



Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores

RESULTS AND IMPACT: Integrated production technologies yield success for Lempira potato producers



Growers in Lempira share knowledge and experiences during a potato production training day.

Farmers in Erandique, Lempira, expressed gratitude for MCA-H/EDA technical assistance after obtaining yields more than two to three times higher than before. Traditional production practices were considered the best in the area. However, many of the basic production practices were missing, including poor plant density and seed selection, inadequate soil preparation, and poorly designed fertilization programs. These production practices resulted in low yields and low product quality.

MCA-H/EDA technicians trained 55 producers in the basic production practices, product know-how, postharvest handling and marketing. As a result, potato crops, which once yielded 10 to 12 quintals (100 lbs) per 0.04 hectare, reached 25 to 30 quintals per 0.04 hectare on land with limited water access, and 47 quintals per 0.04 hectare on fully irrigated land; increases of 250 and 390 percent, respectively.

During this production cycle, MCA-H/EDA potato producers gained a profit above the expected goal of \$2,000 per hectare, mainly as a result of increased yields due to better crop management and reductions in the cost of production.

“We have never ever had the type of technical assistance we are receiving now with EDA. We are very grateful for EDA.”

— José German Diaz Perez, Lead Client - Lempira

To help reduce costs, 25 producers from Jurtado and 30 from Azacualpa, joined together and started to purchase agricultural inputs in higher volumes. With help from MCA-H/EDA, producers obtained distributor pricing which resulted in an average savings of US\$1.31 per quintal of fertilizer (on their recent purchase of 500 quintals) and savings of US\$2.10 per liter of phosphate (on a purchase of 1,000 liters). Producers are also purchasing personal protection equipment at a local store, benefiting from a discount agreement between the store and MCA-H/EDA.

Since receiving MCA-H/EDA technical assistance, producers have invested \$12,096 in land purchases in order to expand crop production areas. These growers have also benefited from the MCA-Honduras donated irrigation systems, filters, backpack sprayers and harvesting accessories (totaling \$9,719), used to implement the technologies and production systems.



An MCA-H/EDA technician and potato growers reviewing crop growth.

Producer	Area	Yield/0.04 ha (quintals)	Gross Sales (US\$)	Costs (US\$)	Net Income (US\$)
Jose Antonio Martinez	0.04	36.0	\$631	\$250	\$381
Rudy Yadi Trejo Amaya	0.70	26.7	\$8,447	\$3,969	\$4,478
Javier Antonio Lopez	0.18	25.5	\$1,302	\$570	\$732
Juan Alberto Rodriguez	0.09	25.5	\$826	\$259	\$567
Agustin Martinez	0.18	27.5	\$1,823	\$559	\$1,264
Juan Antonio Castillo	0.18	32.0	\$2,857	\$830	\$2,027
Erick Naun Pineda	0.26	47.3	\$5,958	\$1,197	\$4,761
Fredi Adalberto Castillo	0.5	23.6	\$4,589	\$1,718	\$2,871
Jose German Diaz	0.35	38.7	\$5,862	\$1,983	\$3,879