and regular TA & training to adopt new technologies and practices
• Develop local capacities to maximize outreach and contribute to sustainability
• Collaboration to maximize resources (private sector, GoH, NGOs, associations, etc.)
• Economic development activities have to generate net incomes of $5,300 / household / year (based on a 6 person household - $2.42/day/person) to move people above the poverty line:
  – Agricultural production 80%
  – Off-farm businesses 10%
  – Employment 10%

• The increases in income have to result in improvements in nutrition and health indicators.

• Requires an integrated approach to achieve changes at the farm and household level.
Three types of communities / client households:

1. Production/income generation interventions only
2. Health & nutrition interventions only
3. Integrated interventions
• Client households: **21,391**
  – 15,636 with income profiles - 90% poor and extreme poor
• Children less than 5 years old (poor & extreme poor: **9,760**)
• Household clients: **18% women**
• Average family size: **Poor & extreme poor: 5.6**
  **Non-Poor: 4.4**
• Average schooling: **4.1 years**
• Other clients: **2,756** (MSMEs, Buyers, BDS Providers, Municipalities, Counterpart Organizations, among others)
“We are not promoters, we are technicians”

“Messaging”, simple or one-off training activities do not lead to the technological or behavioral changes needed to sustainably increase incomes and change nutrition related indicators.

Changes in tradition, and sometimes culture, require confidence building, demonstrations, gradual implementation and patience.

Technical assistance and training is continuous, progressive, repetitive while variable – and has to show quick visible results and impact for the family.
ACCESCO TECHNICIANS

• 105 production
• 15 nutrition
• 12 value added/off farm
• 12 business skills/finance
• 2 animal production
• 2 disaster mitigation and response
• 3 postharvest
• 4 marketing
• 1 policy

• 12 M&E
• 8 admin
• 2 IT
• 2 grants/donations
• 1 forestry

+ **434 nutrition volunteers from AIN-C Ministry of Health Program**
TRAINING DESIGN - TECHNICIANS

- Initial pre-service training of technicians in 2011
- Subsequent hires receive abbreviated training by supervisors within their department
- Monthly in-service trainings in relevant topics by supervisors/subject experts, and weekly meetings with supervisors
- Senior technicians develop materials to use in training of project technicians, beneficiaries and other technicians
TRAINING DESIGN

- Consistent and uniform technical recommendations across the project team
- Technical assistance ranges from production to harvest, post-harvest, marketing, business skills, health, nutrition and sanitation
- Continuous learning process for beneficiaries and for technicians
- All technicians carry a packet with nutrition and health messages
NUTRITION & HEALTH

• To raise awareness:
  – Agronomists giving N&H information to men and women
  – N&H technicians giving the basic information on family plots
OPERATIONS

- Training and technical delivered to groups of clients (5 to 25/group).

- Home, group or community visit schedule:
  - 300-350 household clients per agricultural technician
  - Technicians follow a (usually) weekly route within their assigned zones.

- Home, group or community visit activities:
  - Training in basic production practices, crop specific activities, marketing, postharvest, certifications, business skills, etc.
  - Training in basic nutrition and health practices, healthy households.
  - Farm / home / community infrastructure improvements.
  - Technologies (drip irrigation, solar drying, water filtration, and many others).
Ensuring basic grain production for consumption

- Changing traditional production practices to increase productivity in basic grains and coffee – without increasing production costs.
- Maize from 18 qq. to 60 qq./Ha. Beans from 9 qq to 22 qq/Ha. Coffee from 4.6 qq. to 36 qq./Ha.
- A family of six needs around 25 qq. of maize and 6 qq. of beans per year.
Prácticas Básicas

Tradicional
SEED SELECTION
SOIL PREPARATION
PLANTING DISTANCE
LIQUID FERTILIZATION
WEED CONTROL
INCOME GENERATION - PRODUCTION

• Technical assistance and training focused on subsistence level basic grains producers
• The introduction of basic practices has served to gain confidence and as a starting point for diversification into profitable high value cash crops
• Initial client households have served as well as demonstration farms
COFFEE: TISSUE MANAGEMENT
COFFEE: LIMING AND LIQUID FERTILIZATION/FERTIGATION
INCOME GENERATION

