



# Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores

## EDA providing new farming opportunities to rural youth



**Elvin Moreira's tomato production under basic practices, is weed free and uses timely staking.**



**José Agustín Cortes' adopted raised beds and used this template for high and uniform plant density for onion production.**



**Nery Vásquez's potato production includes drip irrigation and contoured beds.**

As in many developing countries, the unemployment rate is high in Honduras, especially in young, rural populations. Because of a lack of job opportunities, young people struggle to earn a living and often leave their families to find work in cities or other countries, leaving farming to their elders.

Since the EDA program started field operations in October 2006, however, this trend has started to change. Through EDA's technical assistance and training in commercially driven horticulture production, farming operations are increasingly being thought of as a legitimate and profitable business and young people are taking notice. Rather than thinking of agriculture as a way of subsistence, they are seeing profit opportunities.

To date, 21 percent of EDA clients are younger than 30 years old and 32 percent are between the ages of 30 and 40. These clients are located in 16 Honduran departments where the project is being implemented, with the highest concentrations in Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Comayagua and Ocotepeque.

The following are profiles, crop results and testimonials of EDA clients under the age of 30:

- **Elvin Moreira**, 21, tomato grower in Comayagua, three years of schooling. Cultivated area: 0.5 hectares. Total sales: \$3,079. Production costs: \$1,029. Net Income, \$2,050.

*"The technical assistance is excellent. With the help of EDA we have been provided an excellent opportunity, and we plan to continue working in agriculture."*

- **José Agustín Cortes Molina**, 25, onion grower in Lempira, six years of schooling. Cultivated area: 0.5 hectares. Total sales: \$3,658. Production costs: \$1,366. Net income: \$2,292.

*"I have learned a lot with EDA technical assistance, and I have taught others as well to raise beds, use starter solution, diluted fertilizers ... I like my new way of growing and I want to continue."*

- **Nery Edgardo Vásquez**, 29, potato grower in Ocotepeque, six years of schooling. Cultivated area: 0.53 hectares. Total sales: \$11,823. Production costs: \$7,391. Net income: \$4,432.

*"Everything we have worked for with the [EDA] technician has been great; I have learned to manage a crop as it should be. Everything has been excellent, the raised beds, the fertilization... I am pleased with the results I've achieved."*

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.