



Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores

EDA constantly introduces new and upgraded production and postharvest technologies to program farmers, in addition to new products, presentations and market opportunities. Capital investments are required to enter into these new commercial activities and, in some cases, simply to stay competitive and maintain market share. Program farmers have made individual investments ranging from \$100 to more than \$139,000. This bulletin summarizes EDA program farmer investments.

EDA PROGRAM FARMER INVESTMENTS

Despite the difficult economic situation in Honduras, EDA program farmers are investing in agriculture-related activities, improving their existing production and handling systems and initiating new ventures. Investment reported by EDA includes capital equipment and assets only; it does not include working capital requirements. Investments are a result of confidence in EDA, successes by program farmers, and market opportunities developed by the project.

Investment to date is \$1.58 million (November 2006 to March 2008), of which \$1.1 million is directly from EDA program farmers. Cost sharing with other institutions is \$475,000 for irrigation systems, greenhouse infrastructure and accessories, and water tanks. Institutions involved with cost sharing include MCA-Honduras, SAG PRONADEL, SAG DICTA, CHF, Aldea Global, EAP-Zamorano, ADETRIUNF, Ayuda en Accion, FERP Honduras Government, Vision Mundial, IHCAFE, Save the Children, and Swisscontact.

Grower investment in production related areas is 74 percent of farmer investment, including more than \$480,000 in irrigation infrastructure and equipment. Investment in farm land is \$191,164 (17 percent of total), with \$135,209 (12 percent) invested in postharvest infrastructure and equipment, and \$139,401 (13 percent) in vehicles and transportation.

Capital Investments in EDA Program Farmer Operations (10/06 to 03/08)

Area	Farmer (\$)	Other (\$)	Total (\$)	% of Total	Investments (#)
Irrigation Infrastructure Equipment & installation	333,758	31,897	365,655	23.2	430
Irrigation infrastructure	146,172	1,403	147,575	9.4	106
Land Purchase	191,164		191,164	12.1	9
Post harvest & Pack house Equipment	135,209		135,209	8.6	5
Vehicles & Other Transportation Equipment	139,401		139,401	8.8	17
Greenhouse Infrastructure	29,768	16,413	46,181	2.9	44
Agricultural Equipment & Machinery	36,152		36,152	2.3	12
Agricultural Input – Other	22,308	3,166	25,474	1.6	37
Fumigation Equipment	21,374		21,374	1.4	58
Agricultural Input – Plantain Seed	13,549	5,615	19,164	1.2	32
Production Infrastructure	9,819	53	9,872	0.7	26
Plant Propagation Infrastructure & Materials	6,742		6,742	0.4	19
Other	13,887		13,887	0.9	28
MCA-Honduras Donations	0	416,798	416,798	26.5	395
Total	1,099,302	475,345	1,574,647	100.0	1,218

Program farmers in all departments invested but farmers who invested the most came from Comayagua (28 percent of total), Francisco Morazán (21 percent), Yoro (12 percent) and Ocotepeque (9 percent).

MCA-Honduras donated equipment through a grants program for small farmers to demonstrate specific technologies. This resulted in faster uptake, expansion and investment by program farmers. These investments include small drip irrigation systems, filters, backpack sprayers, seedling trays and plastic field crates. Specific items include wells, water pumps, water tanks and reservoirs, sand filters, irrigation systems, tractors, land preparation equipment, greenhouses, nurseries, toilets and storerooms, and full-size trucks for product transportation. Specific examples included:

- Luis Ventura: water tank for irrigation and warehouse store for inputs and equipment
- Nelson Flores: greenhouse for tomato production, water tank for irrigation and an irrigation system
- Sadid Manuel Chicas: irrigation system, backpack sprayer and a truck for transporting produce
- Vasquez Industrial, Comayagua: cold room and cucumber packing line for export

As existing program farmers expand operations and the number of farmers entering the program increases, investments in capital items will grow, benefiting the farmers themselves and local equipment and service providers.



Drip irrigation equipment



Water reservoir and channels



Truck for produce transport



Farm toilet, input/equipment storeroom and washing station