- Increasing basic grain yields reduces the area necessary for cultivation for consumption, and frees up land to produce higher value crops.
- Horticulture (vegetables and fruits)
- Coffee – productivity, value added (drying, specialty, certified)
- Cattle (dairy, meat), pigs, chickens, fish, bees, etc.
- Value added – bakery, tortillas, pickled vegetables, wines, dehydrated, etc.
- Off-farm – charcoal, furniture, woven articles, piñatas, pottery, etc.
- Employment – on-farm and off-farm
In communities where there is food availability, low weight and poor growth are mainly caused by inadequate living conditions and lack of diet diversity. ACCESO’s healthy household program works on:

- Improving floors, walls, stoves and garbage
- Increasing the availability of safe drinking water (chlorination/filtration at the community or household levels)
- Training families on food preparation, including diet diversifications, quantities, etc.
- Hygiene practices.

+ child care, disease prevention, nutrition practices, exclusive breastfeeding, pregnancy spacing, household plots, local plants, protein sources, etc.
NUTRITION MONITORING THROUGH AIN-C MEETINGS
FOCUS ON FOODS/FEEDING FOR CHILDREN 6 TO 24 MONTHS
FOOD / MEAL PREPARATION TRAINING
HOUSEHOLD VISITS – CHILD MONITORING IN THE HOME
IMPROVING HOUSEHOLD CONDITIONS – to prevent health problems
WATER CONNECTIONS
EFFICIENT STOVES - “ECO-JUSTA”
Crop selection based on:

- Nutritional content
- Agronomic conditions
- Tolerance to pests & diseases
- Not necessary to buy commercial seeds
- Implementation of basic production practices
- Sweet potato, cassava, malanga, passion fruit, leafy vegetables, plantain, citrus, +others.
# HEALTHY HOUSEHOLDS - COST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ítem</th>
<th>Costo (L.)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estufa “eco-justa”</td>
<td>2,212.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filtro de agua</td>
<td>1,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piso / paredes (12 m²)</td>
<td>1,561.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conexión - Agua</td>
<td>236.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcela</td>
<td>621.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamina transparente</td>
<td>130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>L. 6,060.78 ($300)</strong></td>
</tr>
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.. + animales, basura, letrinas, aceras, etc.
Total area under technical assistance: 18,761 hectares. Coffee: 9,881; basic grains 7,043; fruits/vegetables 1,838 hectares

23,391 training events: 25,248 individuals, of which 8,270 were women (33%) (229,711 participants in training events)

167,156 technical assistance visits

Investment in fixed assets: $3.28 million

1,997 SMMEs obtaining finance
$2.05 million in loans

1,547 SMMEs linked with new market opportunities
33 buyers providing market linkages
570 SMMES with contracts with buyers
1,107 SMMEs meeting market quality specifications
## INDICATORS – NUTRITION & HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicador</th>
<th>Baseline (August 2011)</th>
<th>September 2012</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Reduction/ Increase from baseline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of underweight children under 2 years old</td>
<td>22.00%</td>
<td>16.74%</td>
<td>-5.26%</td>
<td>-23.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of children &lt; 6 months old with exclusive breast feeding</td>
<td>92.24%</td>
<td>96.37%</td>
<td>+4.13%</td>
<td>+4.47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevalence of use of modern contraception</td>
<td>27.51%</td>
<td>30.59%</td>
<td>+3.08%</td>
<td>+11.21%</td>
</tr>
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CHALLENGES

- Expected vs. Unexpected challenges
  - Transportation infrastructure
  - Logistics
  - Distance to sites
  - Staff turnover
  - Time required for building relationships & trust with clients
  - Time required for changing cultural practices
  - Culture of donations (GoH, NGOs, WFP, others)
  - Security / crime
  - Lack of household interest/conformity
TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Importance of an integrated approach
  - Focus of ACCESCO is not just on increasing agricultural production and incomes, but also takes a broad analysis of the problems facing rural Honduran families and households
  - Coordinate with other offices within the Mission, the Government of Honduras, and NGOs
- Importance of gender integration and increasing economic opportunities for women
- In Honduras, families do not recognize that they have malnutrition or poor living conditions, these are normal among them for generations
- Encourage investment of income increases from each harvest on household improvement for better family health and well-being
- ACCESCO continues to be improved