

December  
Newsletter

# 2025

## SAG-ProOccidente Project



**H**  
Agricultura  
y Ganadería  
Gobierno de la República

SAG -ProOccidente

Start of Phase 1B  
Edition



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Agricultura  
y Ganadería  
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SAG -ProOccidente  
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ACDI VOCA  
Ampliando Oportunidades en el Mundo

Cooperación  
Española

BID

## Comprehensive technical assistance for results and territorial coordination

We concluded 2025 with significant results. The SAG-ProOccidente team consolidated progress in the field, reflecting the implementation of the Comprehensive Technical Assistance Plan and the start of Phase IB of the project in the six departments. We initiated training sessions, provided technical assistance on model farms, coordinated with partners, and offered organizational support. We revitalized processes in production, nutrition, micro-watershed management and conservation, business, and community development, with a focus on inclusion, sustainability, and resilience.

### Production and market access: The Comprehensive Technical Assistance Plan in value chains

Comprehensive technical training is provided in partnership with coffee industry allies, covering harvest quality, wet processing calibration, and byproduct use. As of December, 2,033 producers have received technical assistance, of which 49% were women and 25% were young people.



Participants carried out staggered planting of vegetables on 86.69 hectares and took part in technical exchange tours (La Labor, Lentago, Belén Gualcho) focusing on tomato cultivation, substrate management, fertigation, and biological control. The results are already being seen. The project also promoted safe practices for agrochemical use and integrated pest management, coordinating with companies, like CADELGA, to reinforce safety and reduce environmental and health risks. Participants strengthened their skills using climate-smart technologies, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), quality improvement, market integration through standards and harvest scheduling.



## Credit management and financial education: Financial ABCs in action

SAG-ProOccidente strengthened the financial capabilities of farming families through financial education, credit eligibility assessments, and the use of the Financial App, which helped identify producers interested in accessing financial services. A total of 2,619 people received financial training through 286 events. Additionally, the project coordinated with institutions, such as UNICEMOCH, to promote the project's rediscount product and explain its requirements and conditions to priority groups, including Lirios del Valle in Santa Bárbara and Ocotepeque.

The project issued and reinforced certificates of technical assistance and used the Financial App to identify interested parties, prepare investment sheets, and organize the flow of applications. A total of 1,340 people have completed financial literacy training, received certificates, and connected with financial institutions. These steps accelerate the preparation of credit applications and use of digital tools, allowing producers to access Phase 2 project funds.

The project has identified and assessed the eligibility of women-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and youth-led businesses in Copán, and progress continues throughout the project's intervention area. Participants are initiating their investment plans with a focus on food safety, cold chain management, and biosecurity. Meanwhile, the project is providing support to youth-led businesses in the agri-food and rural services sectors, integrating technology transfer and operational management (farm maintenance crews, processing of ground beans and homemade sausage, etc.).



Following the Comprehensive Technical Assistance Plan, the project is consolidating the diagnosis, investment plans, GAP, financial management, market access, and adoption of appropriate technologies with We-Fi funds.

SAG-ProOccidente works to strengthen access to agricultural financing by providing technical support to women-led MSMEs, young entrepreneurs, and producer groups in the six departments where it operates. This process lays a solid foundation for promoting investments aimed at improving rural productivity and competitiveness.

In four months, participants obtained technical approval for 44 investment plans in sectors such as poultry, coffee, beekeeping, and basic grain processing. Of these investment plans, 36 correspond to producer groups, three to youth ventures, two to women-led MSMEs, and three to investment profiles for prioritized micro-basins. Efforts are already underway to prepare for the use of climate-smart technologies, which the project aims to implement in the first quarter of 2026.

## Micro-watersheds and environment: Local management and investment profiles



The Micro-Watersheds and Environment Team implements and monitors the Environmental and Social Management Plan, a key instrument in preventing and mitigating environmental and social risks associated with investments and the adoption of climate-smart technologies in the intervention territories.

