



# Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores

## IMPACT & RESULTS

### New methods help grower expand farm and increase income

MCA-H/EDA works with small growers in 16 of Honduras' 18 departments. Direct technical assistance and training now reaches 6,377 growers, of which 56 percent grow on less than 1 hectare of land. Even though program participants have small farms, they learn how to adopt the program's basic production practices and technologies to establish technified, market-driven production systems for high-value horticulture that enable these growers to develop commercial and profitable operations.

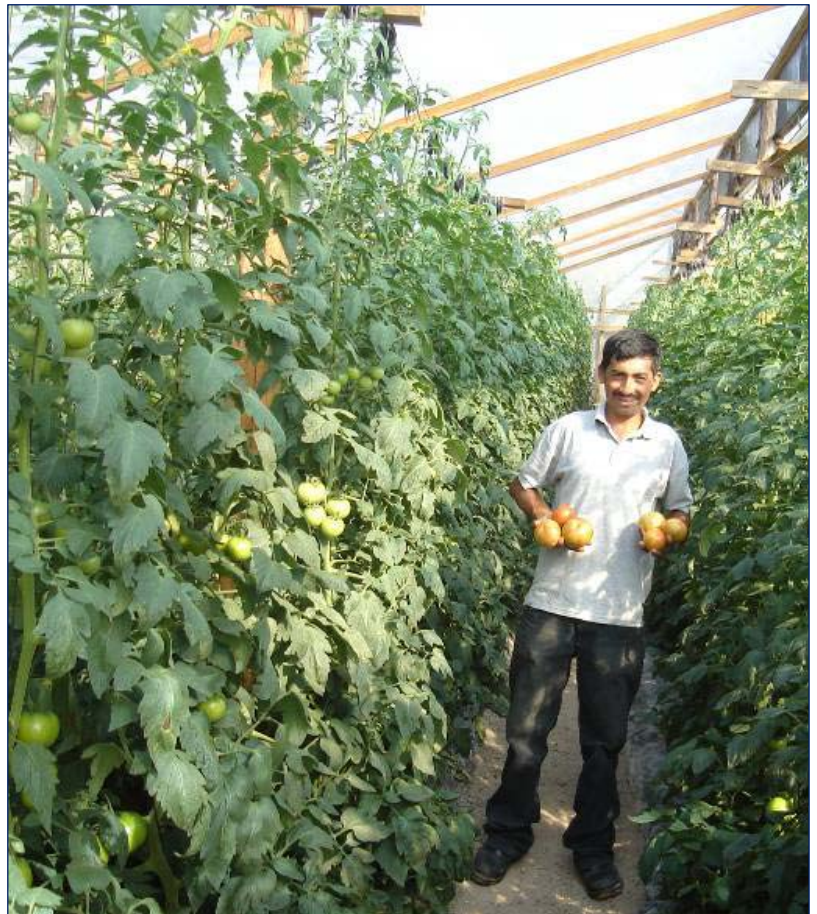
José Manuel García Molina of Los Charcos, La Paz, joined the program in December 2008. In the year before joining MCA-H/EDA, García produced 0.35 hectares of basic grains for personal consumption and tomatoes sold through intermediaries. His tomato sales generated only \$106 in net income.

After 12 months of technical support, García expanded production to 0.53 hectares and diversified into green beans, lettuce, pear tomatoes and strawberries. He also built a small-scale greenhouse for table tomatoes. His first harvests from 0.11 hectares of lettuce, green beans and tomatoes generated \$974 in sales and a net income of \$555 – 423 percent higher than his income before the program.

García's consistency and quality also improved and the program helped him establish more reliable sales agreements with local markets. To further expand and get the most out of his land, García borrowed \$3,500 from his family to build a 400-square-meter greenhouse.

The program has also given García a small drip irrigation system, seedling trays, plastic field crates and a backpack sprayer, with a total value of \$1,550.

As with García, many other growers receiving technical support from MCA-H/EDA are increasing production and income through improved practices, diversification and better crop selection.



José Manuel García Molina, above, learned to grow tomatoes in a greenhouse on his farm in La Paz.



At left, workers on García's farm cover a bed with plastic to improve strawberry production.

*Photos by Fintrac Inc.*