October Newsletter

2025

SAG-ProOccidente Project

HONDURAS | Agricultura y Ganadería | SAG -ProOccidente

Results Edition: Phase IA

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More than 4,000 producers trained in production, marketing, and finance

The Integrated Rural Development and Productivity Project (SAG-ProOccidente) provided comprehensive technical assistance to 4,066 participants, organized into 134 groups (128 producer groups, 3 women-led MSMEs, and 3 youth-led enterprises). This assistance took place in 57 municipalities in the six departments covered by the project and focused on three key areas: (1) agricultural production, (2) financial management, and (3) nutrition. The project used a holistic approach, aligning its subcomponents to generate synergies between productivity, market access, financing, and environmental management. This strategy made it possible to significantly increase yields in crops such as coffee, vegetables, corn, beans, fruit trees, milk, and processed products, on 3,766.1 hectares cultivated using climate-smart practices.

In addition, the project helped establish 165 model farms as demonstration and practical learning spaces. These farms served as training centers to promote the adoption of climate-smart technologies and good agricultural practices (GAP), inspiring producers to transform their production systems into more sustainable and resilient models.

A team of agricultural science specialists in each of the thematic areas provided the assistance, applying methodologies tailored to the specific needs of each group. Thanks to this approach, there was significant participation by women (31%), young people (20%), and ethnic groups (71% Maya Chortí and Lencas), strengthening social inclusion and equity in rural development.

More than 500 hectares cultivated using climate-smart technologies and 3,766 hectares using good agricultural practices

Technical support of SAG-ProOccidente led to 507.21 hectares being cultivated using climate-smart technologies delivered to 1,002 producers from 38 productive groups distributed across six departments. This result represents 127% compliance with the established goal of 400 hectares.

In addition, the project led to 3,766.1 hectares cultivated using good agricultural practices and managed by 4,066 participants, who received specialized technical assistance to maximize the impact of the technologies delivered.

The provision and implementation of climate-smart technologies and the use of good agricultural practices improved the productivity, sustainability, and resilience of agricultural systems in the face of climate change.

These technologies were distributed to 1,002 participants, including individual producers, women-led MSMEs, and youth enterprises. The total value of the 44 investment plans implemented was L. 103.7 million, with a project contribution of L. 33.3 million (32%) and a counterpart contribution from participants of L. 67.0 million (68%).

The value chains with the largest area cultivated under climate-smart technologies were:

- Vegetables: 40%
- Coffee: 34%
- Basic grains: 22%

In total, 36 different types of technologies were delivered, including:

- Mesh houses
- Greenhouses
- Geomembrane reservoirs
- Drip irrigation systems
- Solar pumps
- Motorized cultivators
- Solar dryers
- Shellers and seeders
- Industrial stoves
- Coffee and food processing equipment

This result shows that the adoption of these technologies, accompanied by comprehensive technical assistance, is a powerful tool for transforming traditional agriculture into more efficient, sustainable systems that mitigate climate change.

Economic empowerment: Three women-led MSMEs receive comprehensive support

During Phase IA of SAG-ProOccidente, the project approved and implemented three plans investment for MSMEs led by women, benefiting 26 people, 81% of whom were women. These initiatives took place in the departments of Copán, Santa Bárbara, and Intibucá and focused on areas such as food processing, handicrafts, and livestock production. The total investment in these three MSMEs amounted to L. 3,340,480.79, of which L. 1,287,347.70 was contributed by the project as non-reimbursable financing , representing 39% of the total, while the remaining 61% was covered by the beneficiary organizations.

The climate-smart technologies provided included processing equipment, production infrastructure, specialized tools, and technical furniture, tailored to the needs of each MSME. These technologies have made it possible to improve efficiency, reduce waste, diversify products, and increase the income of participants.

One notable case is that of ME-Sabores de Horcones, an MSME made up of Lenca women in Intibucá, dedicated to the production of banana snacks. Thanks to the project's support, they have expanded their product line to include cassava, sweet potato, and taro snacks, as well as school snacks, strengthening their presence in the local market.

This result is significant in terms of the economic empowerment of rural women, promoting their entrepreneurial leadership, access to technologies, and active participation in sustainable value chains.