The plan offers practical and cross-cutting measures for the responsible use of soil and water, the protection of natural resources, occupational health, and the inclusion of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples. SAG-ProOccidente integrates these actions into investment plans and voluntary agreements signed with producer groups, MSMEs, and youth-led businesses, and provides ongoing technical support. Within the framework of the plan and under the Inter-American Development Bank's environmental sustainability principles, the project promotes concrete actions that protect natural resources and strengthen climate resilience in western Honduras. As a result of signing and complying with Voluntary Environmental Agreements, producer groups are developing reforestation initiatives and responsible land management practices. In Borbollón, Cabañas, and La Paz, organized producers are planting fruit trees as part of their environmental commitment, contributing to the protection of micro-watersheds and strengthening food security.

The project continuously strengthens local capacities through technical assistance, training, and field monitoring. It also promotes collaboration with intermunicipal associations and local stakeholders, combining environmental and social management as a pillar of sustainable, rural livelihoods. The project made progress in preparing micro-watershed management plans with intermunicipal associations (CAFEG and MANCURISJ). Teams also conducted technical visits and outreach sessions with wildlife management units, water boards, and producers to ensure implementation and monitoring.

These actions are complemented by territorial efforts driven by the producers themselves:

- Reforestation led by the Pinares Productive Group, aimed at the restoration of priority micro-basins
- Reforestation days, promoting water conservation and community life
- Signing voluntary agreements, integrating the indigenous worldview and gender equity in the management of the territory
- First aid training
- Agroforestry
- Recycling campaigns
- Cleaning and tidying of plots
- Handling and final disposal of agrochemical containers
- Solid waste collection

Each action responds to clear project goals:

- Micro-watershed protection
- Water resource management
- Adoption of climate-smart technologies
- Inclusion of women, youth and Indigenous peoples

SAG-ProOccidente thus reaffirms its commitment to rural development and environmental responsibility, working hand-in-hand with communities to build more resilient and sustainable territories.

## Nutrition and food security: A family and life cycle approach



The project started Phase 1B by developing practical workshops on topics like food preparation, hygiene, and safety; high nutritional content mixtures; family gardens; and breastfeeding and supplementation, according to health regulations.

The workshops were part of production visits, facilitating practical learning and the participation of women and young people in healthy eating topics.



SAG-ProOccidente continues to make significant progress in strengthening the well-being of rural families through technical assistance and nutrition training activities carried out directly in the communities. During this period, the team implemented activities focused on food security, nutritional needs, and malnutrition prevention, in line with the project's health and nutrition strategy.



Participating families completed training programs that promoted the consumption of nutritious foods, the preparation of meals with local products, hygiene and sanitation practices, and the management of family gardens to improve access to and availability of food. This comprehensive support strengthens capacities at the family and community levels, contributing to healthier lifestyles.

The results reflect solid progress in addressing nutritional issues in households, expanding the coverage of technical assistance and promoting improved nutrition for sustainable development.



## Advances in gender and youth equality in rural development



The SAG-ProOccidente Project mainstreams a gender, youth, and social inclusion approach in the project's intervention areas, integrating these components into technical assistance, training, and organizational support for producer groups, MSMEs, and youth-led businesses. Women, youth, and Indigenous communities actively participated in agricultural, educational, and local governance spaces promoted by the project.

The project is using methodological tools in the field and helping strengthen internal governance. It reactivated its Gender, Youth, and Social Inclusion Committee, and shared action plans with teams in the southern and northern zones to ensure coherence between planning and implementation. At the same time, the project is identifying model communities to integrate climate-smart technologies, micro-watershed management, and MSME strengthening under an inclusive approach.



Participants took part in trainings focused on equity, co-responsibility, and leadership, following a pedagogical sequence that included the development of a Gender Toolkit, with booklets such as "Walking Towards Gender Equity," "A Day in My Life," and "Co-Responsible Masculinities." Each linked to agricultural activities, nutrition, and the environment.

