



Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores

Farmer's yellow yuca crop flourishes with modern production practices



Yuca planting materials are selected and graded.

Since becoming a farmer in 2000, Jose Atilio Argueta del Cid, of Olanchito, Yoro, suffered serious losses with his yuca production because of poor production practices and high rainfall. Because he only knew the traditional growing practices of the region, he was bound to struggle. This changed, however, when he started receiving technical assistance from EDA in November 2006.

Before EDA, Argueta planted yuca with limited land preparation techniques, inconsistent planting systems, and at densities of 6,600 plants per hectare, well below EDA's recommended density. The heavy rains would cause decay, plants would break easily and losses were high. Consequently, yields were only 8,700 kilograms per hectare, generating a net income of only \$950.

"I was afraid before taking on the challenge of changing my agricultural practices," he admits. But the results that came with EDA assistance silenced those fears.

With basic changes recommended by EDA, Argueta immediately noticed that his crop showed improved health and uniformity and that plant loss was reduced considerably despite the area's rainfall. Argueta improved soil preparation to enable better root development and raised beds to avoid flooding during heavy rain. "At the beginning I was afraid that the plants were going to come out from those beds," he said. He also disinfected the cuttings, increased planting density to 11,110 plants per hectare, used a diluted fertilizer program and worked with cutting and sprout selection.

With these changes his yield increased to nearly 14,000 kilograms per hectare, 75 percent higher than previous yields. His income also increased substantially, generating \$3,300 in total sales with \$855 in production costs.

The results Atilio achieved by changing his agricultural practices are being noticed in the community. Neighboring farmers are now implementing the same basic practices to improve production.

The Farmer Training and Development Program, or, Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores (EDA), is a program of the Millennium Challenge Account of Honduras (MCA-Honduras) with funds provided by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of the United States of America. EDA's main objective is to sustainably increase productivity and sales for program clients. By May 2011 the program will have helped more than 8,000 farmers increase productivity, incomes, and employment.



Harvesting yellow yuca.

**"I'm very pleased with the technical assistance from EDA. It is very accurate and personalized."
— Jose Atilio Argueta del Cid,
Lead Client - Olanchito**