



Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores

IMMEDIATE IMPACT AND RESULTS: GRUPO PRODUCTORES DE JALTEVA



Plantlet Production in Jalteva

“Grupo Productores de Jalteva,” a grower group in the Jalteva community of Cedros, Francisco Morazán, formed out of the determination of its members to be successful farmers and the efforts of EDA staff providing technical assistance. At first, only three members of the community were interested in EDA’s approach to crop production, which is based on the new technologies and training at all levels of the value chain to help ensure profitable agribusinesses. Currently, ten growers make up the Jalteva grower group, and since starting with EDA in late 2006, they have generated sales of \$101,733 with costs of \$45,303, a net income of \$56,471.

This income is direct result of improvements in the production and sales of 13.6 hectares of high-value crops such as tomato and sweet pepper. Since EDA technical assistance began, these growers have harvested 29.6 hectares of high-value horticultural products, with 7.5 hectares currently in production and projections for future plantings in 2008 of 16 hectares of tomato and green pepper.



Drip Irrigation Installation

The Jalteva grower group is working together to reduce costs and maximize profits, and developed a systematized work strategy to manage crops. The group solved many production problems by following basic production practices taught by EDA. These practices include proper soil preparation, raised beds, drip irrigation, integrated pest management, plantlet production and the application of starter solution. Before EDA, poor root development limited yields. But since EDA assistance, sweet pepper yields increased 35 percent, from 25,974 kilograms per hectare to 35,038 kilograms per hectare and tomato yields increased 24 percent, from 28,943 kilograms per hectare to 35,952 kilograms per hectare.

In June 2008, group members and their families (14 men and seven women) participated in training activities where they learned how to keep written records of their daily farm activities, apply the correct doses of the proper agrochemicals, and budget employee time. Group members are also now conscious of the importance of their work in generating employment in their communities.



Each grower keeps daily records of the activities of the farm.

EDA leveraged \$1,239 of investment in drip irrigation inputs among the members of the Jalteva group to complement \$6,972 of program donations consisting of drip irrigation systems, backpack sprayers, seedling trays, and baskets.

“This Project has been a great help. We are more advanced now. Before we didn’t know anything and now we can even install our own drip irrigation systems ... we are working more efficiently and earning more.”
— Oscar Orlando Rodríguez, Grupo de Productores Jalteva

“It is important to keep records of your farm activities to know really how much money you have made. Recordkeeping also makes us more careful with agrochemicals because we know what the active ingredients are. We are also more careful when buying and storing these products. We must tell growers of the importance of keeping records on a daily basis.”
— Jaime Segundo Rodríguez, Grupo de Productores Jalteva