The project's use of affirmative action measures (flexible schedules, safe and accessible spaces, minimum participation quotas, and model farms with female and youth leadership) help expand participation of women and youth and improved the conditions for their involvement in agricultural and community decisions.



The approach includes intercultural dialogue with Lenca and Maya-Chortí organizations in the six departments, advancing the Indigenous Peoples' Participation Plan with outreach workshops, identification of focal points, and coordination with women-led MSMEs. These actions strengthen culturally relevant practices, informed consultation, and the inclusion of community leaders.

Overall, the results confirm consistent progress toward inclusion goals, reporting 49% participation of women, 25% of youth, and 75% of Indigenous people. Incorporating gender and youth into the technical and organizational cycle not only improves equity, but also strengthens the sustainability of rural areas.

# Success Story



## José Raimundo

José Manuel Raimundo is more than a farmer: he is an architect of the soil, an environmental advocate, and an example of how experience and determination can build more productive, cleaner, and sustainable agriculture.



# El Limón Santa Rita, Copán



Besides being a disciplined farmer, José Manuel is a role model for good environmental practices. He collects and reuses drip irrigation tape, recycles plastics, and avoids burning waste.

“I know this plot gets a lot of visitors, and I wouldn’t want them to come and see that damage,” he said.



In the community of El Limón, Santa Rita, Copán, José Manuel Raimundo cultivates much more than beans: he cultivates knowledge, commitment, and sustainability. As a member of El Limón Agricultural and Livestock Producers Association, he has been an active participant in the transformation process driven by SAG-ProOccidente. His experience with climate-smart technologies has marked a turning point in his production. “Before, without irrigation, we depended solely on rainfall,” he said. “Now, with the system, we can irrigate when we want, and the yield improves.” In his case, the bean yield has increased by up to 80%, going from 300 to more than 600 pounds per half manzana (approximately 1.7 acres), which translates into higher income and stability for his family.

### **Technical learning and sustainable practices**

Raimundo has not only adopted technology, but also embraced knowledge. Thanks to technical assistance from SAG-ProOccidente, he learned to lay and maintain contour lines, a practice he was previously unfamiliar with and now applies with pride. “I didn’t know what a contour line was,” he said. “Now I have them on my plot, and I maintain them.” He has also learned to control pests and plant disease, which has improved the quality of his crops.

### **Impactful results**

His beans are recognized by his customers for their size, color, and health, which allows him to sell at a good price in markets like Copán, even before the competition arrives.

By using woodworking waste, such as sawdust, Raimundo retains his soil’s moisture and generates organic matter. These actions, though small, reflect a deep commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

El Limón Agricultural and Livestock Producers Association, has benefited from a total investment of L1,282,716.92, of which 40.75% was contributed by SAG-ProOccidente. So far, 12.4 hectares have been improved with technologies such as drip irrigation and shade houses, generating 14 direct jobs and more than 1,000 workdays.

Furthermore, the group has participated in the project's key initiatives (gender equality, food security, and nutrition) through training that strengthened their knowledge and vision for the future.



# SAG-ProOccidente Newseletter

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### Training in the use of climate-smart technologies with AMIR Productive Group in Intibucá

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

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

#### Goals:

- 15,000 households rising 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 increase revenue
- 25,000 hectares under the protection of 25 micro-watershed management plans

Thanks to the comprehensive approach of SAG-ProOccidente, at the start of Phase 1B, 2,033 organized producers are receiving comprehensive technical assistance and will benefit from climate-smart technologies, such as drip irrigation systems, shade houses, tillers, solar dryers, and geomembrane-lined reservoirs, among others. These actions not only improve productivity, but also strengthen climate resilience and the sustainability of 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 production, coffee, dairy farming, processing, and those related to cultural products of ethnic origin.

Regional offices in  
La Esperanza, Intibucá, and  
Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán.

 @sagprooccidente

 PROOCCIDENTEHONDURAS@GMAIL.COM