Protected micro-watersheds: 5,400 hectares under sustainable management

As part of the efforts of SAG-ProOccidente to strengthen environmental sustainability in the Dry Corridor of Honduras (in 88 municipalities in the departments of La Paz, Intibucá, Lempira, Copán, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara), the approval and implementation of two micro-watershed management and conservation plans by the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) was achieved, covering 5,408.39 hectares, which represents 270% compliance with the goal set for Phase IA of the project.

The micro-basins received investment profiles aimed at protecting water recharge areas, ensuring the safety of water systems for human consumption, strengthening the logistics of water boards, and improving infrastructure for sustainable water resource management. The total investment was L501,764.50, of which L183,835.50 corresponded to MAMSURPAZ and L317,929.00 to COLOSUCA.

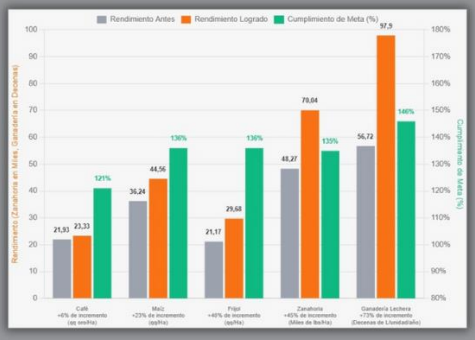
Micro-basins established to date:
Quebrada San Antonio, managed by the MAMSURPAZ Association, located in the municipality of Opatoro, La Paz.

Coalaca River, served by the COLOSUCA Association, in San Marcos de Caiquín, Lempira.

In addition, equipment and tools were provided to both associations to strengthen their operational capacity in providing local technical assistance, meeting 100% of the target set for this stage.

Finally, two cooperation agreements were signed with the associations MAMSURPAZ and COLOSUCA, formalizing the support mechanisms for the implementation of management plans and ensuring the sustainability of the actions promoted by the project.

Significant increases in agricultural and livestock yields



Substantial improvements were recorded in agricultural yields for priority crops and in milk production as a result of comprehensive technical assistance and the adoption of climate-smart technologies. The following are advances compared to baseline values:

Coffee:
Average yield before intervention: 21.93 qq gold/Ha
Yield achieved in 2024–2025: 23.33 qq gold/Ha
Increase: 6%
Goal achievement: 121%

Corn:
Average yield before intervention: 36.24 quintals/ha
Yield achieved in 2024–2025: 44.56 quintals/hectare
Increase: 23%
Target achievement: 136%

Beans:
Average yield before intervention: 21.17 qq/Ha
Yield achieved in 2024–2025: 29.68 qq/Ha
Increase: 40%
Goal achievement: 136%

Carrots:
Average yield before intervention: 48,265 lbs/Ha
Yield achieved in 2024–2025: 70,035 lbs/Ha
Increase: 45%
Goal achievement: 135%

Dairy farming:
Average yield before intervention: 567.17 liters/animal unit/year
Yield achieved in 2024–2025: 979 liters/animal unit/year
Increase: 73%
Goal achievement: 146%

The intervention has resulted in increased performance across all products and target achievement of over 120% in all cases. The dairy farming sector shows the greatest impact, with a 73% increase and target achievement of 146%. The challenge will be to continue the upward trend across all products and improve those with lower increases, such as coffee (6%).

Entrepreneurial youth: Three ventures transform their communities

To date, three investment plans have been implemented for youth-led ventures, benefiting 26 people, 100% of whom are young people and 38% of whom are women. These initiatives were developed in the departments of Santa Bárbara, Intibucá, and Lempira and focused on areas such as seedling production, bean processing, and coffee roasting.

The total investment in these three ventures amounted to L. 2,318,487.22, of which L. 1,268,899.33 was contributed by the project as non-reimbursable financing (55%), while the remaining 45% was covered by the young participants.

The technologies delivered included greenhouses, manual seeders, motorized sprayers, solar dryers, solar pumping systems, electronic scales, coffee grinders, brush cutters, seedling trays, and grass choppers, among others. These tools have enabled young people to improve their production processes, diversify their economic activities, and generate sustainable income.

The "Jóvenes con Aroma a Café" (Young People with the Aroma of Coffee) venture is one of the most notable recipients of climate-smart technologies for threshing, roasting, grinding, and packaging coffee, allowing them to offer roasting services to local producers and market their own coffee.

