



Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores

RESULTS & IMPACT: JUAN JUAREZ ACHIEVES RECORD YIELDS ON HIS TOMATO FARM IN GUALACO

The number of growers receiving technical assistance from the MCA-H/EDA program in Gualaco, Olancho is continuously growing – having increased from 2 in 2007 to 14 in 2008. Crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers, oriental vegetables and watermelons which were previously grown using traditional practices, are now being grown with high-technology production systems. Farmers in the region are also diversifying into other high-value crops such as plantain, onions and yuca which have strong market demand.

One of the farmers benefiting from MCA-H/EDA technical assistance is Juan Juárez Alonzo who, like other growers of the region, used to plant tomatoes using rain fed or sprinkler irrigation and minimal technology which results in low yields. Since beginning with MCA-H/EDA, however, Don Juan has embarked on the journey to modernize his production systems, implementing good agricultural practices and treating his farm as an agribusiness. He is also investing in his farm, including a recent \$400 purchase of a pump to expand upon his irrigation system donated by MCA-Honduras.

In March 2008, Don Juan planted a tomato crop following MCA-H/EDA recommendations which just a few months later yielded him an astounding 237,500 pounds on 0.7 hectares – 236% more than the regional average (70,700 lbs) and 197% more than the national average (80,000 lbs). This yield generated \$19,100 in gross sales, and a net income of \$11,000. The sales were coordinated through an intermediary and sold on the Salvadoran market. Given that the harvest extended three weeks longer than usual due to good planting management, Don Juan was able to harvest an additional amount of tomatoes that sold on the national market.

Immediate Results achieved by Don Juan:

- \$11,000 net income earned in just 0.7 hectares.
- Adoption of modern technologies, production techniques and good agricultural practices, thus improving his production system.
- Knowledge and technology transfer to other beneficiary growers through on-farm demonstrations, technical advice and even the loaning of his drip irrigation system to neighboring farmers.



Don Juan proudly shows the quality of fruit he is now producing.



Raised beds, improved staking, fertigation, live barriers and proper weed control are among the basic practices implemented by Don Juan.

"The use of drip irrigation and fertigation has given me more confidence and security as a grower, and the results achieved on my farm show that; both the yield and quality of my tomato crop were excellent" -Juan Juárez, Gualaco, Olancho.