



ENTRENAMIENTO Y DESARROLLO DE AGRICULTORES

IMMEDIATE IMPACT AND RESULTS

Bank loan helps farmer improve farm, increase profit

David Moreira Euceda noticed that his neighbors in Puerto Cortés were getting higher plantain yields by increasing planting density. Following their example he planted a new crop with 3,500 plants per hectare, 1,500 more than he usually planted. Euceda thought that that alone would generate higher yields so he cultivated his new crop just as he had before with outdated methods of irrigation and nutrition. He was on the right track with increasing his planting density but he soon realized that that was not enough. In October 2006 he sought the help of MCA-H/EDA, which had helped so many other farmers in the area.

MCA-H/EDA quickly helped him set up a custom nutrition program for high density plantains and a drip irrigation system. Week after week the program taught him good agricultural practices (GAPs), integrated pest management (IPM), improved postharvest handling and plantain techniques such as deleafing, desuckering and dehanding.

Euceda quickly saw significant improvements and with a new-found confidence he set out to get financing to further upgrade his farm technology and expand production. He was also confident that he would have an outlet for his increased production because of new market linkages established by the program.

MCA-H/EDA helped Euceda prepare a business plan and BANADESA granted him a loan for \$4,211.

With the loan, Euceda expanded and upgraded his farm. He improved drainage to mitigate rain impact, built two wells and a water reservoir, and installed drip irrigation on 2.5 hectares.

With program assistance and his own investment Euceda's net income increased by more than 500 percent in 2007. His sales jumped from \$1,316 on 5 hectares to \$8,081 on just 2 hectares. His success continued in 2008 when he harvested 101,805 pounds from 1.5 hectares (70 percent higher than 2007), which generated net sales over \$4,000 per hectare. Euceda expects that yields from his upcoming 2009 harvest will again improve. He has already paid back the loan and is currently in the process of obtaining another for the same amount to further improve and expand his plantain production.

Through MCA-H/EDA, more than 160 producers have improved production on their farms with loans provided by MCA-H/EDA partner financial institutions. Thousands of other farmers throughout Honduras are also receiving assistance through the program.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Plantain seedlings develop at David Moreira Euceda's farm in Puerto Cortés.



With the help of MCA-H/EDA, Euceda improved drainage in his plantain field and installed drip irrigation.