Another example is "Producción de Plántulas Metamorfosis" (Metamorphosis Seedling Production), which has strengthened the supply of quality seedlings for vegetable producers in their community. These results reflect the project's commitment to youth economic development, promoting leadership, innovation, and territorial roots among young rural entrepreneurs.

Cross-Cutting Approaches: Gender, youth, environmental and social management

An inclusive and sustainable intervention model was consolidated, integrating gender, youth, interculturality, and environmental and social management approaches across all actions under Component 1: Strengthening Productive Development.

Inclusive participation:

- 31% women
- 20% youth
- 71% ethnic groups (Lenca and Maya Chortí)

The implementation of differentiated training and leadership strategies enabled women, young people, and indigenous peoples to actively participate in investment plans, model farms, and decision-making processes. In addition, culturally relevant practices were promoted in coordination with indigenous councils and organizations, strengthening local governance.

Environmental and social management:
Measures contained in the Environmental and Social Management Plan were applied to all investments, complying with national regulations and the safeguards of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This included:

- Environmental and social assessments in the 134 investment plans
- Signing of voluntary agreements to minimize risks
- Raising awareness of good agricultural practices and climate-smart technologies
- Coordination with associations (MAMSURPAZ and COLOSUCA) to implement investment profiles in micro-basins

Campaigns and tools:
They developed campaigns to promote:

- Gender equality and youth-positive
- masculinities
- Reproductive health and prevention of chronic diseases
- Food security and family nutrition

These actions were complemented by graphic materials, training sessions, and partnerships with institutions such as SESAL, the Ministry of Education, CRS, Red Comal, and the Honduran Red Cross, among others.

Achievements that Matter: The market, credit, and nutrition

These three achievements are an essential part of the impact that the project is generating. They reflect a direct commitment to communities and concrete advances in economic inclusion, family health, organizational strengthening, and sustainability of the intervention. These results speak to autonomy, networks, food security, and alliances in value chains built through collective work.

Producers with access to markets

During Phase IA, 1,600 producers participated in marketing activities, including local fairs, municipal markets, partnerships with food processors, supermarkets, and direct sales outlets. This figure exceeds the initial target of 1,200 producers by 33% and reflects a tangible strengthening of economic autonomy and market visibility. In several municipalities, sustained links were established with institutional buyers, rural restaurants, and community stores.

Support for credit management

Technical assistance was provided to 134 producer groups, involving 4,066 participants in financial planning processes, credit profiling, and linking with financial institutions. This figure exceeds the projected target of 3,000 participants by more than 35% and enabled the approval of their credit applications, mobilizing resources for productive investment and strengthening rural financial inclusion.

Technical assistance in nutrition for households

Through home visits, community workshops, and educational materials, technical assistance in nutrition was provided to 3,023 rural households, prioritizing those with children under five, pregnant women, and older adults. This coverage exceeded the initial target of 2,000 households by more than 50%, promoting healthy eating practices, the use of local products, and improved family nutrition with a cultural focus.

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SAG-ProOccidente is a project implemented by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), through the Fund for the Promotion Development (FONPRODE).

The Government of Honduras, through the SAG, hired ACDI/VOCA as the sub-implementing entity for Component 1: Strengthening of Productive Development, which is aimed at strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of value chains with a market focus and climate considerations.

- 15,000 households above the poverty line of US$3.20 per person per day
- 10,000 producers with plans to adopt climate-smart technologies
- 243 MSMEs that increased income
- 25,000 hectares under protection with 25 management micro-watersheds

Thanks to the comprehensive approach of the SAG-ProOccidente project, 1,002 producers organized in the have benefited with climate-smart technologies, such as drip irrigation systems, mesh houses, rotary tillers, solar dryers, and geomembrane reservoirs, among others. These actions not only improve productivity, but also strengthen climate resilience and sustainability in rural areas.

SAG-ProOccidente works in 88 municipalities in the six western departments of the country: La Paz, Intibucá, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Copán, and Santa Bárbara. The prioritized value chains include horticulture, fruit growing, coffee, dairy farming, processing, and those related to cultural products of ethnic origin.

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