



# Entrenamiento y Desarrollo de Agricultores

## IMPACT & RESULTS

### Production technology foments change in Honduras

Nahúm Alberto Gómez had some success on his farm using a traditional growing system, but only when the weather cooperated.

“The plants looked wonderful, but only when it rained,” Gómez said.

Primarily a chayote grower on his farm in El Rosario, Comayagua, Gómez had tried other crops such as tomatoes and cucumbers, but pests, diseases and inconsistent rain kept him from getting ahead.

During one good year, Gómez yielded 2,000 boxes of tomatoes on 0.35 hectares, which generated \$2,632 in sales but only \$464 in net income because of high production costs of \$2,168.

Gómez started working with MCA-H/EDA in October 2008 and the program taught him to diversify and use modern technologies such as drip irrigation and basic production practices including raised beds, fertigation and preventative pest and disease controls.

Having just lost \$632 on his last tomato planting because of heavy rains and subsequent disease problems, Gómez was eager to follow MCA-H/EDA’s methods. He harvested his first crop of tomatoes under the program’s assistance in May 2009 and yields reached 4,300 boxes from 0.7 hectares, of which 70 percent was of first grade quality. With high quality produce and good market prices, he achieved gross sales of \$20,316; with production costs of \$8,421 his net profit was \$11,895.

The program’s technical assistance also affected his chayote production, where he saw profits jump from \$1,842 to \$10,516. Small changes made this big income boost possible. He learned to use diluted fertilizers instead of granular fertilizers, how to identify pests and disease, and implement modern pruning techniques.

Gómez has used \$1,491 of his profits to buy a water tank and expand his drip irrigation system. Now moving forward with more confidence, in late 2009 Gómez expanded production by an additional 0.7 hectares of chayote and 0.28 hectares of onions. He is now looking to supply supermarkets and plans to buy a small truck to support his operation.

**“The technical assistance is a great help - we are used to working with our own traditional knowledge, although not everybody is willing to change their ways in order to improve.”**

– Nahúm Alberto Gómez – El Rosario, Comayagua



Nahúm Alberto Gómez receives technical support from an MCA-H/EDA technician.

Photos by Fintrac Inc.